



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR  
Tuesday, June 23, 2020; Clevelanders for Public Transit Rally, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Headquarters, W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street: A Clevelanders for Public Transit (CPT) member calls on the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) to cut in half the funding to its police force and use those dollars to reduce fares and restore routes cut in recent years.

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
PERMIT 1354

**FREE**

Vol. 47, No. 8 August 2020

# Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

## Lead tests for children plummet in Cleveland; advocates worry about long-term fallout

*This story is provided by Ideastream as part of special community coverage of COVID-19 and funded by Third Federal Foundation and University Settlement.*  
**by Rachel Dissell**

CLEVELAND, Ohio — State shut-down orders meant to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus have created a double-whammy of lead poisoning risk

for young children in Cleveland. Many of these children are spending more time in homes with potential lead hazards, and fewer are getting tested to see if they've been exposed to the toxin. Tests for lead have plummeted by almost half compared with previous years in Cleveland and across Ohio, driven mostly by a dip in March, when

most pediatricians' offices and labs were closed to non-emergency visits because of the pandemic. State health data shows a slight uptick in the percentage of Cleveland children tested who have elevated levels of lead in their blood.

The setback couldn't have come at a worse time, local lead-safety advocates say. For the past year, they have been working to prevent children from being poisoned in their homes, rolling out a new strategy that includes city-mandated lead inspections in rentals and new grants and loans for hazard cleanup.

Testing children for lead is the main way to identify lead hazards that can continue to do damage. The tests also allow parents to get help recognizing developmental delays or behavioral issues linked to exposure to the toxin, which can cause irreversible damage to a child's brain.

The pandemic-related drop in testing means that fewer lead-exposed children will receive help from state-supported early intervention programs, which are now offered automatically when a child's blood test shows exposure.

It also means that public health authorities won't receive as many referrals to investigate potential lead hazards in

continued on page 7



PHOTO BY COLIN MURNAN  
Sunday, July 12, 2020; Garden Walk 2020 in Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, garden at 1918 W. 73<sup>rd</sup> Street: This garden includes some artwork, grape vines and the raspberry bushes shown here.

## Cleveland School Board members support remote learning option for first quarter of school year

**by Chuck Hoven**

All the Cleveland Board of Education members weighing in at the July 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Education meeting spoke in favor of students staying at home and engaging in remote learning for the first quarter (first nine weeks) of the upcoming school year. They also expressed the belief that fall sports are not

safe to engage in and should be shut down. The same would apply to extracurricular activities that couldn't be engaged in remotely. Students in year-round schools are expected to have a start date of August 24th. Students in traditional schools are expected to start September 8th.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Chief Executive

Officer (CEO) Eric Gordon presented the Board of Education with a number of options for the new school year – a hybrid model and a completely remote learning model. The hybrid model involved some students coming to school four days a week and others learning remotely

continued on page 5



PHOTO BY COLIN MURNAN  
Sunday, July 12, 2020; Garden Walk 2020 in Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, Garden of Nicole Kusold-Matheou and Denny Matheou: Garden features fig trees, flowers, and a chicken coop. Denny Matheou and Nicole Kusold-Matheou bring a couple of their chickens out of the backyard coop to show to garden walkers.

## Landmarks Commission weighs in on Lincoln Parks Flats project

**by Bruce Checefsky**

Director of Cleveland City Planning Commission Freddy Collier has come under criticism for his handling of a Landmarks Commission decision that took place in North Collinwood earlier this year. Cleveland historian and writer Carol Poh resigned from the Design Review Committee after claims that Collier engaged in political favoritism when he supported and approved a zoning variance against the unanimous objections of neighbors and City Councilman Mike Polensek. He has denied any wrongdoing.

"God forbid that I should have an opinion as planning director without being blasted in the paper for being conniving or corrupt," he said during a July 9<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting of the Landmarks Commission. "We may not agree but I hope people respect the opinions of others and don't carry anger or slander. I exercise no extra authority with my vote. We need to respect democracy. The outcome is the outcome."

David Maison, owner and architect at Maison A + D, and chief

architect for the Lincoln Park Flats project presented a revised site plan to the commission. In attendance was Collier and eight members of the Landmarks Commission along with developer Sam Messina, representatives from Tremont West Development Corporation, and guests. There wasn't much new to discuss according to Maison except a pull back from the edge of the sidewalk to the face of the building to allow for grass and shrubbery. But when the conversation shifted to parking options for tenants, he stayed clear of committing to a plan. He did point out that the development team secured two Letters of Intent (LOI) from nearby sources which could potentially lease parking to fulfill a variance requirement. Grace Hospital was not one of them.

Sam Messina, Business Development/Construction Services & Real Estate Development at Geis Companies has partnered with Maison and Brent Zimmermann, best known as the founder of Saucy Brew Works in Ohio City, on the apartment continued on page 4



PHOTO BY COLIN MURNAN  
Sunday, July 12, 2020; Garden Walk 2020 in Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, Garden of Bruce Buhanan and Jim Wagner, 7205 West Clinton. Garden features many flowers, and several water sources for wildlife including this 1 ½ foot deep goldfish pond.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR

**Tuesday, June 23, 2020; Clevelanders for Public Transit Rally, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Headquarters, W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street: A protester joins the Clevelanders for Public Transit (CPT) effort to reduce funding for transit police in order to allow funds to reduce fares and increase bus service.**

#### ARTS

**ART HOUSE:** August Art Camps - Starting August 3rd until the end of the month: four summer camps for your kids to come learn, create, and have fun! These four camps include a virtual illustration camp, an in-person multi-cultural camp, an in-person inside out nature camp, and an in-person extravaganza art camp. All camps are hosted by a local artist, are outside, and are FREE to the public. For more information about the camps and how to register, please visit our website at [www.arthouse.org](http://www.arthouse.org)

**TRANSFORMER STATION,** 1460 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Street, reopened on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Signal Noise: Aaron Rothman, organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art will be on exhibit

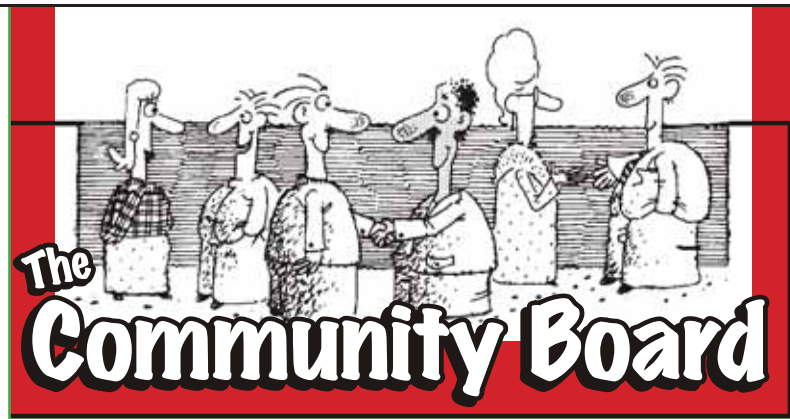
through August 23, 2020. To visit, obtain a free timed "group" tickets. For more information on how to get a ticket visit: [www.TransformationStation.org](http://www.TransformationStation.org).

#### BUSINESS & LABOR

**EMPLOYEES ONLY:** offers assistance to laid off restaurant employees. To ask for assistance send an email to Mark Bailey at [mark@employeesonlyneo.org](mailto:mark@employeesonlyneo.org) or visit Employees Only on Instagram.

#### CENSUS

**NORTHERN OHIOANS FOR BUDGET LEGISLATION EQUALITY (NOBLE),** urges you to take the Census right now! The Federal Government sends Ohio \$2,880 per person to support health, human services, and education programs. The State stands to



*The Plain Press Community Board is a listing of a variety of free activities and resources for neighborhoods served by the Plain Press. The printing of the Community Board is sponsored by Organize! Ohio through donations from readers and supporters.*

lose this amount for each person not counted! PLEASE TAKE THE CENSUS RIGHT NOW AND PASS THIS INFORMATION ALONG! CALL: 1-844-330-2020 or VISIT: [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov) to complete the Census today!

#### CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY DIVISION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES' CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE:** 216-696-KIDS (5437). The Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services can also accept child abuse reports 24/7 through email at [protecting-cuyahoga-kids@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:protecting-cuyahoga-kids@jfs.ohio.gov); via its website at <http://cfs.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/Report-Child-Abuse-Neglect.aspx>. Click on "Contact Us" to file a report through the County's website.

#### CITY SERVICES

**FREE EVICTION HELP:** The Right to Counsel – Cleveland Program (RTC-C) gives Clevelanders facing eviction living at or below the federal poverty line with at least one child the right to free legal help in Housing Court. If you are facing eviction, have a child, and are living at/ below the federal poverty contact Legal Aid online at [FreeEvictionHelp.org](http://FreeEvictionHelp.org) or call 216.687.1900.

**RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** If you are having trouble paying your rent because of Covid-19, you may be eligible for Rental Assistance from the City of Cleveland or Cuyahoga County. Visit [neorenthelp.org](http://neorenthelp.org) now to apply and submit all required documents, or call the hotline, 833.377.RENT (7368).

**CLEVELAND WATER DEPARTMENT:** In March, Mayor Frank Jackson

announced Cleveland Water will suspend disconnections until further notice. Cleveland Water customers who have recently experienced disconnection should contact Cleveland Water at 216-664-3130 to discuss options for the restoration of service.

**CLEVELAND PUBLIC POWER (CPP):** In March, Mayor Frank Jackson announced Cleveland Public Power will suspend disconnections until further notice. CPP customers who have recently experienced disconnection should call 216-664-4600 to discuss options for the restoration of service.

#### COMMUNITY

**NEIGHBOR UP COVID 19 RAPIDRESPONSE GRANTS** are available to grassroots neighborhood groups, small non profits and faith-based groups. Grants cover a 12-week period and will be from \$500 to \$5,000. For more information contact Monique Williams Kelly, [mwilliams@neighborhoodgrants.org](mailto:mwilliams@neighborhoodgrants.org).

**CLEVELAND POLICE FOUNDATION** offers programs designed to build bridges between the Cleveland Division of Police and members of the community. For more information about the Cleveland Police Foundation and its programs visit: [www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org](http://www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org).

**OHIO CITY INCORPORATED (OCI)** Do you have an idea that can promote racial equity or support COVID-19 needs while building community and creating positive interactions in Ohio City? Ohio City has modified our small grants program to better support Ohio City residents who want to address what is happening in our world. Apply for the OHC Rapid Response Small Grant and potentially receive up to \$250 to implement your project. Applications are being accepted on a weekly basis every Friday. The next application deadline is July 24 at 11:59pm. For more information and to apply online visit [www.ohiocity.org/grants](http://www.ohiocity.org/grants). Have questions or prefer a paper copy? Contact Whitney at [wlongjones@ohiocity.org](mailto:wlongjones@ohiocity.org) or 216-250-1919.

#### CONSENT DECREE

**CLEVELAND COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION** has two working groups the Accountability Work Group and the Interactions with Youth Work Group. For more information about joining a work group send an email to [info@clecpc.org](mailto:info@clecpc.org) or call 216-505-5920.

#### CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESOURCES

**MASK COMPLIANCE:** Cuyahoga County has an interactive map on its website at [www.cuyahogacounty.us/maskcompliance](http://www.cuyahogacounty.us/maskcompliance). You can enter the address of a business and check for their mask compliance record and for any violations. You can add reviews of businesses with favorable or unfavorable reports of conduct of staff or customers. Complaints can also be submitted by phone at: 216-698-5050.

**CLEVELAND PANDEMIC RESPONSE – COVID19 COMMUNITY HUB,** at [Cleveland.recovers.org](http://Cleveland.recovers.org), offers assistance to individuals and families with a need by linking them to goods and services that they need. The site also connects those who want to donate supplies to those that need them. Volunteers can also use the site to connect with organizations that need them.

#### CONSUMER

**FORMA SOLAR COOPTO GO SOLAR TOGETHER:** Co-op participants will select a single company to complete the installations. They will then have the option to purchase panels individually based on the installer's group rate. By going solar as a group and choosing a single installer, participants can save on the cost of going solar and have the support of fellow group participants and solar experts at Solar United Neighbors. Residents interested in joining the co-op can sign up at [www.solarunitedneighbors.org/cuyahoga](http://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/cuyahoga). The solar co-op is free to join and joining is not a commitment to purchase panels. Residents from any community can attend an online session that works best for them. Once the group is large enough, Solar United Neighbors will help the co-op solicit competitive bids from area solar installers.

**PARATRANSIT SURVEY:** Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE) in partnership with Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP) is conducting a survey regarding Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) paratransit rider experiences until September 1, 2020 in an effort to improve paratransit services in entirety. If you, or someone that you know, utilizes paratransit and would be open to hearing more about the survey or would be willing to take the survey, please contact our organizer, Brittney Madison at [BMadison@organizeohio.org](mailto:BMadison@organizeohio.org) or 330-571-3333.

#### EDUCATION

**CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT:** Visit the website for educational resources and updates at <https://www.clevelandmetroschools.org>

**EDUCATION BLOGS:** Former Plain Dealer Education Reporter Patrick O'Donnell is now writing for the 74million.org an education blog. Former United Church of Christ Minister for Public Education and Witness Ministries Jan Resseger blogs at [janresseger.wordpress.com](http://janresseger.wordpress.com)

**LITERARY CLEVELAND:** Free Cleveland Inkubator Online Writing Conference through the end of July. Visit [litcleveland.org](http://litcleveland.org) for schedule and to register for one of the events.

**COMPUTER BASICS:** Join Detroit Shoreway's judgement-free computer lessons with Alicia, Digital Literacy Coordinator, **each Monday at 9am** on Facebook Live. Please help a loved one who is interested in computer basics to join us! Watch the live lessons on Monday mornings at [facebook.com/detroitshorewayor](https://facebook.com/detroitshorewayor) search "Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization" in your Facebook app. For questions, call Alicia at 216.961.9073 ext. 235. You can replay the previous lessons: "[Introduction to Computers](#)" and "[The Internet](#)".

#### ELECTION 2020

**REGISTER TO VOTE** or update your registration at [VoteOhio.gov](http://VoteOhio.gov). The deadline to register is Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>, if you would like to participate in the Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election. The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections ([boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://boe.cuyahogacounty.us)) also has links on its website to update your address or register to vote, or to print out a blank voter registration form.

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO** urges voters to request an absentee ballot early for the fall election to help both local boards of elections and the post office by flattening the ballot request curve. If enough people request absentee ballot applications this summer, that will lessen the burden on officials in the fall. Voters can go to <http://voteohio.gov> to print and complete an absentee voter application.

#### EMPLOYMENT

**ESSENTIAL BUSINESSES SEEK WILLING AND ABLE WORKERS** during this time through [Coronavirus.Ohio.gov/Job-Search](http://Coronavirus.Ohio.gov/Job-Search). Employers at essential businesses are also encouraged to post job openings on the site.

**OHIO MEANS JOBS:** Complete an application at [www.ohiomeansjobs.com](http://www.ohiomeansjobs.com) AND a local application at [www.omjcc.us](http://www.omjcc.us).

**WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CLASSES** assist all people in transition, without housing, or who are underemployed. The eight-week program will assist you in identifying your passion, preparing you to re-enter the workforce and get you in front of employers with permanent positions with a career path potential. The program can also count as a county provider for individuals seeking a work requirement for **continued on page 7**

# St. Rocco's Favorite Festival Foods DRIVE THRU

September 4, 2020

September 5, 2020

September 6, 2020

September 7, 2020

Time: 11 AM – 7 PM

3205 Fulton Rd.,  
Cleveland, OH, 44109Enjoy your Labor day  
weekend as normally as you  
can!We have our famous  
zeppoli, sausage sandwiches,  
lasagna, spaghetti and  
meatballs, cannoli and  
lemoncello cake.For any questions please contact: (216)961-8331 [mbuhaley@saintroccocleveland.com](mailto:mbuhaley@saintroccocleveland.com)

**Plain Press**  
2012 W. 25<sup>th</sup> STE 500  
Cleveland, OH 44113  
Phone: (216) 621-3060  
email:  
[plainpress@gmail.com](mailto:plainpress@gmail.com)  
Advertising email:  
[plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)  
Website:  
<https://plainpress.blog>  
Plain Press © Established in 1971  
Circulation: 21,000 copies.  
Published monthly.

**Distribution area:** Cuyahoga River west to W. 140, Lake Erie south to the Lower Big Creek Valley. Available free at over 500 locations.  
**Managing Editor:** Charles E. Hoven;  
**Editor:** Deborah Rose Sadlon;  
**Copy Editor:** Craig Bobby  
**Editorial Intern:** Colin Murnan  
**Reporters:** Bruce Chechfsky & Victoria Shea  
**Photo Editor:** Coriana Close;  
**Photographer:** Michael Oakar  
**Advertising Sales:** Ed Tishel  
**Graphic Artist:** David Myers  
**Distribution:** Ahmed Morad  
**Mailing:** Teresa Calvo  
**Board of Trustees:** Keith Brown, Peggy Davenport, David Gamble, Dr. Leo Jeffres, Joe Narkin, and Helen K. Smith.

# Cleveland City Council has a chance to do the right thing as it reviews tax abatement policy

by **Chuck Hoven**  
Cleveland City Council announced in a July 23<sup>rd</sup> press release that it plans to hear a presentation from the Department of Community Development on a tax abatement study at its July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. The release noted the City of Cleveland's current tax abatement policy expires in mid 2022.

Cleveland City Council members and the whole Community Development infrastructure in Cleveland have come to believe the abatements and the development fees that go to local development corporations from developers of new projects are vital to revitalization of the City of Cleveland.

**COMMENTARY**

As has been argued before in the pages of the *Plain Press*, the abatements drain significant resources from the city's schools and libraries. Schools and libraries have programs and services that directly benefit Cleveland's children. With Cleveland having the highest childhood poverty rate amongst big cities in the United States, that should be of significant concern to Cleveland City Council members.

If City Council members are not inclined to end the tax abatement program, perhaps they can be persuaded to hold the school system and libraries harmless. Take funds from the payroll taxes generated by these new developments and make sure the schools and the libraries are reimbursed dollar for dollar for the amount of property tax that would have gone to them if not for the abatement.

Thus, if City Council so firmly believes in handing out tax abatements to developers and new homeowners, they can do so without harming the schools and libraries. While they may have to trim the City of Cleveland's budget to do so, it is only just if the City Council and the City Administration are giving away the tax dollars. The City budget should suffer the consequences – not the schools and libraries.

City Council is good at passing progressive sounding legislation, while providing little in the way of resources to follow up with action. Council has an opportunity to change that pattern. If Cleveland City Council wants to have a significant impact on the lives of children living in poverty in Cleveland,

directing dollars from the General Fund to make up for abating taxes that should be going to the schools and libraries would be a good place to start.

While the school system plans to ask for a new levy this fall that includes an increase in property taxes, we all know that will not be enough to do justice to meeting the many needs of our students. When Cleveland students are finally able to go back to school, they will need smaller class sizes and more teachers, teachers' aides, school counselors, school nurses and health resources. They will also need to have their own computers or devices they can take home and also to have access to the internet.

The libraries also make a significant difference in the lives of Cleveland's children, offering a whole variety of programs and resources that children and families depend upon. Depriving these programs of crucial resources that our property tax base should be supporting results in stifling opportunities for our children. Let's see if Cleveland City Council will step up to the plate for Cleveland's children. We await their decision on tax abatement.



**PHOTO BY MICHAEL OAKAR**  
**Tuesday, June 23, 2020; Clevelanders for Public Transit Rally, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority Headquarters, W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street: A member of Clevelanders for Public Transit rallies for fare reductions and against the criminalization of fare evasion.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Reader suggests a path to address poverty

**To the editor:**  
With all the debate recently for amending the United States Constitution in favor of certain issues and/or those constituencies, perhaps a more appropriate amendment should guarantee each citizen of the United States the right to food, clothing, shelter and medical care. Poverty is defined as the condition of being poor or lacking the nec-

essary means of support to live or meet needs. Today we read of enormous corporate tax breaks, outsourcing of jobs overseas and outrageous salaries "earned" by athletes/entertainers. More recently came the revelation of the billions of dollars spent by the U.S. on two wars. In the meantime, the number of those in poverty continues to increase. The Old Testament

of the Bible often makes references to the promised land flowing with milk and honey. All one has to do in this country is take a trip to the grocery store, or department store, and bear witness to the fact that if anywhere was close to exhibiting the characteristics of "the promised land", this country is it. Yet somehow, we are still unable to meet the four basic needs every citizen has. Some would argue that this proposal is an extension of Socialism/Communism. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Socialism/Communism is a political or economic theory in which community members own all property, resources, and the means of production, and control the distribution of goods. No one is suggesting the replacement of Capitalism; an economic system in which the means of production and distribution are privately owned, and prices are chiefly determined by open competition in a free market. What is being suggested is that in this land of surplus "milk and honey", there is absolutely no reason why the four basic needs of every U.S. citizen cannot be met. Some would argue that food stamps, thrift stores, public housing and Medicaid already meet these needs but in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "this country is divided between those who have never had it so good and those who know we can do better". I think we can do better. Resolved, it shall be the right of every United States citizen (in order to further guarantee the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness) to receive food, clothing, shelter and medical care that

is adequate to meet their basic needs.

Now, that being written (uh oh, here it comes) everyone in this great country of ours would agree that the most effective anti-poverty solution is gainful employment. This Administration (along with Congress) didn't take its eye off the ball; didn't drop the ball and certainly didn't fumble the ball. They kicked it down the road in the form of an onside kick. It has now mutated into the form of a hot potato that no one wants to touch.

Well folks, it's time to prime the pump. One solution is Workfare whereby those able-bodied citizens are required to perform some type of labor in order to receive assistance. This will help restore their dignity (as they continue to search for even more meaningful work) while at the same time allowing a large group of people to start purchasing various goods and services.

As for getting people back to work the solution is not as complicated as it may appear to be. We need to bring back an agency similar (but not identical) to the Work Progress Administration (WPA) which should take a two-pronged approach. One is the most obvious; hire people to perform the very services (and more) that the private sector will never engage in simply because it is not profitable to do so. The second approach is a wee bit more complicated but can be successful by utilizing private-public partnerships. Let the governments (at all levels) develop a plan to share (temporarily) in the salary expense of unemployed people so that they could work full time, re-gain their lost skills and eventually retain a full-time position paid by the private company. This would result in an immediate restoration of lost govern-

ment revenues as well as help to "prime the pump" for the new-found consumer demand. Increasing demand will result in the need for increased supply and hence an increase in production which will result in increased employment. You could think of this "stimulus" plan as a rocket booster that slowly fades away as the economy picks up. Isn't this what government is supposed to do beyond providing safety for its citizens? Is it too late now? I hope not; but to continue to waste time over which side wins {while the rest of the country goes to hell} risks moving America's dissatisfaction with government to the disbelief of the legitimacy of those who do govern. The question before us all is this: how far down must this country sink before it becomes clear and apparent that current government officials have forfeited their right to govern?

Government was never intended to be an ongoing circus act of constantly handicapping the next election while nothing gets done due to this self-perpetuating form of gridlock. I strongly suggest that members of both branches and parties start making a better effort to get to know each other more personally. Whether it be over breakfast, lunch or dinner on the golf course, in a restaurant or the local disco tech you the leaders of our nation need to familiarize yourselves with what is at stake in the other person's life and realize that compromising on a policy is not the same as compromising your values. Ladies, and gentlemen, let's get to work by getting this country moving again. And no, I'm not running for office, but I am Joe Bialek and I approve this message.

**Joe Bialek, Cleveland, OH**

### Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO Eric Gordon calls for levy renewal and 5-mill increase

**Open letter to the editor:**  
**Dear Friends and Supporters of Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD):**

This evening (July 7, 2020), I made a recommendation to the Cleveland Board of Education that the Board consider asking the voters to renew our current 15-mill levy and to request a 5-mill increase to that levy. A half mill from the proposed increase would be shared with our partnering charter schools. If passed, this issue would add an additional \$7 a month for the average home in Cleveland and would come up for renewal in 10 years.

I know this is a particularly hard time for many, but believe this request is necessary to keep up the progress we have made over the last eight years. During this period, our growth on test scores ranks among the strongest in the state. Our graduation rate has increased 26 points and now stands at 78.2 percent, the latest in a series of record highs for the district.

Our 15-mill levy, due to expire at the end of December, represents 12% of our operating budget, and unless voters renew it in November, the District stands to lose \$67 million, forcing us to make cuts in staff and programs.

We have carefully controlled expenses in the last eight years and invested in our classrooms. This

recommendation is needed to continue our progress and to manage unprecedented expenses caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

To learn more about this recommendation, you may go to the District's website, [www.cleveland-metroschools.org](http://www.cleveland-metroschools.org), to view my full presentation to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to share information about this important recommendation to continue the progress we have made together over the last eight years.

Sincerely,  
**Eric Gordon**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

### HISTORIC ST. ROCCO CHURCH

3205 Fulton Road, Cleveland OH 44109  
Ph: 216-961-8331 • [saintroccocleveland.com](http://saintroccocleveland.com)

**Come worship with us!**

Mass schedule:

Weekdays Mon-Fri. 6:45am, 8:45am & 6:30pm  
Saturdays: 6:45am, 8:45am & 4:00pm

Sundays: 7:30am, 9:30am

Traditional High Mass in Latin 12pm every Sunday

Italian/English Mass at 9:30am every third Sunday of the Month.

Confessions: Saturday 3:00-4:00PM & Sundays before the 9:30am & 12:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration, Tuesdays 9:00am-6:30pm

### ST. ROCCO SCHOOL

Pre-K 4 to Grade 8

Accepts: Cleveland Scholarship, Ed Choice Expansion & Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship.

Free daily breakfast and lunch. Offering Catholic liberal arts education; a very warm and integrated school family; caring faculty & staff;

welcome to all faiths, races and ethnic heritages; after-school programs, clubs and more.

For more information call: 216-961-8557. Tours are offered upon request.

SCHOOL OPENS SEPTEMBER 10th: On campus and virtual classes offered.

### IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2928 Scranton Rd. • 216-781-9511

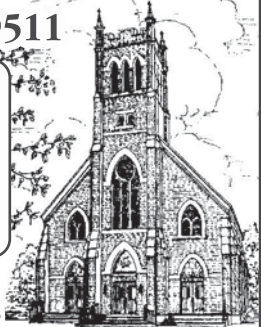
#### SUNDAY SERVICES:

German service..... 9:00 am

English service.....10:30 am

*Serving God's People Since 1880*

REV. JERRY WITT-JABLONSKI, PASTOR  
REV. HORST HOYER, PASTOR EMERITUS



### Saint Ignatius Of Antioch Church

10205 Lorain Avenue (at West Boulevard)

216-251-0300 • [SIOA.WECONNECT.COM](http://SIOA.WECONNECT.COM)

Rev. Kevin Estabrook, M.Div., M.A. - Pastor

#### Mass Times:

WEEKDAYS: MTWF 9:00AM

SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL: 5PM

SUNDAY: 9AM AND 11AM

#### Confession:

SATURDAY: 3:30PM-4:45PM;

SUNDAY 9:45AM-10:45AM,

AND BY APPOINTMENT

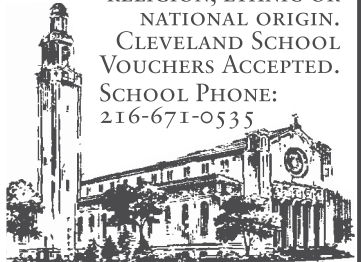
ANointing OF THE SICK AND  
LAST RITES: AVAILABLE UPON  
REQUEST

INQUIRIES INTO BECOMING  
CATHOLIC:  
CALL CHURCH OFFICE

#### ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH CATHOLIC SCHOOL (K-8)

ADMITTS STUDENTS WITHOUT  
DISCRIMINATION ON THE  
BASIS OF RACE, COLOR,  
RELIGION, ETHNIC OR  
NATIONAL ORIGIN.  
CLEVELAND SCHOOL  
VOUCHERS ACCEPTED.

SCHOOL PHONE:  
216-671-0535



## ATTENTION PLAIN PRESS READERS

Please feel free to pick up extra copies of the *Plain Press* to drop on a neighbor's or friend's porch. The *Plain Press* distribution crew will monitor many of our distribution points and provide additional newspapers as they run out. Thank you for helping to bring the *Plain Press* to those who are staying at home.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Tuesday, July 14, 2020; Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, rectory and parking lot, W. 14<sup>th</sup> and Starkweather: At its July meeting, the Cleveland Landmarks Commission weighed in on an apartment building proposed for the parking lot of this historic structure. The Holy Ghost parish formed in October 1909 to serve Ruthenian immigrants, an eastern Slavic people from the Carpathian Mountains. The church closed a hundred years later in October 2009 as the number of parishioners declined and the ability of the parish to sustain itself was lost.

### LINCOLN PARK

continued from page one

project overlooking historic Lincoln Park. Messina confirmed that Grace Hospital would not lease parking to them at this time.

“Grace has told us they want to ‘hold off’ on any agreements as they may have other future plans,” he said.

Donald Petit, a member of the Landmarks Commission, said he received ten emails the prior day from the community. Nine letters including a community statement letter from Susan Regan with twenty-three signatures opposed the project; there was one letter of support.

Michele Anderson, a 33-year veteran real estate sales agent at Cleveland-based Progressive Urban Real Estate and appointed to a

three-year term on the Landmarks Commission in 2018, noted that any parking solutions proposed by Messina and Maison were too far from the building site. Cleveland Code of Ordinance requires automobile parking spaces be provided on the same lot, or on adjacent or nearby property, provided a major portion lies within 400 feet of the main entrance to building. None of the proposed parking sites come close to the 400 feet requirement.

“The parking on Auburn is a good two blocks away. I think anybody carrying groceries will find that unmanageable,” Anderson said.

The Landmarks Commission is an eleven-member board of preservation-minded individuals consisting of architects, historians, property owners, attorneys, Cleveland City Council representatives, the Director of City Planning, and

the Commissioner of Architecture. The Commission and its staff pursue these goals by promoting the highest standards for development and revitalization in all of Cleveland’s neighborhoods and employment centers, according to the website city.cleveland.oh.us.

Most major cities have a Landmarks Preservation Commission or municipal preservation agency to encourage and promote historic preservation and Historic District revitalization. At issue is a variance request to allow the developers of Lincoln Park Flats to build a 49-unit apartment complex without parking. Some cities allow for no-parking variances but with mixed results.

“Any developer in the last two years who bought into the idea that parking wasn’t important missed the mark,” said Jeff Reynolds, a broker who focuses on the Seattle condo market, in a recent *The Seattle Times* article.

On the other hand, the low-end apartment market caters to young people without cars. Parking spaces are expensive to add as an amenity; construction costs can be lowered by eliminating parking all together. Mason’s original design concept for Lincoln Park Flats presented to the Auburn-Lincoln Block Club last fall showed 29 units with off-street parking. The current plan calls for as many as 49 units, a 60% increase in number of units all with no parking. The math adds up quickly. That’s a

### Cleveland Landmarks Commission approves and praises design of Tamir Rice memorial

At its July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Cleveland Landmarks Commission unanimously approved the design for a Tamir Rice Memorial on the grounds of Cudell Recreation Center, 1910 West Boulevard and praised its design. Tamir Rice was a 12-year-old student at Marion Seltzer School at the time when he was shot and killed by a Cleveland Police Officer at Cudell Recreation Center in November of 2014.

The design for the memorial includes a granite stone engraved with an image of Tamir Rice and words from Tamir Rice’s family, benches, and a stone paver path to an existing butterfly garden – with images of butterflies painted on the path by neighborhood children. The memorial site would include a stone dry creek bed with different colored stones which would help direct rainwater to the butterfly garden. The site will incorporate native plants in the design including a white flowering red bud tree near the granite memorial as well as the continued

use of native plants in the butterfly garden.

At the virtual meeting of the Landmarks Commission, Ward 15 Councilman Matt Zone promised to help engage kids from Marion Seltzer School to help with the painting of the butterflies.

Zone also confirmed that Marion Seltzer School, which sits on W. 98<sup>th</sup> Street, just to the east of Cudell Recreation Center, would be rebuilt on the school district’s current site, and the new school building would not impose on the site of the memorial.

Landscape Architect Jayme Schwartzberg of DERU Landscape Architecture in Cleveland, and Diane Jones Allen of Design Jones out of Dallas and New Orleans, worked with Samaria Rice, Tamir Rice’s mother, to shape the design of the project. Schwartzberg and Jones Allen gave a presentation about the design of the Tamir Rice Memorial and surrounding landscape to the Landmarks Commission.

View the Plain Press online:  
<https://plainpress.blog>

60% increase in rental income.

In some cities like Portland, Oregon, parking isn’t even being considered in new apartment construction, where nearly two-thirds of recent projects don’t provide tenant spaces, according to Oregon Public Radio. Car owners are left on their own to find available street parking or lease parking from a third party and pay an additional fee on top of their monthly rent.

Kate O’Neil, co-chair of the Auburn-Lincoln Block Club, was concerned that a decision by the Landmarks Commission to support the project without parking would set a precedent for future projects in the neighborhood.

“Developers will come to us and say, ‘we don’t need any parking’ setting a dangerous precedent and putting tremendous demand on the neighborhood,” O’Neil said. “We would like to support development that is a good match for the neighborhood. This is not a good match.”

The Landmarks Commission asked Maison to redesign the structure to reduce the height from five to four stories in the back of the building to preserve the Holy Ghost Byzantine Church sight line. Restoration is needed to preserve the historic church, but Messina pointed out that the \$8 million budget does not include financing for renovation or restoration of the rectory or church.

Giancarlo Calicchia suggested the Landmarks Commission focus on the historical importance of the church leaving the parking issue to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

“The owner hasn’t addressed the historical rectory or church at all. He mentions they might sell the house,” Calicchia said. “The church will be hidden behind the apartment building. I don’t see the owner coming up with any solutions.”

A motion to vote was made against the backdrop of confusion about the exact wording. When

the vote was tallied, the Landmark Commission handed a 5-3 decision in favor of the project with two conditions: lower the rear building on Starkweather Ave by one story to allow more visibility for the Holy Ghost Byzantine Church, and provide some kind of drive thru or drop off and pick up area for delivery vehicles like UPS, Uber, Lyft, and food delivery services. If the stipulations are not met, the project can’t go forward. The parking issue will still have to go to the Board of Zoning Appeals for an approval of a variance.

A cloud of silence fell over the Landmarks Commission hearings as the committee moved onto the next project.

Later that afternoon, Tremont West Development Corporation Executive Director Cory Riordan expressed disapproval at the Landmarks Commission decision. In a phone conversation with the *Plain Press*, Riordan said, “I’m opposed to this project because it hasn’t been approached in a manner that would give me confidence that the community had ample opportunity to weigh in. St. Augustine provides vital community and social services. Shouldn’t they be taken into consideration? What is the damage to our community when they are not? That’s the process and they haven’t done that.”

Tremont property owner and former resident Herb Crowther had strong words for the developers and Landmarks Commission.

“[Messina] is giving the impression that there’s significant transit that makes living car free in Cleveland a real option. He has zero evidence to support his claim,” Crowther said in a phone interview. “From a planning perspective, he leaves all the risk on the community and has done less than anyone to build goodwill. He did nothing to build trust.”

“I’m trying to keep a cool head,” he added.

### Plain Press

For information about advertising, send an email to Ed Tishel at [plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)

# FABIO'S PIZZA

Freshly made, Authentic, Homemade Italian Ingredients

4203 Clark Ave.,  
Cleveland

*We dare you  
to find a better pizza!*

## 216-939-7777

**www.FabiosPizza.com**

Monday-Saturday 6pm-4am • Closed Sunday and Holidays

# Franklin Plaza

Skilled Rehabilitation Services

Part of the Legacy Health Services Family

Proudly serving the Ohio City community featuring:

- Private Rehabilitation Suites
- Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapies
- Short-Term Rehabilitation Services
- Complex Wound Care
- Hospice Care
- Respite Stays

3600 Franklin Boulevard  
Cleveland, OH 44113

**216-651-1600**

[www.lhshealth.com](http://www.lhshealth.com)

## ENJOYABLES by JR

Women's & Men's Lingerie • Small to 4X

Catalogue Orders  
**216-254-0256**  
**10933 Lorain Ave.**

**2nd Location:**  
**11928 Madison Ave.,**  
**Lakewood, OH**

Order Online:  
[www.enjoyablesbyjr.com](http://www.enjoyablesbyjr.com)

# SPRING FALL CLEANUP TREES TRIMMED OR REMOVED

**(216) 326-4377**

[infinitylove.eventplanning@gmail.com](mailto:infinitylove.eventplanning@gmail.com)  
[infinitylove4eventplanning.com](http://infinitylove4eventplanning.com)

*We can help you  
Design and Coordinate  
your event.*

**InfinityLove 4  
EventPlanning**

**(216) 307-3036**

*Jandra Mayron*

# COVID-19 cases spiral upward in the City of Cleveland

The number of confirmed or probable Corona Virus (COVID-19) cases in the City of Cleveland increased dramatically in early July with 800 new cases in the first 12 days of July. In all of June, the City of Cleveland had 800 new cases.

The City of Cleveland records its cases separately from Cuyahoga County. The dramatic growth of new corona virus (COVID-19) cases in Cleveland in July is evidenced by the tracking of total case numbers reported on the City of Cleveland website: 117 confirmed and probable cases at the end of March; 693 cases at the end of April; 1,600 cases at the end of May; 2,400 cases at the end of June; and 3,200 cases as of July 12<sup>th</sup>. On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, the City of Cleveland reported 3,871 confirmed and probable cases.

In a July 14<sup>th</sup>, telephone town hall, Mayor Frank Jackson said in the previous week there were more than one hundred new confirmed cases of COVID -19 in Cleveland on three separate days. Jackson said the age grouping with the most newly

confirmed cases was for those 20-29 years old. The second highest rate of newly confirmed cases was for the age group 30 – 39 years of age.

Mayor Frank Jackson said the City of Cleveland, in an effort to slow the spread of the pandemic, would be targeting its resources to the areas of greatest potential to spread the coronavirus. He said this involves large indoor gatherings where people are in close proximity. He said his administration would be meeting with owners of large bars, restaurants and night clubs and put them on notice that the City of Cleveland would be enforcing occupancy levels for their establishments.

The City of Cleveland has a map on its website with zip codes coded by color. The three zip codes in the City of Cleveland with the highest levels of confirmed cases (code red with 304-385 confirmed cases) were zip codes 44102, 44113 and 44105. Two of those zip codes are in the Plain Press service area – zip codes 44102 and 44113.

## The Cleveland Foundation, Cuyahoga County and T-Mobile create a Greater Cleveland Digital Equity Fund

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown a spotlight on digital inequities in Greater Cleveland that bar students from accessing their education in an age of remote learning, prevent underemployed and unemployed adults from finding or applying for jobs, and deny residents – especially older adults – access to medical support through telehealth services. More than one in five

households in Cuyahoga County have no internet access of any kind, with more than half of Cleveland households that make less than \$20,000 completely disconnected from the digital world. Additionally, more than half of Cleveland seniors over the age of 65 have neither a home computer nor internet access.

“Internet access is critical to

**continued on page 6**



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

**Tuesday, July 14, 2020; Center Street Swing Bridge, at Center and Merwin avenues: This bridge is slated for rehabilitation. Work is expected to begin in March of 2021 and the estimated completion date is March of 2022. The bridge will be closed to pedestrians and vehicles for the duration of the project. River traffic will be maintained during construction. The \$8.6 million rehab of the bridge is funded with \$7.5 million from the Ohio Department of Transportation’s Major Bridge Fund; \$500,000 from OPWC Funding (State Issue One) and \$600,000 from the City of Cleveland. For more information about the project contact Richard Ortman, PE at [dortmanii@city.cleveland.oh.us](mailto:dortmanii@city.cleveland.oh.us).**

## Pilsener Brewing Bottling-Works building named as new city landmark

The vacant Pilsener Brewing Bottling-Works building on Clark Avenue is now a Cleveland landmark after Cleveland City Council recently

**City Council funds West Side Market parking consultants**

At its July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, Cleveland City Council authorized the City of Cleveland to enter into a \$1.2 million contract over three years with consultants for the purpose of managing and operating the West Side Market parking lot.

approved the legislation at the June 1st meeting.

The giant brick structure was built in 1913-1914 as part of a sprawling beer-brewing campus that produced the popular P.O.C beer - which the locals dubbed “Pride of Cleveland.” At times, the brand was the top selling beer in the region. The complex of buildings on W. 65th and Clark was called Pilsener Square.

The non-profit Detroit-Shoreway Community Development Organi-

zation (DSCDO) hopes to be able to secure historic tax credits for redevelopment of the Pilsener Brewing Bottling-Works building. The landmark designation will allow them to apply for these credits. The next window to apply for the historic tax credits will be in 2021. If successful in obtaining the historic tax credits, DSCDO hopes to obtain ownership of the building and develop the building into 39 affordable housing units.

## CLEVELAND SCHOOL BOARD DECISION

**continued from page one**

from home. Gordon described various safety precautions the schools would undertake if this model were accepted by the Board of Education.

Board members present at the remote meeting all weighed in on the decision, starting with Board President Anne Bingham. “Cuyahoga County is still at level red, with the number of new cases continuing to rise. It is unwise to bring everyone into school. It is not safe right now. Not safe for students, families and staff,” she said. Bingham then offered her support for starting the school year completely remote as the safest way to go.

In making his decision, Board Member Robert Heard said he weighed health considerations with academic considerations. He said, “Everyone’s health is more important.” As far as sports, he said the short answer is “No.” Heard said there is some concern on the part of parents and students about students losing out on potential athletic scholarships. However, he noted we have “Say Yes” money for those students. Heard said, “I cannot live with the idea of me supporting opening of schools and hearing down the road of family members in the hospital, kids in the hospital...” Heard said, “Going remote is the way to go right now.” Heard said, what he is hearing in the community is “We are ready to go, but let’s stay home.”

In her remarks, Board Member Sara Elaqad spoke directly to the community. She praised community members that are doing everything they can to stop the coronavirus, COVID-19, from spreading. She also had words for community members not wearing masks and not doing what they can to stop the spread of the virus. She said they are the ones that are forcing the decision to have students stay

at home and learn remotely. She said their actions make it hard on families that don’t have the option to work at home and families that rely on schools for childcare so they can go to work. She said she was disappointed to see a recent report that Ohio was one of the least compliant states for mask wearing. “I’m disappointed because it makes it so our students can’t go back to school,” said Elaqad.

Elaqad said, “We are in a pandemic. It is time to stay home. I’d hate to be in a position of our students’ getting sick. I hate to say it, or our students dying... It’s heartbreaking. I want to see our students go back to school, but health is number one.”

Elaqad voted for going remotely for the first quarter, but she said she would like to see clearer expectations of how many times teachers check in with students. She said teachers “need to keep track of what is going on with students and families and be more involved in their lives.” Elaqad also called upon the school system to educate students and families about COVID-19. She said that given the right information, “I have faith kids will do the right thing.”

Board member Jasmine Fryer said the school system has worked hard to create a high quality educational and extracurricular environment and limiting access to that creates challenges. Under ideal circumstances she would like students to be back in classrooms. However, she asked the question: “Can we ensure health and safety at the start of the school year?” Her answer was “no” and that “it is unethical to go back to school at this time.” Fryer noted that the Surgeon General has said schools shouldn’t open until the risk is lower. She also cited the Cleveland Metropolitan School District’s own surveys of parents and teachers in which the majority of respondents in both

surveys preferred not to go back to school at this time.

Fryer also noted that many families in Cleveland may not have access to health care and thus children and family members may not know if they have pre-existing conditions that make them more vulnerable to dying from coronavirus, COVID-19. Fryer said, “We should not allow ourselves to be pressured by anybody -- including the federal government threatening to withdraw funds-- to make decisions not in the best interests of our students.”

Board Member Willetta Milam said she has heard from grandparents raising their grandchildren. They told her that they would not be sending their students back to school if it means going in person.

Board Member Lisa Thomas said, “We should not allow any child to go into our schools until the Board of Education meets in person.” She also quoted Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony Fauci concerning the prospect of students returning to school in the fall, saying Fauci said, “it is something of a bridge too far.”

Board Member Kathleen Valdez said her daughter is anxious to go back to school and see her friends and “there is nothing more I want but for her to be able to go.” Valdez says she asks herself, “Will everyone else be following guidelines to protect her?” She said, it is not the ideal situation to be going back to school now. Valdez expressed concern about parents that have to lose their jobs so they can stay home with their children. She asked about what systems are in place to support parents. She asked about internet

access and making sure every child has a device in their home.

CEO Eric Gordon said that last year the district distributed 16,000 devices with the goal of having at least one device in each of the district’s roughly 27,000 households. The district also put in place 9,800 internet hotspots to help families access the internet. However, he said the goal is for each student to have a device, as now family members may be sharing one device, and a parent may need that device for work. Gordon expressed confidence that the school district will have a much more thoughtful plan for remote learning than was the case last year when the schools were suddenly closed due to the emergence of the corona virus COVID-19. He said the district has purchased new software and technology and is partnering with both local and national organizations to assist in the remote educational experience of Cleveland’s children.

Other concerns raised by Board Members included remote teaching for students in specialty classes such as dance; how the district would address the education of special needs students with Individual Education Plans that may require a more “hands on” approach; how the district would handle food distribution; and the district’s plan to meet the needs of homeless students.

CEO Gordon responded that it is possible to teach specialty classes remotely. He noted that the CMSD’s Project ACT staff keeps in touch with homeless families and provides them with resources. He also said there has been a lot of discussion among staff and district advisory groups about how to address the education of special needs students.

Gordon said a decision has not yet been made on food distribution – whether the district would continue with the summer distribution sites or offer food distribution at each individual school. He said the district has ordered prepackaged meals that can last five days so parents can pick up a week’s supply of food on one trip.

Board member Sara Elaqad noted how much more we are asking from the school staff without additional funding. She urged voters to support the school district’s levy request. She spoke of the “tremendously high burden put on schools,” and decried the lack of state and federal funds to help with the additional resources that are needed to address the needs of the school district.

Other board members urged citizens to write to United States Senator Rob Portman to urge his support for federal legislation that would provide funds for local schools.



**Our ice cream is available in the Cleveland Metroparks concession stands at Edgewater Beach & Pier.**

[IceCream@HoneyHut.com](mailto:IceCream@HoneyHut.com)

**Plain Press**

**For information about advertising send an email to Ed Tishel at [plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)**

# MetroHealth mobile unit offers Project DAWN services during COVID-19 pandemic



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Wednesday, July 15, 2020; MetroHealth Office of Opioid Safety's Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) Expanded Mobile Unit, in lot at 3370 W. 25<sup>th</sup> (between Sackett and Trowbridge): MetroHealth Project DAWN staff members Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant Stephanie Shorts, Intern Aubrey Montgomery, and Program Assistants Roger Lowe and Frank Scialabba, are ready to distribute Project DAWN Narcan kits and safe injection kits. The unit is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

Visit the Plain Press website at:  
**plainpress.blog**

**NUTS OF QUALITY  
SINCE 1935**

# Hillson's

Visit our Factory Outlet Store  
**3225 W. 71<sup>st</sup> St. (South of Clark)**  
**961-4477**  
**Toll Free: 800-333-2818**

8:00-5:00  
Mon. - Fri.

Best in the West!

MasterCard  
VISA  
Discover  
AMERICAN EXPRESS

**by Chuck Hoven**  
Attention to the crisis of opioid overdose deaths in Cuyahoga County remains a priority during the COVID-19 Pandemic.  
The MetroHealth Cuyahoga County Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided with Naloxone) is using an expanded mobile unit to distribute its Narcan Kits and Safe Injection Kits, and to offer referrals for those seeking an opioid drug treatment or detox program.  
The mobile unit is located at 3370 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street and is open Monday

through Friday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The location is on the west side of West 25<sup>th</sup> Street (between Sackett and Trowbridge across from the MetroHealth outpatient clinics).  
Project DAWN, a program designed to help reduce deaths due to opioid overdoses, closed several of its locations due to the corona virus COVID-19, including the clinic at nearby Hispanic HUMADAOP on W. 25th and the downtown clinic at the Cleveland EMS headquarters on Lakeside. Other clinics have more limited hours than usual. The

Circle Health Clinic at 12201 Euclid Avenue is now open only from 12-4 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The McCafferty Health Center Project DAWN location, 4242 Lorain Avenue, is now open only on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (if you are going to McCafferty call ahead at 664-6603 to make sure someone will be there).  
The MetroHealth Expanded Mobile Unit is helping to fill in the gap. When Plain Press staff visited the unit in July there were four staff

continued on page 8

## DIGITAL EQUITY FUND

continued from page 5

day-to-day life,” said Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish. “Our world is becoming increasingly more technological and we do not want to see any family left behind because they don’t have access to a computer or internet. As County Executive, it’s been one of my top priorities to take a look at the ways we can decrease the digital divide and increase prosperity and quality of life in Cuyahoga County.”  
The Greater Cleveland Digital Equity Fund, initially launched with \$3 million in commitments, will address immediate and long-term needs surrounding broadband access, computing devices, digital literacy, and technology support. In addition, the George Gund Foundation announced a \$1 million grant to support digital access needs for Cleveland Metropolitan School District students and Say Yes scholars who lack the necessary technology access and devices to learn remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, including hotspots, Wi-Fi access and laptops.  
As additional partners join the Greater Cleveland Digital Equity Coalition and resources grow, the Fund will be used to support a comprehensive, short-term strategy for K-12 students in Greater Cleveland, including Cleveland, East Cleveland, Euclid, Warrensville Heights and additional inner-ring suburbs that have high need.  
T-Mobile will provide 7,500 unlimited data hotspots and one million dollars of in-kind equipment donations over the next two years through its EmpowerED initiative. Local organizations, PCs for People and RET3, will provide up to 10,000 computers and/or ongoing support to students in public schools

and partner charter schools in Greater Cleveland.  
“The Greater Cleveland Digital Equity Coalition is a comprehensive effort to keep public, private, nonprofit and philanthropic partners engaged with the overall strategy of addressing digital inequities in Greater Cleveland,” said Leon Wilson, Cleveland Foundation chief of digital innovation and chief information officer. “It will help us to best understand how to deploy the dollars in the Digital Equity Fund and it will create a unified voice as we advocate together for additional dollars to our region, as well as substantive changes to broadband policy at state and national levels.”  
The Coalition will ensure organizations on the ground have the resources and political support to work quickly and effectively to bridge the digital divide. Strategies will focus on engaging and supporting students, underemployed adults, and senior citizens.  
“The ability to connect to friends and family, work and education, medical care, and more has become a basic requirement of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, akin to being able to make a phone call or visit in person,” said Shontel Brown, Cuyahoga County District 9 Councilwoman. “Our social, political, and economic system has created and perpetuated the digital abandonment of the most vulnerable members of our community. This program is a way that we can start to right that wrong.”  
“There are many underlying reasons why a person may be cut off from the robust and interconnected digital world: lack of access to the hardware itself or perhaps digital redlining that plagues inner cities, or maybe just a lack of experience and training in using the internet,” said Yvonne Conwell, Cuyahoga County District 7 Councilwoman. “The Digital Equity Fund addresses this complex problem holistically, with multifaceted solutions.”

Coalition members are also seeking additional computers that can be refurbished to distribute throughout the community. If individuals, organizations and corporations are interested in donating used technology, please contact PCs for People at (216) 600-0014 or e-mail [cleveland@pcsforspeople.org](mailto:cleveland@pcsforspeople.org).  
“Pre-pandemic, students without internet access beyond the traditional school day were already negatively impacted by the expanding homework gap, but this upcoming school year promises to exacerbate this digital learning gap as kids try to keep up with distance learning,” said Dr. Kiesha Taylor, T-Mobile’s National Education Administrator. “When organizations driven by a common purpose come together – as done here with the Greater Cleveland Digital Equity Fund – the results can be extraordinary. T-Mobile is proud to support this much needed initiative.”  
Leaders of the Greater Cleveland Digital Equity Coalition include the following, with 60-70 additional organizations contributing their voice and expertise: Ashbury Senior Computer Community Center; City of Cleveland; Cleveland Foundation; Cleveland Innovation Project; Cleveland Metropolitan School District; Cleveland Neighborhood Progress; Cleveland Public Library; Cuyahoga County; Cuyahoga County Public Library; Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority; Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio; Greater Cleveland Partnership; OhioMeans-Jobs/Cleveland-Cuyahoga County; Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation; and Urban League of Greater Cleveland.

To give to the Greater Cleveland Digital Equity Fund, visit [cleveland-foundation.org/DigitalEquity](http://cleveland-foundation.org/DigitalEquity). For more information, visit [cleveland-foundation.org/DigitalExcellence](http://cleveland-foundation.org/DigitalExcellence).

# GRAND OPENING MATTRESS

# Sale

# SCRATCH & DENT

Reg \$3,500  
**Now \$300**

ALL BRANDS ALL SIZES

100's of Queen and Kings in Stock

MATTRESS KING

Home of the \$89 Any Size

2966 W. 25th St.  
(One block North Of Clark Ave.)  
216-400-6301

11504 Lorain Ave.  
Corner of W.115

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE DESTROYING YOUR LIFE?  
YOU'VE TRIED AA, NA & CA.  
TRYING TO STAY CLEAN IS NOT ENOUGH.  
*THE WORD CAN FILL THE VOID.*  
**POWERTOCHANGEMINISTRIES.ORG**

## AVOID GARNISHMENT of YOUR WAGES!

(Cleveland and Bratenahl residents)

Ask about TRUSTEESHIP  
at the  
**Cleveland Clerk of Courts**  
[www.clevelandmunicipalcourt.org](http://www.clevelandmunicipalcourt.org)  
(click on Civil Division > Trusteeship)

**\$30 filing fee**

**Earle B. Turner**  
Cleveland Clerk of Courts

(216) 664-4860

# LEAD TESTS FOR CHILDREN

continued from page one

homes, which are triggered by a high lead test. That could result in prolonged exposure for children to lead dust or paint chips.

“I worry about children who are at home, playing on porches full of lead paint or in the dirt nearby,” said Patricia Barnes, executive director of the Ohio Healthy Homes Network and co-chair of the Ohio Lead Free Kids Coalition, which advocates statewide for policies to eliminate childhood lead poisoning.

An Ohio Department of Health spokeswoman said that while test rates have dipped across Ohio during the pandemic, other “lead belt” states fared even worse.

Tests in Ohio have picked up in recent weeks as more parents schedule routine well-child visits, said state lead poisoning prevention advocates.

“There is nothing we are doing to make up on the missed testing,” ODH spokeswoman Rachel Feeley wrote in an email.

“This is something the (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) is tracking, as it is a national occurrence,” she wrote. “We will continue to monitor the situation and follow CDC guidance on the matter.”

### Testing setback

“I feel like we’re almost starting over again,” Kathy Schoch, nurse case manager for Cuyahoga County’s lead-poisoning prevention program, said about the interruption in testing.

Schoch and others have wrestled with improving lead testing for years.

Only one in five Medicaid-eligible children entering kindergarten in Cleveland public schools from 2011 to 2016 had federally recommended tests for lead poisoning at both ages 1 and 2, according to research released last year by Case Western Reserve University and Invest in Children, a county early childhood initiative.

The study also showed that even a “high dose” of 18 months or more of high-quality preschool education failed to help most lead-poisoned children catch up with their peers.

As lead testing stalled in the spring, so did new referrals to Ohio’s Early Intervention program, said Karen Mintzer, director of Bright Beginnings, formerly known as Help Me Grow.

The Early Intervention program, run through the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, can assess children for developmental delays linked to lead exposure.

Referrals to the program from Cuyahoga County also dropped to zero at one point, but have since rebounded, Mintzer said.

Any child younger than 3 with lead in their blood at levels of five micrograms per deciliter or higher is automatically referred.

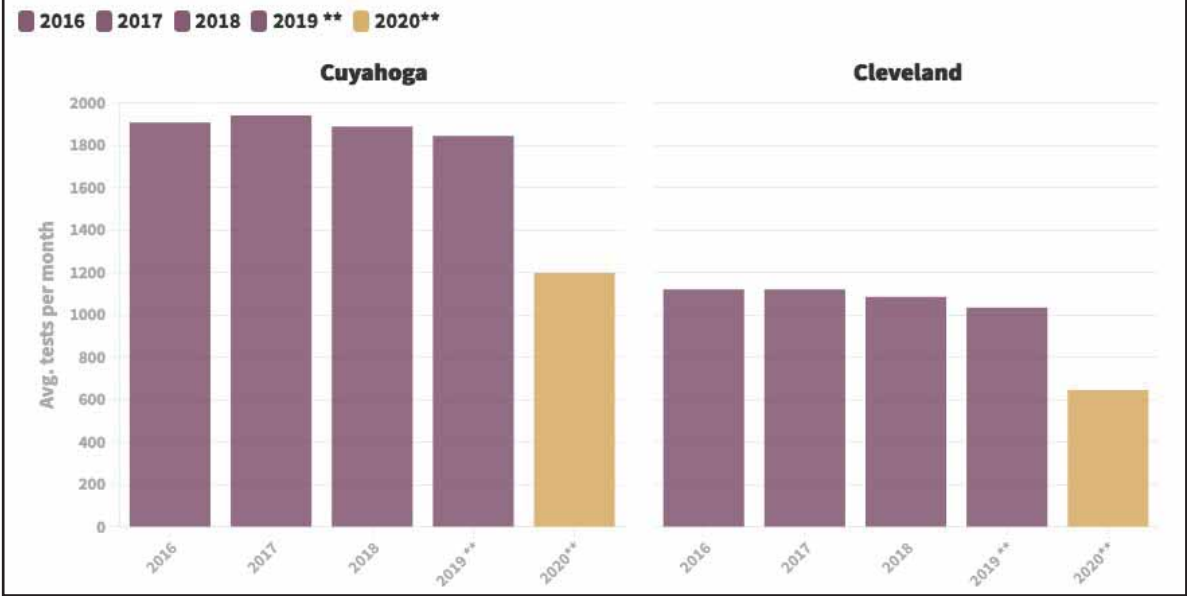
### Safer than the grocery store

When the MetroHealth System resumed well-child visits in late April, many parents were reluctant to bring their children to the doctor’s office or a lab because of fears about the virus, said Dr. Abdulla Ghori, vice chair of Pediatrics at MetroHealth Medical Center.

There has been a slight uptick in visits

## Lead testing during COVID

While the number of kids being tested for lead has dropped dramatically in the first half of 2020, the percentage of tests confirmed with elevated results increased slightly in Cleveland and Cuyahoga County.



in the past few weeks, he said.

In terms of risk, “coming to the hospital is better than going to the grocery store,” Ghori said. “And certainly, much safer than [attending] a birthday party.”

Ghori, also a professor of pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University said it is difficult to increase the rate of lead testing in part because testing practices vary by location and even by facility within a single health system.

Sometimes blood can be drawn in the doctor’s office. Other times, parents have to wait at a lab at a different location, which can be impractical for families with limited time and resources.

At MetroHealth, Ghori said, about a quarter of lab orders for lead tests aren’t ever completed.

While long-term solutions continue to be debated, Ghori said MetroHealth took the step of “bulk ordering” lead tests for any children who need them, rather than having doctors order the test individually during visits.

The orders will automatically show up in the mail or on electronic medical records for parents, he said.

Ghori said that’s good, but even better would be free, accessible blood-drawing locations in the city.

Ghori said he understands the focus on catching up on immunizations for

children under 2, especially immunizations against highly contagious and dangerous diseases such as measles. Immunizations are often needed to enroll in day care or school.

That doesn’t mean lead testing should be an afterthought, though.

Both are important, Ghori said, but he worries people will de-emphasize lead testing. That, he said, would have dangerous long-term consequences.

“People should not be forgetting this silent disease, which could be getting worse during this lockdown, and the consequences that it could have,” he said.

## Here are ways to limit exposure to lead dust in your home:

- Much of the lead dust that enters homes comes in from outside via the dirt on shoes and feet and on pets’ paws. Remove shoes when entering the home and clean your pets’ paws if they spend time in bare dirt outside.
- Put a stiff, outdoor door mat outside the door to trap dust and dirt before it gets in the house.
- If you have any bare patches of dirt around the edges of your home or driveway, cover it with at least six inches of mulch
- Check windowsills and doorways for chipped and peeling paint, especially at the level where your child’s hands reach, and in areas of high friction. Wipe or vacuum out windowsills and doorways. If you can’t repaint chipped areas, cover with contact paper or duct tape.
- Mop hard-surface floors frequently using the two-bucket method, if possible. Fill bucket #1 with warm water and a household cleaner. Fill bucket #2 with clean water. Dip the mop into bucket #1 and clean the floor. Then dip the mop into bucket #2 to rinse and squeeze before returning it to the cleaning solution. Dispose of the dirty water by pouring it down the toilet.
- Vacuum carpeted surfaces at least once a week. Use a HEPA-filter vacuum followed by a steam cleaner, if possible.
- Wear gloves when cleaning to avoid getting lead dust or paint under fingernails and transferring it to children.
- Wash your children’s hands frequently with soap and water, especially before meals. Hand sanitizer will not remove lead from hands.

## COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

SNAP benefits. This is all done in a one-on-one environment. With daily attendance and work requirement completed... our Program WILL GUARANTEE YOU JOB OFFERS! Classes run from 9:00 AM to 12:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Open computer lab and ServSafe every afternoon from 1:00-4:00 pm Questions, please call Frank Johaneck, 216-631-4741 ext. 167 Classes begin August 17.

### FOOD

**FIRST CALL FOR HELP:** For days, times and locations for free food distribution call 211.

### HEALTH

**CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS** available at McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Avenue, from 9 a.m. till noon on Wednesdays. Call 644-6603 to make an appointment. Bring your child’s immunization records. Only the parent and the child receiving immunizations will be permitted in the clinic.

**FREE LEAD SCREENING** is available at McCafferty Health Center from the Cleveland Department of Public Health. Call 664-6603 for more information and to make an appointment.

**VIRTUAL SUPPORT AND RECOVERY** groups are available and listed on the ADAMHS Board website homepage at: adamhsec.org.

**MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AND HOTLINES:** The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County mental health resources and hotlines: To reach Cuyahoga County’s 24-Hour Warmline, call **440-886-5950** to talk with a peer, or text “**4hope**” to **741741**. To reach the 24-hour Suicide Prevention, Mental Health/Addiction Crisis,

Information and Referral Hotline, call: **216-623-6888**.

**EMOTIONAL SUPPORT:** call the COVID-19 Careline hosted by Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services at 1-800-720-9616.

**SUPPORT AND INFORMATION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH:** live chat is available at NAMI Greater Cleveland Helpline. Live chat messages back and forth with NAMI Greater Cleveland Helpline staff at namigreatercleveland.org.

### HOMELESSNESS

**HOMELESS SEEKING SHELTER:** The Coordinated Intake and Assessment system will be accessible by phone at **216-674-6700**, available from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday. The United Way First Call for Help line is available at 2-1-1 during all other evening and weekend hours.

### NOACA

**NORTHEAST AREA WIDE CO-ORDINATING AGENCY** has launched a video campaign, *Why the Long-Range Plan Should be Important to You*. Send us an up to 30-second video on why the eNEO2050 Long-Range Plan is important for an equitable Northeast Ohio future. From land use, complete streets, walkability, and transportation accessibility, to project planning for your community, we want to hear about the needs of our region from its residents, to create an equitable future. Selected videos will be featured throughout our electronic and digital platforms monthly. Please send your video by August 31, 2020 at [noaca@mpo.noaca.org](mailto:noaca@mpo.noaca.org).

### RECREATION

**EDGEWATER BEACH** will have life-guards on duty from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. through August 16. After August 16<sup>th</sup>, lifeguards will be on duty only on weekends until Labor Day.

**YMCA OFFERS FREE VIRTUAL VIDEO WORKOUTS:** On-demand videos are now available on their website at [www.ymca.org](http://www.ymca.org).

[clevelandymca.org](http://clevelandymca.org). The videos are for people of all ages and can be accessed at no charge and can be done in the home with no special equipment.

## CLASSIFIED

**PLAIN PRESS CLASSIFIED: \$10 for 12 words and 30¢ for each additional word. To advertise count the words and mail a check or money order with your ad to the Plain Press, 2012 W. 25<sup>th</sup> #500 Cleveland, OH 44113.**

### FLEA MARKETS/THRIFTS

**ST. PAUL’S THRIFT STORE:** W. 45<sup>th</sup> and Franklin, Clothing, bric-a-brac, household items and more. **Open Wednesdays** 1 to 5pm (regular prices) **First Saturday** of Month 10 to noon store and Gym, Bargain Prices, Clothes **\$1.00 a bag**. **Third Saturday** of Month 10 to Noon Store only, All unmarked racked clothes **\$1.00 a bag**.

### FOR RENT

**SEEKING A LANDLORD** to accept my 1 Bedroom Section 8 Voucher. 216-312-9746.

**PROPERTY OWNERS NEEDED:** If you are a property owner with nice, clean, reasonably priced apartments, and are looking for tenants, please call Care Alliance at (216) 372-2348 and ask for Jim Schlecht.

### SUBSCRIPTION TV

**STREETS MOS SUBSCRIBE: STREETSMOSTV: YOUTUBE.COM/STREETSMOSTV** • Interviews • HoodNews • Music • Lifestyle • 216-633-1078.

## Plain Press BUSINESS DIRECTORY

### Plain Press

For information about advertising, send an email to Ed Tishel at [plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)

### Accountant

## QUICK FIX TAX SERVICES

*WE STRAIGHTEN OUT MESSSES*  
**RECORDS IN A MESS?**  
**IS IRS ON YOUR BACK?**  
MAKE CHANGES TO HELP LOWER TAXES AND SAVE ON TAX PREPARATION. KNOW PERSON WHO DOES? REFER THEM, EARN CASH CALL (216) 631-8858

### Attorneys

Business, taxes, wills, trusts, estates, deeds, other paperwork. Quick and efficient. — **Brian Ruschel** — **216-621-3370**

**Val Schurowliew**  
*Abogado/Attorney at Law*  
**216-314-6194**  
*Serving Cleveland and surrounding suburbs*  
**Real Estate, Evictions, DUI, Divorce, Foreclosures**  
**Reasonable Rates**

**MARIE T. SMYTHE**  
*Attorney at Law*  
**(216) 533-4225**  
Probate  
Personal Injury  
– Including dog bites, slip and falls  
**Free Initial Consultation**

### Business Advice

## Arrowhead Group

**Need Business Help?**

Grow • Rescue

Finance • Exit

Do You Feel Alone

and Need to Talk?

**216-760-3708**

**Free Discovery Session**

### Junk Cars

## Junk Car Removal

**Cash For Junk Cars**

**TOP DOLLAR PAID**

**Same Day Pick Up**

**Cash In Hand**

**216-804-4319**

### Rooms For Rent

## ROOMS FOR RENT

- Clean, furnished rooms with AC in Tremont
- Affordable Monthly rentals available
- Utilities included
- Cable and Wi-Fi included
- Washer / Dryer on-site

For more information:

**Call Jeff at 216-215-7132**

### Real Estate

## ★ WILL BUY ★

Your Home, Double, Small Apartment, Storefront, Vacant Lot... regardless of Condition for CASH or Terms  
**Call ART KNIGHT**  
**Red's Reality LLC**  
**(440) 835-2292**  
**(216) 570-2742**  
email: [artfla@msn.com](mailto:artfla@msn.com)

## HB 6 repeal would address only part of Ohio lawmakers' recent actions to slow renewables

*But a complete repeal is needed as a minimum to undo the bill's gutting of the clean energy standards, advocates say.*

by Kathiann M. Kowalski

*This article provided by Eye of Ohio the nonprofit, nonpartisan Ohio Center for Journalism in partnership with the nonprofit Energy News Network. Please join our free mailing list or the mailing list for Energy News as this helps us provide more public service reporting.*

Both Republican and Democratic Ohio lawmakers are pushing to repeal the state's nuclear bailout bill after this week's release of a federal criminal complaint against House Speaker Larry Householder and others. Clean energy advocates say that would be a start, but more is needed to address eight years of lawmakers' actions to slow the growth of renewables in the state.

The complaint alleges a \$60 million bribery and conspiracy scheme that led to the passage of House Bill 6 last summer, followed by the defeat of a referendum effort to give voters a say on the bill. Amounts involved are about 20 times more than amounts that could be tracked through public documents.

House Bill (HB) 6 is primarily known as a "nuclear bailout" for providing six years of subsidies for the FirstEnergy Solutions/Energy Harbor nuclear power plants in Ohio totaling roughly a billion dollars, but it also gutted the state's renewable energy and energy efficiency standards, and provided bailouts for two 1950s-era coal plants in Ohio and Indiana.

And while Gov. Mike DeWine has recently shifted his position from defending HB 6 to saying he wants to "repeal and replace" it, legislators from both parties say the whole thing should be thrown out. DeWine has said his office had no involvement in the alleged scheme. Yet he signed the law within hours after Householder secured its passage last summer.

Whether due to actual or perceived corruption, HB 6 "is a corrupt piece of legislation. All of it — not just part of it," said Rep. Mike Skindell, D-Lakewood. "Therefore, the entire thing needs to be repealed. ... That is one step in restoring the confidence of the citizens which was broken because of this corrupt process."

"Those of us who are free-market conservatives are against the bill. Those of us who care about consumers and predatory pricing are against the bill. And it's why those of us who want more renewable energy, not less, are against the bill," said Rep. Laura Lanese, R-Grove City.

"Ohioans deserve an immediate and full repeal of House Bill 6 in order to restore the public's trust in the legislative process, and also to get Ohio's clean energy future restarted," said Miranda Leppla, vice president of energy policy for the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund. "There is simply no room to consider anything less than a full repeal of this bill, as it is corrupt to the very core. Ohio lawmakers should consider what policies are best for Ohioans, without the corrupt influence of pay-to-play politicians and lobbyists working to influence their decisions."

"I think this fiasco of HB 6 is just symbolic of the pay-to-play culture that has been in operation for a decade or more," said Steve Melink, founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Melink Corporation in Cincinnati. An analysis of lawful, reported campaign contributions from the utility, nuclear and coal industries in Ohio shows substantial increases in election years after a competitive generation market finally began developing in the state.

Efforts to give preferences to FirstEnergy and utility and fossil fuel interests didn't start with HB 6. Bailout proposals been on the table since at least 2014. And efforts to limit or repeal Ohio's clean energy standards have been underway since at least 2012. A 2014 law imposed a two-year "freeze," and then former Gov. John Kasich vetoed another bill to erode the standards. Other bills for nuclear and fossil subsidies, and for weakening the standards were proposed in 2017 and 2018. Then Householder was elected.

HB 6 "was much more than a bailout for uneconomic nuclear and coal plants. It was an attack on renewable energy and energy efficiency that First Energy, and its allies in the legislature, had been pushing for years," said J.R. Tolbert, managing director for Advanced Energy Economy's national business group.

### What more is needed?

"Ohio has some fundamental changes that need to be made to get back on track in our fight against climate change," Leppla said. "These include fixing our wind setbacks, prioritizing efficiency as a money- and energy-saving resource, and fixing our power siting board process to ensure renewables have an even playing field."

Removing a 2014 provision that tripled property line setbacks for wind turbines "is the very first change that has to happen" after a full repeal of HB 6, said Sandy Buchanan, executive director of the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

"When the rules changed, it essentially froze the number of wind projects," said IEEFA data analyst Seth Feaster. That caused communities to miss out on revenues, more financial stability, better credit ratings and indirect job benefits, he and Buchanan noted. Meanwhile, a lot of wind projects moved to other states that were more welcoming.

The constant push to limit, or repeal, the State's renewable energy and energy efficiency portfolio standards has also hurt, Melink noted. The portfolio standards act as incentives to attract and develop clean energy and other businesses that want renewable energy by setting enforceable targets, which the market then moves to meet, he said.

"A totally unregulated market is too open to the kinds of things that we're witness to with HB 6," Melink said. "Setting standards and rules is a good thing."

"Businesses need some certainty that before they make investments to grow their businesses, that there are good laws that will be in existence for some period of time — that we're not going to be going back and forth every year or two years, changing our minds about these things," Melink continued. "No company is going to make a major investment to grow a clean energy economy with that scenario."

Other concerns focus on how regulators and the courts have applied the state's energy laws, including provisions that currently limit or preclude refunds of unlawful charges.

Even before HB 6 passed, for example, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio allowed a credit support charge. The Supreme Court of Ohio found that the charge was unlawful, but it declined to make FirstEnergy refund charges to consumers. A delayed repeal of HB 6 could also let utilities collect charges under the law.

"FirstEnergy and FirstEnergy Solutions should not be allowed to financially gain from the poisoned



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

**Tuesday, July 14, 2020; MetroHealth Office of Opioid Safety Project DAWN Expanded Mobile Unit, in lot at 3370 W. 25<sup>th</sup> (between Sackett and Trowbridge): This Mobile Unit houses staff members that offer Project Dawn Narcan kits, Safe Injection Kits, referrals to treatment programs and as well as weekly food distribution to clients who are addicted to opioids. The RV, open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., is offering Project DAWN distributions while other Project DAWN locations, such as nearby Hispanic UMADAOP, have closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

## PROJECT DAWN

continued from page 6

people in the unit prepared to offer services to clients. Project DAWN Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant Stephanie Shorts said the mobile unit offers both Safe Injection Kits and Project DAWN Narcan kits.

The Safe Injection Kits include fentanyl test kits, alcohol swabs, sterile water bottle, tourniquet, ointments, cotton and a cooker. The Safe Injection Kits are available to drug users who are interested in harm reduction, said Shorts.

The Project DAWN Narcan kits

include two doses of nasal Narcan, a face shield, and a reference guide which describes how and when to use Narcan. The reference guide also lists the locations and contact information for Project DAWN clinics.

Shorts says the Project DAWN Narcan kits are available to anyone interested in receiving training and education in the use of Narcan. The Narcan is used to attempt to revive a person who has stopped breathing due to an opioid overdose. Shorts says the Project DAWN staff will help train friends and loved ones of those addicted to opioids, and any

interested individuals, in the use of the Narcan.

In addition to providing the Safe Injection and Narcan kits, the staff of Project DAWN mobile unit will help with resource lists and referrals to treatment and detox programs if clients are ready, said Shorts.

Once a week the mobile unit also has fresh produce to distribute to clients of the program, Shorts added.

In addition to Shorts, staff at the mobile unit include Program Assistants Roger Lowe and Frank Scialabba, and Intern Aubrey Montgomery.

## Captain Keith Sulzer retires from Police Department

The Cleveland Police Foundation newsletter published an article on July 1<sup>st</sup> titled, "A Tribute to Captain Keith Sulzer upon his retirement". The article notes that the West Park YMCA staff, seniors, and summer school program held a surprise retirement party for Captain Sulzer.

Sulzer is quoted in the newsletter saying, "Thank you West Park Y staff, seniors and kids, it's always been a highlight of my days to stop in and talk safety and have some fun!"

In recent years, Sulzer has served as a Community Policing Captain as well as the Liaison Officer to the Cleveland Police Foundation. Prior

to that, Sulzer served as Commander of the Second Police District. Sulzer also contributed a number of articles on safety to the *Plain Press* over the years.

*Ideastream* interviewed Captain Sulzer on July 6<sup>th</sup>, his last day on the job, in an article titled "Retiring CPD Captain Calls for Major Reinvestment in Community Policing." In the article, Sulzer advocates for more funds for Community Policing. Community Policing allows police to get to know residents better, and to help to refer people in need to various social services to address their problems.



*Walter Martens & Sons Funeral Home*

*9811 Denison Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102*

*216-281-7111 • 216-651-9415 (fax)*

*businessmartens@aol.com*

*www.martensfuneralhome.com*

**Visit the Plain Press website at:**

**plainpress.blog**

**for links to websites  
referenced in this issue.**