



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG  
Saturday, October 30, 2021; Día de Muertos 2021 hosted by Cleveland Public Theatre/ Teatro Público de Cleveland & Día de Muertos Ohio under the direction of Artistic Director Héctor Castellanos Lara; Cleveland Public Theatre – Church, Parish Hall and surrounding area, 6205 Detroit Avenue: A skeleton dressed in honor of an ancestor.

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# Plain Press

Cleveland’s Near Westside Newspaper

## Cuyahoga County Department of Appraisals updates information on 2021 property taxes

by Bruce Checefsky  
Michael Chambers, Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer, admits most people fail to understand how property taxes work. At the November Lincoln Heights Block Club meeting at the

Tremont Taphouse, he talked about an update on 2021 property taxes. Chambers went through the Triennial Update process, detailing what people should know about their property taxes. He said that the Ohio tax

appraisal is on a six-year plan. Three years ago, county appraisers reviewed over 480,000 parcels in Cuyahoga County in a mass appraisal. With the mass appraisal process, county appraisers do not enter homes, unlike a bank appraisal, which considers fixtures, build-out, and appliances. County appraisers make an assessment based on comparable properties in the neighborhood.

In the three years since the last mass appraisal, municipalities provided the Cuyahoga County Department of Appraisals with building permits issued during that period. Chambers tracked property sales. Sales data influenced State of Ohio officials to mandate a double-digit increase in taxes across the county.

“I do not enjoy the appraisal process, but it is my job,” Chambers said to about twenty Tremont residents inside the Tremont Taphouse on Scranton Avenue. Many were older adults living on fixed incomes.

“The 2021 Triennial Update is based solely on sales data. From January 2018 through December 2020, home sales have been out of control in the county,” he explained. “Houses are being sold within hours of listing, without inspection, and often as cash deals.”

America’s housing market rose by  
**continued on page 4**



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG  
Saturday, October 30, 2021; Día de Muertos 2021 hosted by Cleveland Public Theatre/ Teatro Público de Cleveland & Día de Muertos Ohio under the direction of Artistic Director Héctor Castellanos Lara; Cleveland Public Theatre – Church, Parish Hall and surrounding area, 6205 Detroit Avenue: Woman with a headdress, with a smiling skeleton face – a reminder of the image of Catrina, the traditional “Lady of the Dead” goddess of the Aztecs.

## Southern Christian Leadership Conference President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Charles Steele denounces Sherwin-Williams

by Bruce Checefsky  
Dr. Charles Steele, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), co-founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., traveled to

Cleveland last month to meet with the CEO of Sherwin-Williams.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was established in 1957 to coordinate the action of local protest groups throughout the

South. Under the leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr., the organization drew on the power and independence of black churches to support its activities. As early as 1962 SCLC began to  
**continued on page 4**



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG  
Saturday, October 30, 2021; Día de Muertos 2021 hosted by Cleveland Public Theatre/ Teatro Público de Cleveland & Día de Muertos Ohio under the direction of Artistic Director Héctor Castellanos Lara; Cleveland Public Theatre – Church, Parish Hall and surrounding area, 6205 Detroit Avenue: A woman carries an umbrella, ready for possible rain during the Skulls and Skeletons Procession.

## American Rescue Plan Act survey responses provide window into what Cleveland needs now

by Zachary & Lee Chilcote  
This past summer, the city of Cleveland mailed surveys to more than 120,000 homes and businesses asking residents, “How would you spend \$511 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to make Cleveland healthier and stronger?” The surveys were also available online.

The city received more than 1,000 responses, which it says formed the basis for its plans. However, Cleveland hasn’t held any public meetings, and so far, city council has only approved spending about half of the initial tranche of \$256 million. Specifically, they’ve allocated \$110 million in lost revenue to the city, \$20 million for citywide broadband, and \$5 million for the Cleveland Food Bank.

With about \$121 million from the first half of the funding still to be spent, The Land and Cleveland Documenters wondered what priorities residents had for the money.

To learn what residents are thinking, the two groups put in a public records request and got close to 1,173 survey responses. (The city of Cleveland said it got 2,275 “ideas.” We don’t know where

the rest are.)

A team of Documenters turned the feedback into a database. You can explore it at: <https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/7833248/>.

The city’s plan (found at: <https://clevelandhall.com/2021/10/20/city-of-cleveland-announces-details-for-arpa-fund-distribution/>) for the first installment of ARPA money does include some items at the top of residents’ wish lists -- including demolition projects, emergency and social services, and improvements to safety, healthcare, and affordable housing. Yet it does not yet appear to address some of its citizens’ top priorities, including water and sewer costs and improvements to parks and other recreational spaces.

Just like the U.S. did in response to the Great Depression, Cleveland should now “use millions of dollars to fix our parks and other public works with the unemployed, and train them,” wrote a resident of Ward 16.

The comments provide a fascinating window into the visceral needs of  
**continued on page 6**



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG  
Saturday, October 30, 2021; Día de Muertos 2021 hosted by Cleveland Public Theatre/ Teatro Público de Cleveland & Día de Muertos Ohio under the direction of Artistic Director Héctor Castellanos Lara; Cleveland Public Theatre – Church, Parish Hall and surrounding area, 6205 Detroit Avenue: Members of the Danza Azteca Guadalupeana entertain the crowd outside of the Parish Hall.





**PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG**  
Saturday, October 30, 2021; Día de Muertos 2021 hosted by Cleveland Public Theatre/ Teatro Público de Cleveland & Día de Muertos Ohio under the direction of Artistic Director Héctor Castellanos Lara; Cleveland Public Theatre – Church, Parish Hall and surrounding area, 6205 Detroit Avenue: A guitar player joins in the Skulls and Skeletons Procession through the neighborhood near Gordon Square.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
**Our Neighborhood Churches**  
**Welcome You!**

### HISTORIC ST. ROCCO CHURCH

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**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Confessions: December 24th 12:00pm - 1:00pm / 3:30pm - 4:30pm / & every weekend before all of the Masses.

**MASSES**

Christmas Eve: December 24th:  
4:30pm (Santa tries to stop by at the end of Mass) / 11:30pm Organ Concert

**MIDNIGHT MASS:**  
12:00am Solemn Mass at Night

Christmas Day: December 25th:  
7:30am, 9:30am & 12:00pm (Latin High Mass) / \* NO evening Mass.

New Year's Eve: December 31st: 6:30pm

New Year's Day: January 1st:  
7:30am, 9:30am & 12:00pm (Latin High Mass) / \* NO evening Mass.

### Saint Ignatius Of Antioch Church

10205 Lorain Avenue (at West Boulevard)  
216-251-0300 • SIOA.WECONNECT.COM  
*Rev. Kevin Estabrook, M.Div., M.A. - Pastor*

**Advent**

Advent Taize Prayer Service - Thursday, December 2 - 7pm  
Advent Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration - Friday, December 3 - 7pm  
Quire Cleveland "Mary's Son" Concert - Saturday, December 4 - 8pm  
Advent Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 12 - 7pm

**Christmas Season**

Christmas Eve Mass - 5pm  
Christmas Midnight Mass - 12midnight  
Christmas Morning Mass - 11am  
Holy Family Sunday - December 26 - 9am & 11am, 5pm (Latin)  
Feast of St. John the Evangelist - Latin High Mass - Monday, December 27 - 5:30pm

Regardless of your denomination or religious affiliation, you are invited to our prayer services and liturgies.

May the Savior of the world bless your family with His holy peace this Christmas

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**Christmas Eve Masses:**  
3 PM Children's Vigil Mass  
5 PM Vigil Mass  
9 PM Mass at Midnight

**Christmas Day Masses:**  
8:30 AM Christmas Mass  
11 AM Christmas Mass

Loving God, for all who feel on the margins, but who are at the center of your heart, we ask you to open our hearts. Help us to become a church and a nation where

**ALL LIVES HAVE DIGNITY, ALL PEOPLE ARE LOVED AND ALL ARE WELCOME.**

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## The Community Board

**ADDICTION SUPPORT**  
**JUDGEMENT-FREE ADDICTION SUPPORT:** Addiction Counseling/ Medication Assisted Treatment from Circle Health Services now affiliated with The Centers. Start your journey toward recovery today. Call 216-325-9153 or visit thecentersohio.org.

**ARTS**  
**ART HOUSE COMMUNITY CAFES:** Join us for an opportunity to re-envision Art House campus! We planning to create an artistically engaging and inspirational environment. We want to hear from you! What can you imagine happening in our greenspace? Information about our free café time, date, and location will be available soon. Please check our website arthouseinc.org and our Facebook for more information, or call (216)-398-8556. We hope to see you there!

**SPACES OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS:** SPACES is accepting applications from artists for inclusion in public programming. For more information visit their website at: spacescle.org.

**QUIRE CLEVELAND** performs Carols for Quire XI: Mary's Song: Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m. at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, 10205 Lorain Avenue at West Boulevard. Free Admission. Masks required for all audience members. (A freewill offering will be taken).

**FREE MOVIES** (Coming to America and Christmas Story) Noon on Saturday, December 11 at Capital Theatre, 1390 W. 65<sup>th</sup>, while seats last. This event is part of Snow Day in Detroit Shoreway.

**TRANSFORMER STATION**, 1460 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Street. Open Wednesdays through Sunday from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. A partnership between the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Fred and Laura Ruth Bidwell Foundation, Transformer Station showcases contemporary art through exhibitions, programs, installations and site-specific projects by leading contemporary artists. The Transformer Station is always FREE. For more information visit: transformerstation.org.

**METROHEALTH'S ARTS IN**

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English service..... 7:00 pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES:**  
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REV. HORST HOYER, PASTOR EMERITUS

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### St. Barbara Church

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www.tinyurl.com/SaintBarbara

**Merry Christmas!**  
**Wesołych Świąt**  
**Bożego Narodzenia!**

**Christmas Eve** (Friday Dec. 24)  
4:30 pm and 10:00 pm

**Christmas Day** (Saturday Dec. 25)  
9:00 AM and 11:00AM (Polish)

**Holy Family Sunday** (Dec. 26)  
9:00 AM and 11:00 AM (Polish)

**For a schedule of Mass times during the Christmas season please call us at 216 661-1191**

**HEALTH PROGRAM's** mission is to embed visual, performing and therapeutic arts throughout The MetroHealth System to promote healing, wellness and increased engagement among patients, families, caregivers and the greater community. To learn more contact: [arts@metrohealth.org](mailto:arts@metrohealth.org), or call 216-778-7685.

**CLEVELAND PUBLIC THEATRE'S PLAYS:** Tickets to all plays are now "Choose What You Pay". Tickets are offered online, over the phone and at the Box Office. Show Inforation: 10 Minutes to Midnight: 9 Quirky Plays for the Holidays (December 2-18) Performances are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday at 7:30pm and Sunday at 3:00pm in CPT's historic Gordon Square Theatre, located at 6415 Detroit Avenue. Purchase tickets at [www.cptonline.org](http://www.cptonline.org) or call the CPT Box Office at 216 -631-2726 ext. 501. Every Friday is Free Beverage Friday at CPT. Mingle with artists after the show and discuss the performance in a lively, social atmosphere – your drinks are on CPT.

**CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT**  
**CLEVELAND COMMUNITY POLICE COMMISSION** was established in 2015 as part of the terms of the Consent Decree between the City of Cleveland and the U.S Department of Justice. Achieving long-term, citizen driven reform of policing in Cleveland depends on the support of the entire Cleveland Community. To learn how you can get involved visit [www.clecpc.org](http://www.clecpc.org) or call 216-505-5920 or email [info@clecpc.org](mailto:info@clecpc.org). You can also follow the Cleveland Community Police Commission on social media: [facebook.com/216cpc](https://www.facebook.com/216cpc); [twitter.com/216cpc](https://twitter.com/216cpc); [bit.ly/216cpc-you](https://bit.ly/216cpc-you)

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**Correction**

Two names were misspelled in a photo caption for the West Technical High School 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Hall of Fame Induction Dinner in the November 2021 issue of the *Plain Press*. The corrected spellings are: Bonnie C. Dangler (Deceased) Class of 1964, and her cousin Debra Draudt (Class of 1975).

### ST. JOHN CANTIUS CHURCH

906 College Avenue  
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**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, FRIDAY  
Mass ..... 4:00 PM  
Mass ..... 10:00 PM  
(formerly at midnight)

DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, SATURDAY  
Mass 9:30 am ..... (Polish)  
Mass 11:30 am .... (English)

### Plain Press

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# Legislation introduced to establish an Ohio City Entertainment District

Ward 3 City Council Member Kerry McCormack has introduced emergency legislation to Cleveland City Council to approve the application of Ohio City Legacy, LLC to establish an Ohio City Entertainment District. The entertainment district is designed to benefit prospective hospitality industry tenants in the large \$145 million INTRO wood frame buildings being constructed on the Southeast corner of W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue.

The new entertainment district besides including the footprint of the INTRO complex will include some properties to the south including the RTA rapid station, Morgan Services, and Abbey Park. The new district will allow five new low-cost liquor permits to be issued. The new liquor permits will allow businesses in the district to avoid the expensive process of bidding on a limited supply of local liquor permits. State law, designed to curb the oversaturation of liquor permits in areas with declining population, freezes the number of permits in Cleveland to the existing number of liquor permits. The exception is in locally approved entertainment districts.

The application for the new district states, "Upon completion of INTRO, Ohio City Legacy, LLC will open a satellite office at the location that

will house 8-10 full-time new hires, with an annual payroll approaching \$750,000. A corporate office slated for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the development will begin with 5-7 full-time employees, eventually growing to as many as 15, with payroll in excess of \$1,000,000. In tandem with that, Harbor Bay will create a brand-new hospitality business that will employ upwards of 125 people in both full-time and part-time roles across four unique hospitality concepts, of which payroll is anticipated at over \$3,500,000."

Ohio City Legacy's application lists four hospitality businesses currently looking at the possibility of being tenants in the INTRO project. Those include:

- Truss Event Venue – A private event venue on the top floor of INTRO that will host weddings and non-profit/corporate events
- Pioneer – A casual sports bar/gastropub including a large biergarten-style patio, with a menu featuring primarily wood-fired foods
- Jaja – A steakhouse and tapas lounge with a cocktail-driven bar program
- Leaps & Bounds – A new coffee bar and all-day café with healthy, coastal-inspired food and a small menu of beer, wine, and spirits.

The application also notes the



PHOTO BY BRUCE CHECEFSKY

Monday, November 8, 2021; Lincoln Heights Block Club Meeting, Tremont Taphouse, 2572 Scranton Road: L to R: Michael Chambers, Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer; Martin J. Sweeney, County Councilman representing District 3; and Randy Norfus. (See related story on pages one and four.)

other subsidies the INTRO project is receiving: "The INTRO property is currently part of the City of Cleveland's residential tax abatement program, but all non-residential real

estate is subject to fully-assessed property taxes. Some of these taxes will be applied to the TIF that was awarded to the INTRO project. Overall, INTRO is expected to gen-

erate around \$350,000 annually in property tax benefits once the project is complete and stabilized."

\*\*\*\*\*

# Help for youth aging-out of foster care

by Tonya Sams

Aging out of the foster care system can be a very challenging time for youth who are also navigating the transition from childhood to adulthood. Without a birth certificate, social security card, or other identifying documentation, it can be extremely difficult to get a job or a driver's license.

Attorney Danielle Gadowski Littleton, and social worker Dani Lachina, both of The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, have several tips for people who are transitioning out of the foster care

system.

First, if you have a case worker, ask him or her for access to your documents or for help applying for new copies.

Second, call the Identification Crisis Collaborative (IDCC). There are 29 community organizations in the IDCC that help people obtain birth certificates, proof of social security numbers, driver's licenses, state IDs, and other important documentation. For more information on how IDCC can help you, call the West Side Catholic Center at 216-631-4741, ext. 300.

Also, find out if you are eligible to receive help from Ohio Bridges. Ohio Bridges helps youth ages 18 to 20 who have aged out of the foster care system. The organization assists with issues regarding housing, education, employment, and mental and physical health. For more information, go to [bridgestosuccess.jfs.ohio.gov](http://bridgestosuccess.jfs.ohio.gov).

Finally, call YWCA's A Place 4 Me program. A Place 4 Me helps youths from 14 to 26 with issues regarding housing, jobs, and other areas to help create a stable and productive life. For more information, call Kate Lodge at 216-881-6878 or email her at [klodge@ywcaofcleveland.org](mailto:klodge@ywcaofcleveland.org).

If you are unable to use the above resources, follow these steps to obtain your documentation:

- First, get a copy of your birth certificate from the Ohio Department of Health. Picture IDs are not required to obtain birth certificates, which can be requested online or via mail for a cost of \$25. Most offices are not accepting in-person visits due to COVID restrictions. To look up offices near you, go to the "Find Local Health Districts" page of the Ohio Department of Health's

website, [odh.ohio.gov](http://odh.ohio.gov).

- If you need more information, contact the Ohio Department of Health Issuance Unit at [VS.Issuance@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:VS.Issuance@odh.ohio.gov) or go to the "How to Order Certificates" page of the Ohio Department of Health's website.
- Next, get your state ID or driver's license from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). BMV locations are open to the public, but you need to bring the required documents with you. More information is available at [bmvo.ohio.gov](http://bmvo.ohio.gov).
- Finally, obtain a copy of your Social Security Card. This is a free service that must be conducted online or via mail. For more information and to find the office nearest you, visit [secure.ssa.gov](http://secure.ssa.gov). To apply online, visit [faq.ssa.gov](http://faq.ssa.gov).

Once you have your documents, be

sure to store them in a secure place; you may want to give them to a trusted friend, mentor, or family member. Remember, these documents can be expensive to replace, and that process will delay everything from getting government benefits to finding an apartment.

Do you need more help? Attorneys at Legal Aid can help solve legal programs for youth aging out of foster care. Learn more about ways Legal Aid can help at [www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org). You can apply for help 24/7 on Legal Aid's website or call 216-687-1900 during most business hours. And, watch Legal Aid's website calendar for a list of 2022 in-person free legal advice clinics.

*Editor's Note: Tonya Sams is the Development and Communications Assistant at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.*

**Attention:**  
**Non-profit Organizations,  
Government Offices and  
Public Officials!**

**The Plain Press Community Guide  
will be published in  
the March 2022 issue.**

The guide offers free listings of names and phone numbers  
of community organizations and government services.

Additional information can be placed in the guide  
by purchasing a square in the guide.

For more information contact  
Ed Tishel at [plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL INDRIOLO  
Tuesday, November 9, 2021; Seven Years: The Long Walk for Justice for our Beloved Tamir Rice, Downtown Cleveland: Demonstrators filled the few blocks between Public Square and the Justice Center with chants like “More justice, more peace.”

## PROPERTY TAXES

continued from page one

24.8 percent since March 2020. Median home prices in medium-size metropolitan areas like Boise, Idaho, for exam-

ple, increased 46 percent. In Phoenix, the housing market rose 36 percent, and in Austin, it was 35 percent; Sacramento, 28 percent. Cleveland home prices were up 15.9 percent in July 2021 over July 2020. As a result, state

officials mandated Chambers to raise Cuyahoga County tax rates by 16%. When the county did their calculations, they came up with the same number. As a result, home values increased. An increase in property values does not always equate with a proportional rise in property taxes, making the process more confusing.

“A property that increased in value from \$150,000 to \$180,000, or about a thirty percent, will likely go up only 4.2 percent in taxes,” said Chambers.

Assessments are city-by-city and neighborhood-by-neighborhood. A typical house might have gold faucets, he pointed out, or a crack in the foundation. County assessors will not include that information in the property valuation.

Statewide, Cuyahoga County ranked second as the highest average residential property tax rate. Within the City of Cleveland, property owners can expect a 23% increase in residential property values. In Westlake and Bratenahl, home values will increase 12%, and Maple Heights, 29%. The outer ring suburbs of Hunting Valley and Chagrin Falls have zero increase. While the assessed value of the property is the same, property owners will still pay higher taxes.

Property tax revenue maintains public streets and roadways and pays for routine maintenance making the necessary streetlight and traffic light repairs within the township or city limits. The highest percentage

of property taxes goes to the public schools. In Cleveland, the schools receive 56.79% of the property taxes collected; the City of Cleveland receives 13.2%; Cuyahoga County receives 19.35%; the Cleveland Public Library receives 8.08% and the Cleveland Metroparks receive 2.58%.

Chambers sees the trend of property tax increases only going upward from here. With home flippers, real estate investors buy a home in its original condition at as low a price as possible, renovate, and then quickly sell to a new buyer at a profit. The impact on property valuation and increased taxes within some neighborhoods are skyrocketing. Tax abatement programs only add to the problem, he said. In Tremont alone, over 10% of all parcels are tax abated.

“The building of new expensive homes, many with tax abatement, goes into the data to determine property valuation, which eventually impacts property taxes. There were 378 home sales in Tremont between January 2018 and December 2020. The average sale was \$237,000.”

Once property owners receive their assessments from the county and disagree with the valuation, they can appeal the decision to the Cuyahoga County Board of Revision. They should ask a few questions before getting involved in a lengthy and time-consuming process, Chambers said, adding that an appeal to the Board of Revisions does not challenge how much you owe for property taxes. You could

have a higher valuation resulting in more taxes.

“If you were to sell your house today, what would be the sale price? If the market value matches the county-appraised value, the Board of Revisions will not change its mind,” he said.

Appeals to the Cuyahoga County Board of Revision should be submitted between January 1 and March 31, 2022, by completing a DTE-1 Form found on the county website: <https://bor.cuyahogacounty.us>

The Board of Revision will schedule a hearing to review your case within six to twelve months. Seniors and Spanish-speaking residents should contact Yvonne Conwell, County Council Representative for District 7, for assistance at 216-618-2017.

Dharma Valentin, Community & Equity Organizer at Tremont West Development Corporation, offered to assist anyone with an appeal by helping them to apply. She will bring her laptop to the Block Club meetings from January to March 2022 to help fill out the proper forms. A request to lower valuation by more than \$50,000 will automatically alert the Cleveland

Metropolitan School District. A school board attorney will be present at your hearing to dispute your case. Get a quote for repairs from a contractor and take pictures. Appeals should have good evidence, Chambers cautioned, and avoid using West Park to compare with home prices in Tremont.

As he was wrapping up his presentation for the night, apologizing for monopolizing the meeting, Chambers added, “We have been asked for years to raise the value of homes on the Cleveland inner city. These people cannot get a home equity loan to fix their windows. They are glad we raised property valuations.”

Roger Hillsok, a resident of Tremont along Scranton Road, was shaking his head in disbelief. He has been renovating a property purchased from his parents. He worries that the improvements to his property will increase the taxes for his neighbors.

“There is a lot of things out of our control,” he said. “I’m adding to the gentrification of the neighborhood. I do not want my taxes to go up. I do not want my neighbor’s taxes to go up except that I am unable to prevent that from happening.”

## SHERWIN-WILLIAMS DENOUNCED

continued from page one

broaden its focus to include economic inequality issues. Headquartered in Atlanta, SCLC is now a worldwide organization with chapters and affiliates located throughout the United States and globally.

Sherwin-Williams said they wouldn’t meet with Steele. The Ohio-based company in the paint and coating manufacturing industry is in the second phase of a three-phase design process for their world headquarters in downtown Cleveland. Black-owned firms have so far been left out of the process to build the \$600 million facilities, according to SCLC.

“We have a campaign called The Streets to the Suites – Dinner with Racism within Corporate America. I have extended an invitation to the Chairman and President of the board of the company so we can start a dialogue. But I haven’t heard anything yet,” Steele told Cleveland 19 News.

The Sherwin-Williams Company responded by issuing a statement: “We are highly disappointed and surprised by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s recent statement, which ignores our inclusive approach and is uninformed by the facts. We are proud to discuss the robust process we have in place and the opportunities for minority-owned firms to participate in this project.”

Steele was asked by Norm Edwards, head of the Cleveland Black Contractors Group, to help negotiate an agreement. The Black Contractors Group called on elected officials to withhold more than \$100 million in public incentives for Sherwin-Williams.

“We call it racism. Racism is a virus just like COVID-19. If you don’t heal from racist approaches to society, it will be passed on from generation to generation,” Steele said in an interview with the *East Side Daily News*. “We’re in Cleveland to make sure black contractors are involved in the decision-making positions.”

Steele repeatedly asked Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer of Sherwin-Williams, John G. Morikis, to participate in a dialogue. Morikis has never replied. Instead, Steele was sent to a consultant for the company in response to his request, a person of color from Gilbane Building Company vetted by Sherwin-Williams to handle the complaint.

“I refuse to talk to anyone less

than Morikis. Anyone less than the president of the company cannot make a decision on what we need,” said Steele, who has never had a president, CEO, or Chairman of the Board, of any company in the United States and abroad refuse to meet with him until he came to Cleveland. “A consultant will not do.”

**“We call it racism. Racism is a virus just like COVID-19. If you don’t heal from racist approaches to society, it will be passed on from generation to generation. We’re in Cleveland to make sure black contractors are involved in the decision-making positions.”**

**-- Dr. Charles Steele, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference**

Earlier this year, the Atlanta-based SCLC targeted Nielsen Holdings, an American, information, data, and market measurement firm, as part of a campaign against corporate racism. Nielsen Holdings eventually settled a federal discrimination lawsuit by a Chicago-based, black female executive who had accused the company of racism. The lawsuit had been tied up in the courts with lawyers from both sides for over three years before SCLC became involved.

“I came in at the end. Lawyers for both sides were trying to settle the case and they couldn’t do it,” said Steele. “I did it in six or seven weeks.”

The agreement bans both sides from disclosing its terms.

“I’m satisfied,” he said.

Steele wants Sherwin-Williams to know he’s serious when it comes to finding a solution to the black-owned business contracts and suggests Morikis follow the principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Gather the facts and educate the public, make a personal commitment to the process before you’re ready to negotiate, then negotiate,” Steele said. “This should be followed by direct action. Finally, always get involved with reconciliation.”

The \$600 million project is partially financed with up to \$100 million in public money and could cost \$1 billion with design changes and overrun costs before it’s completed. Steele believes minorities should have 15 percent

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# Tamir’s Campaign for Justice calls on officials to reopen civil rights case

by Michael Indriolo

Public square is always noisy; however, for a brief moment on Tuesday November 9th, a pocket of the Cleveland landmark was filled not with the sounds of busses and construction, but with song.

*A mother cries for justice.*

*Can you hear her say:*

*Oh Tamir, Tamir, we feel you here,*

*takin’ on the DOJ.*

The few dozen singing had been part of a group of more than 50 demonstrators from Tamir’s Campaign for Justice who’d just marched down the street to the Justice Center a few blocks away. They had spent about a half hour there on the building’s back steps, where Samaria Rice and other community organizers called on Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael O’Malley and other state and federal authorities to reopen a case against the police officers involved in the fatal shooting of Tamir Rice, Samaria’s son. The downtown march was one of a number of Tamir Rice Seventh Anniversary events and calls to action for real justice.

Seven years ago, Cleveland police officer Timothy Loehmann, almost immediately after arriving on the scene, fatally shot Tamir Rice, a 12-year-old

who was playing with a toy airsoft gun, outside the Cudell Recreation Center on Nov. 22, 2014. The United States Department of Justice had been investigating the incident until last year, when it officially closed the civil rights case without bringing charges against Loehmann or his police partner at the scene, Frank Garmback.

Samaria Rice and other local organizers have since been working to get the case reopened in hopes of justice. Cleveland.com reporter Adam Ferrise wrote up a succinct timeline of the major happenings in the case from the time Loehmann shot Rice to now. The article titled, “Protesters march in downtown Cleveland ahead of seventh anniversary of fatal police shooting of Tamir Rice” was published online by Cleveland.com on November 9<sup>th</sup>, the day of the protest.

Samaria Rice said Tamir’s Campaign for Justice has several events planned ahead of the anniversary of his shooting. The campaign’s page can be found at: [actionnetwork.org](http://actionnetwork.org)\_. You can also follow them on [Twitter](https://twitter.com), [Facebook](https://facebook.com) and [Instagram](https://instagram.com).

The demonstrators initially gathered in Public Square around noon before grouping up to begin their march toward the Justice Center. According to a press release, Tamir’s Campaign for Justice



PHOTO BY MICHAEL INDRIOLO

Tuesday, November 9, 2021; Seven Years: The Long Walk for Justice for our Beloved Tamir Rice, Downtown Cleveland: Samaria Rice, Tamir’s mother, prepares to speak to the crowd.

wants O’Malley to appoint a special prosecutor and reconvene a grand jury to evaluate charges of obstruction of justice and perjury charges against the officers Loehmann and Garmback before the statutes of limitations on them expire in December.

**Editor’s Note:** This article and the photos were produced and provided to the Plain Press by The Land. The Land

is an online newsletter that reports on Cleveland neighborhoods and inner ring suburbs. To subscribe to The Land visit: [www.thelandcle.org](http://www.thelandcle.org). Michael Indriolo is a reporting fellow at The Land.

# SHERWIN-WILLIAMS DENOUNCED

continued from page 4

to 40 percent of the contracts. The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC of America) said that by 2020, more than 50 percent of businesses entering the construction industry would be minority-owned or female-owned. Construction firms need to see their workforce mirror the communities in which they work, the report stated. By doing so, companies stand to gain a deeper understanding of their market and more effectively reach consumers.

Sherwin-Williams responded by awarding contracts to four minority-owned businesses amounting to less than one million dollars over a period of three years, said Steele.

“That is an insult. We’re going to continue to protest not only in Cleveland but all over the world,” he said when asked what SCLC will do if CEO Morikis refuses to meet with them. “We have offices all over the world. We’ll protest in every

major city where Sherwin-Williams is located. We’re a global civil rights organization.”

Steele was also in Cleveland to support the successful mayoral campaign of Justin Bibb, not as a representative of SCLC, but as an individual. It’s the first time in his long career that he’s stepped out of the limelight as president of SCLC to support a political campaign. A former elected official from Alabama, Steele served two terms in the Tuscaloosa City Council. In 1994, he was elected to the Alabama State Senate and re-elected three times before resigning to become president of the SCLC in November 2004.

“The Civil Rights movement has gone full circle,” he said about Bibb. “Mayor Bibb will have the opportunity to take the African American experience of Carl Stokes to another degree.”

“The problem in Cleveland is the problem in America,” he added. “It’s systemic racism. We are a country of

sick people. We’ve never been healed from the Transatlantic African slave trade.”

Steele was first aware of the Civil Rights movement at fifteen years old when a water fountain at a newly constructed Tuscaloosa courthouse had two options: one for Colored Only, the other for Whites Only. The White Only fountain was taller meaning one didn’t have to bend down to drink the water.

The Colored Only fountain was lower, forcing people to arch their backs, and the water was hot. He drank the cold water.

“The whole world depends on the Civil Rights movement,” he said. “I thank God for not making me normal. I’m different. I don’t accept the norm and people saying it has got to be this way or that way. Too many people are losing their lives.”

Steele has advice for Bibb as mayor: educate the people of Cleveland, follow the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and eradicate racism.

**Editor’s Note:** This article first appeared in the *East Side Daily News* which shared the article with the *Plain Press*. The *East Side Daily News* and the *Plain Press* are members of the Neighborhood and Community Media Association of Greater Cleveland.

November 2021

## Dear Plain Press Readers and Supporters,

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award-winning\* community newspaper, the *Plain Press*. A free community newspaper founded in 1971, the *Plain Press* continues to present issues and community news to residents of Cleveland’s west side. During the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, the *Plain Press* continued its mission of presenting issues and news at no charge to its 40,000 readers each month. Our Community Board helped inform residents of available resources during these trying times.

The *Plain Press’* ability to continue to serve the west side neighborhoods of Cleveland is due in large part to the contributions of readers and supporters in the annual Friends of the Plain Press Campaign. The Friends of the Plain Press Campaign was established following the successful 2011 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraiser. The *Plain Press* reached out to readers and supporters and you came through to help sustain the newspaper.

This year, we are again asking you to donate to the *Plain Press* to ensure the newspaper moves forward. To mark its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary we are asking you for a donation of \$50 or a reflection of its 50 years of operation (e.g. \$100, \$150, \$500). It will help subsidize the newspaper, but will be specifically used to support the *Plain Press’* Community Board’s listings of free events and resources.

A separate *Plain Press* fund has been established for the newspaper by Organize! Ohio (a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization). Checks should be made out to **Organize Ohio and sent to 11811 Shaker Blvd, Suite 109, Cleveland, Ohio 44120**. Your contribution is tax deductible. To make online donations you can link to the Organize! Ohio Pay Pal through the *Plain Press* website: <https://plainpress.blog>.

When making a donation, either by mail or online, please indicate that the donation is for the *Plain Press*.

The *Plain Press* has served as your community newspaper for 50 years. We call upon you to contribute towards another year of publishing the *Plain Press*. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Gail Long (Fundraising Committee) Larry Bresler (Fundraising Committee & Co-Coordinator 1970’s) Chuck Hoven (Managing Editor - 1988-present) Deborah Rose Sadlon (Editor - 1990-present) Leo Jeffres (Secretary, on behalf of the Board of Trustees)

\* Including Neighborhood Community Press Association of Greater Cleveland’s awards for Best Overall Community Coverage

-----detach here -----

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Checks should be made out to **Organize Ohio** and sent to: **Organize Ohio, 11811 Shaker Blvd., Suite 109, Cleveland, Ohio 44120**. Your contribution will be tax deductible. To make online donations link to Organize! Ohio’s Pay Pal via <https://plainpress.blog>. **Please indicate the donation is for the Plain Press.**

# Attention: Non-Profit Organizations, Government Offices and Public Officials!

The Plain Press 50th Anniversary Community Guide will be published in our March Issue.

The guide offers free listings of names and phone numbers – additional information can be placed in the guide by purchasing a square in the guide. For more information contact **Ed Tishel** at [plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)

## Plain Press Community Guide

### Be There! Buy a Square!





PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG  
Saturday, October 30, 2021; Día de Muertos 2021 hosted by Cleveland Public Theatre/ Teatro Público de Cleveland & Día de Muertos Ohio under the direction of Artistic Director Héctor Castellanos Lara; Cleveland Public Theatre – Church, Parish Hall and surrounding area, 6205 Detroit Avenue: A young woman with an expression of joy, participates in the Skulls and Skeletons Procession.

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

continued from page one

Cleveland residents grappling with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Much more, they show how ARPA dollars could be targeted to help people get back on their feet.

### A push to spend the money

In October, Cleveland [outlined](https://clevelandcityhall.com/2021/10/20/city-of-cleveland-announces-details-for-arpa-fund-distribution/) (<https://clevelandcityhall.com/2021/10/20/city-of-cleveland-announces-details-for-arpa-fund-distribution/>) how it will spend roughly the first 25 percent of the nearly \$511 million awarded. As of November, the nation’s poorest major city had received about \$226 million, less than half, and the rest was slated to arrive in 2022. The whole grant – the eighth largest under ARPA – must be allocated by 2024 and fully spent by 2026.

The \$511 million is roughly equivalent to the city’s entire general fund and represents a significant opportunity for the city. According to the [U.S. Treasury](https://www.fiscaltreasury.com/2021/08/31/city-of-cleveland-submits-its-first-recovery-plan-interim-performance-report-to-the-u-s-department-of-the-treasury/), ARPA dollars can be used to support public health responses to Covid-19; replace lost revenue for local governments; support economic stabilization for households and businesses; and

address systemic public health and economic challenges.

“As the city works to develop a more detailed use of funds plan for its SLFRF (State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds) allocation, it is taking a community and resident centered approach,” the city wrote in its [interim performance report](https://clevelandcityhall.com/2021/08/31/city-of-cleveland-submits-its-first-recovery-plan-interim-performance-report-to-the-u-s-department-of-the-treasury/). (<https://clevelandcityhall.com/2021/08/31/city-of-cleveland-submits-its-first-recovery-plan-interim-performance-report-to-the-u-s-department-of-the-treasury/>) “This is a critical part of the city’s commitment to documenting and understanding neighborhood level priorities, and aligning programs and services with them as much as possible.”

City Council, meanwhile, has begun developing [its own plans](https://www.ideastream.org/news/cleveland-city-council-will-propose-its-own-spending-plan-for-arpa-funds) (<https://www.ideastream.org/news/cleveland-city-council-will-propose-its-own-spending-plan-for-arpa-funds>) for spending the remainder of the first half of the funds, up to about \$125 million, convening a nine-member Special Working Group for the purpose. Details of those plans have not yet been announced. Also, still unclear are whether and how those plans

will align with the city’s aims. A vote on a reconciliation plan is expected soon.

### The public responds

The city’s survey forms asked residents to place their ideas into categories selected by the city. The online version permitted only one selection per category, while the paper edition allowed for multiple choices in each group.

Cleveland reported receiving a combined 2,275 “ideas,” or responses -- less than half of one percent of the city’s population -- containing a plethora of ideas, suggestions, tips, and pleas. It also received a number of complaints on topics unrelated to the purpose of ARPA funds.

Some Clevelanders, *The Land* and *Documenters* found, were grateful for the opportunity and thanked the city for taking their input. Others expressed more skeptical or even critical views, describing the survey as an empty gesture with little chance of affecting how ARPA dollars actually will be spent.

“This survey form is not helpful in soliciting serious feedback,” wrote one respondent.

“This feels like the city is simply checking the box that the public was allowed to engage in offering feedback rather than really using this as an opportunity to both solicit comprehensive feedback [and] educate residents on the transformative opportunity provided by the American Rescue Plan funding.”

Many submissions, too, contained proposals that aren’t allowed or are discouraged under ARPA guidelines. Into this category fall requests for new (not renovated) recreation or other community centers and broader eligibility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

“It is a goal of mine and the individuals that I am associated with to build a brand new multipurpose center,” wrote a Ward 10 resident. “I am wondering if a project similar to the I Promise school built by LeBron James [in Akron] could be built here,” wrote a resident of Ward 8.

Other responses among the submissions given to *The Land* contain ideas that are impossible, unrealistic, or highly specific, related to one individual property.

One respondent, for instance, called for Blossom Music Center, in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, to be relocated to the Cleveland lakefront, and several residents asked for repairs to a roof, bathroom, driveway, or other feature of their own home. Another proposed simply dividing the funds equally among Cleveland’s approximately 372,000 residents.

### Concrete, actionable proposals

Still, for every unrealistic proposal, there were many suggestions for actionable steps that fall well within the purview of ARPA funding. Many residents said they want to see the money spent on city services including road repair, better equipment and higher staffing for police and EMS workers, broadband infrastructure, and Cleveland’s aging water and sewer systems.

“We need access to the internet,” said a Ward 5 resident. “Currently we have one company that has a monopoly over everyone. They make us pay unheard of prices ... My grandchildren are at a disadvantage [because they] have to go to a library when they should be able to do school work at home.”

“[I]f the city doesn’t have enough of the taxpayers’ money to repair this street

[E. 106th St.] ...some of the...ARPA funds should go to repairing this street as well as others that are in need around the city,” said a resident of Ward 8.

Another theme was utility prices, which have been on the rise and were recently raised again by council. “The water and sewer bills have gone out of control,” said a Ward 13 resident. “Do what you can to maintain and replace or expand physical infrastructure and start to scale down costs...get your act together.”

“Everything is old and worn out,” added a Ward 16 resident. “We cannot afford higher water and sewer bills. Our neighborhood is mostly retired and on fixed incomes. Our utility bills are too high for us to pay.”

### Disparity between responses and current plans

Cleveland clearly got the message. In its summary of the survey, published in its [interim performance report](https://clevelandcityhall.com/2021/10/20/city-of-cleveland-announces-details-for-arpa-fund-distribution/), the city reported that 32 percent of residents cited water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. Indeed, that was the top priority, higher than the combined figures for recouping negative economic impacts of the pandemic and funding public health response.

And yet this top resident priority did not make the first cut, except for \$20 million that the city council allocated in October for citywide broadband. In its first wave of spending plans, announced in October, the city divided \$121 million between the Dept. of Public Safety; the Dept. of Community and Economic Development, Programs; and the Dept. of Building and Housing, Demolitions. Also absent from the first allotments are improvements to city parks, playgrounds, and recreation centers, a lower but still conspicuous priority in survey results. “I feel that a good chunk of the money should go to the recreation infrastructure,” said a resident of Ward 13, calling for work on *all* facilities.

A spokeswoman for Cleveland did not have an answer for why the first ARPA allotments appear not to address these concerns.

### Areas of alignment, and what’s next

Still, Cleveland is not deaf to its residents. Much of the first ARPA allotment does indeed align with the public’s wishes as expressed in survey results.

Many of the survey responses seen by *The Land* and *Documenters* call for the demolition of abandoned properties throughout the city, which the city is planning. A higher number also expresses a desire for investment in police and emergency medical response forces, another area where the city is taking action.

“It would be great if some of the money could be used to help bring the rundown areas up to have all areas presentable,” said a Ward 1 resident. “EMS needs almost all the restructuring it can get,” said another, one of several messages with detailed suggestions regarding EMS pay and equipment.

“We need more police officers,” wrote a Ward 12 resident. “We need to know that if we call it doesn’t take an hour for the police to come because they are spread so thin. Families are not going to want to live or stay in the city without feeling safe!”

Cleveland is not deaf to its residents. Much of the first ARPA allotment does indeed align with the public’s wishes as expressed in survey results.

In alignment with these requests,

the city’s first allotment includes \$26 million for public safety, including \$10 million specifically for the division of police, and \$15 million for demolition projects. In addition, \$80 million to the Dept. of Community and Economic Development will be used for senior home repair, lead safe housing fund grants, affordable housing redevelopment, and emergency food assistance.

“I myself am most concerned about senior citizens on fixed incomes who are property owners and really need financial help to repair and rehab our homes,” said a Ward 2 resident.

In all these areas, said a Ward 13 resident, it’s not enough to throw money at the problem or only hire field agents. “They [also] need the support staff to make it happen efficiently and to respond to residents’ inquiries and complaints, to organize and prioritize requests...serving the public.”

The Jackson administration and the city council are currently hashing out how to spend the ARPA funds to address the hopes and concerns of residents. While they’re currently debating the first half of the funding, another \$256 million will arrive in June of next year.

Also, on the horizon is a change of administration. The ARPA plans announced so far came together under the aegis of the outgoing administration. Mayor-elect Justin Bibb, who campaigned on a platform of change, takes office next year. He and his team may go about the business of responding to public input differently.

Meanwhile, the city council continues to debate the administration’s plans and try to reconcile them with their own. With just three council meetings remaining this year, the Jackson administration has been pushing for council to pass legislation, yet not all members are in agreement. Some support passing only pieces they can agree on, such as the administration’s public safety spending plan.

“I hope that we get to a point to actually vote on something,” said Ward 6 council member Blaine Griffin, chair of the Public Safety Committee, at a recent meeting of the Development, Planning and Sustainability Committee in which the administration’s and council’s plans were debated. “And let’s keep in mind, ladies and gentlemen, that we’ve got \$255 million coming next year. At the rate we’re going, we’re going to have to start having conversations on that now.”

**Editor’s Note:** This article was produced and provided to the Plain Press by *The Land* and *Cleveland Documenters*. *The Land* is an online newsletter that reports on Cleveland neighborhoods and inner ring suburbs. To subscribe to *The Land* visit: [www.thelandcle.org](http://www.thelandcle.org). To learn more about Cleveland Documenters click the CLE Documenters tag on the NeighborUp website at: [www.neighborupcle.org](http://www.neighborupcle.org) or visit the Cleveland documents site on [www.documenters.org](http://www.documenters.org). This story is a part of the *Northeast Ohio Solutions Journalism Collaborative’s* Making Ends Meet project. NEO SoJo is composed of 18-plus Northeast Ohio news outlets including *The Land*. Sign up for the free “Public Records Are Power” course here: <https://rfa.arist.co/courses/6089adad510a4c65fe96b33e>. Zachary Lewis is a contributor to *The Land*. Lee Chilcote is editor of *The Land*. Cleveland Documenters Dan McLaughlin, Kathryn Johnson, Lauren Hakim, Laylah Allen, Chau Tang, Hailey Hoyat, and Keith Yurgionas contributed to this story.



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**Attention:**  
**Non-profit Organizations, Government Offices and Public Officials!**

The Plain Press Community Guidewill be published in the March 2022 issue.

The guide offers free listings of names and phone numbers  
of community organizations and government services.

Additional information can be placed in the guide by purchasing a square in the guide.  
For more information contact Ed Tishel at [plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)



# November 2, 2021 election results

**Mayoral contest**  
Justin Bibb won the November 2<sup>nd</sup> mayoral election receiving 36,168 votes or 62.86% of the votes cast. Kevin Kelley received 21,352 votes or 37.14% of the votes cast. The total of 57,520 votes cast in the mayoral contest represents 23.2% of the 247,264 registered voters in the City of Cleveland.

**City Council contests**  
**Ward 3**  
Kerry McCormack was re-elected with 2,951 votes or 74.92% of the votes cast. Challenger Ayat Amin received 988 votes or 25.08% of the votes cast.

**Ward 11**  
Incumbent Brian Mooney was re-elected with 1,362 votes or

55.39% of the votes cast. Challenger Michael Hardy received 1,097 votes or 44.61% of the votes cast.

**Ward 12**  
Rebecca Maurer defeated incumbent Anthony Brancatelli. Maurer received 1,558 votes or 51.18% of the votes cast. Brancatelli received 1,486 votes or 48.82% of the votes cast.

**Ward 13**  
Kris Harsh was elected to Cleveland City Council receiving 2,745 votes or 62.7% of the votes cast. Kate Warren received 1,633 votes, or 37.3% of the votes cast.

**Ward 14**  
Incumbent Jasmin Santana was re-elected with 1,042 votes or 65.45% of the votes cast. Challenger Nelson Cintron Jr. received 550

votes or 34.55% of the votes cast.

**Ward 15**  
Incumbent Jenny Spencer was re-elected with 2,796 votes or 84.45% of the votes cast. Challenger Chris Murray received 515 votes or 15.55% of the votes cast.

**City of Cleveland Charter Amendment – Police reform**  
The charter amendment was approved by voters with 32,184 yes votes (59.43%) and 21,972 no votes (40.57%).

**Judicial Contest**  
**Cleveland Municipal Court**  
Andrea Nelson Moore was elected judge with 30,516 votes, or 69.84% of the votes cast. Michael R. Sliwinski received 13,180 votes or 30.15% of the votes cast.

## COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

tube; and instagram.com/cleveland\_cpc

**DONATIONS**  
**CLEVELAND POLICE ANNUAL SECON DISTRICT HOLIDAY SOCK AND UNDERWARE DRIVE** to support the homeless community. Please donate new socks and underwear for adult men and women. Want to help? Contact Lt. Tim Maffo-Judd, [tmaffo-judd@clevelandohio.gov](mailto:tmaffo-judd@clevelandohio.gov), or call 216-623-5209 to schedule a pick-up or drop off at your block club. Or drop off donations at the Second District Station at 3481 Fulton Avenue thru December 31, 2021.

**EDUCATION**  
**OHIO’S SECOND CHANCE GRANTS:** Applications are currently being accepted by Ohio’s colleges and universities for Ohio’s new Second Chance Grants, aimed at helping more adults return to school to complete their degrees. For more information on Second Chance Grants, visit [www.ohiohighered.org/second-chance](http://www.ohiohighered.org/second-chance).

**FESTIVALS**  
**SNOW DAY** in Detroit Shoreway, Saturday, December 11, 2-6 p.m. A FREE day of arts-infused festivities for all ages. Come celebrate with your loved ones in the Gordon Square Arts District.

**REYES MAGOS (THREE KINGS DAY):** Monday, January 3, 2022 from 5-8 p.m. at Buhner Elementary School parking lot, 1600 Buhner Avenue. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic this will be a drive-thru event. Children ages 14 and under will receive a gift. Supplies are limited and will be served on a first com, first served basis. For questions or concerns please contact the Community Relations Board Hispanic Liaison – Christopher Martinez at 216-664-2705.

**HOTLINES**  
**CLEVELAND RAPE CRISIS CENTER CRISIS & SUPPORT HOTLINE:** Call or text 216-619-6192 or 440-423-2020 or Chat at: [clevelandrapecrisis.org/chat](https://clevelandrapecrisis.org/chat).

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING HELP** is available from the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center’s 24-hour hotline for survivors and professionals at 855-431-7827 or visiting the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center Human Trafficking Drop-

In Center at 10450 Superior Avenue for classes and programming to support survivors.

**LEGAL HELP**  
**STRUGGLEING WITH DEBT?** Free legal help is available from the Consumer Debt Defense Program. Contact the Court Resource Center at 216-443-8204 or [courtinfo@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:courtinfo@cuyahogacounty.us). A partnership of Cuyahoga county Please Court and Legal Aid.

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**AIR QUALITY:** The Cleveland Department of Public Health Division of Air Quality offers information on Cleveland’s air quality at [www.clevelandhealth.org](http://www.clevelandhealth.org). To report air quality complaints or for general information call the 24-Hour Central Hotline at 216-664-7442.

**LEAD SAFE CLEVELAND COALITION:** Attention Landlords! Your rental property is now dew for Lead Safe Certification. The property owners could be fined for not acting now. If you a tenant, please pass this information on to your landlord. Learn more by contacting the Lead Safe Resource Center: 833-601-LEAD (5323) or [LeadSafeCLE.org/certification](mailto:LeadSafeCLE.org/certification).

**ARE YOU A LANDLORD THAT MIGHT QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE?** On behalf of the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition, CHN Housing Partners is offering loans, grants and incentives to eligible property owners to lessen the cost of making your property lead safe. If you own a Cleveland property on the rental registry that was built before 1978, visit [LeadSafeCLE.org](http://LeadSafeCLE.org) to learn more.

**CLEVELAND LEAD ADVOCATES FOR SAFE HOUSING (CLASH)** is providing home lead test kits FREE OF CHARGE to renters living in Cleveland rental properties built before 1978. To obtain an application for a kit contact CLASH at 216-359-1060 or email [clevelandleadsafe@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandleadsafe@gmail.com).

**CLEVELAND LEAD ADVOCATES FOR SAFE HOUSING (CLASH)** offers advice on how to fight lead poisoning with nutrition: Calcium makes it harder for lead to enter your child’s body. Sources of calcium include: dairy products, leafy green vegetables and whole grains. Iron blocks lead from being taken into your child’s body. Sources of iron include: lean red meats; fish, eggs, beans, peanut butter, and dried fruit such as raisins apricots and prunes. Vitamin C helps your child’s body to put calcium and iron to work. Vitamin C is found in citrus fruits; some vegetables such as tomatoes, cabbage, potatoes and peppers; and fruit juice.

**REPORT SUSPECTED LEAD HAZARDS AROUND YOUR RENTAL HOME TO BUILDIN CAND HOUSING:** If you live in the City of Cleveland, file a complaint with the City of Cleveland Department of

Building and Housing by calling 216-664-2207, or sending an email to [bhcomplaint@city.cleveland.oh.us](mailto:bhcomplaint@city.cleveland.oh.us). For more information visit: <https://www.tinyurl.com/9ksukbw>. If Building and Housing fails to respond to your complaint contact CLASH at 216-359-1060 or by email at: [clevelandleadsafe@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandleadsafe@gmail.com).

**RECREATION**  
**WELCOME WALK** for residents with FREE winter gear and warm drinks at Miriam Ortiz-Rush Park (W. 75<sup>th</sup> and Madison Ave.) This event is part of Snow Day in Detroit Shoreway.

**NEAR WEST RECREATION BASKETBALL REGISTRATION IS OPEN:** Divisions for kids ages 7-14. Season starts in January and runs through the end of March. All games and practices take place on the Near West Side. Deadline to register is December 15. **We are looking for volunteer basketball coaches.** You can learn more about the league, register your child, or sign up to coach at <https://nearwestrecreation.teamsnapsites.com/home/sports/basketball/>

**SUPPORT GROUP**  
**NEUVA LUZ URBAN RESOURCE CENTER,** 6600 Detroit Avenue, presents The Spirit of Recovery Life Discovery Support Group every Tuesday at 12 P.M. Contact Frank Lewis, Recovery Coach, 216-338-1699. When you are ready, a new beginning awaits.

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**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.**

**SEEKING RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS NEEDED:** If you are a property owner with nice, clean, reasonably priced apartments, and are looking for tenants, please call Jim Schlecht of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless at 216-357-1612.



**PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG**  
Saturday, October 30, 2021; Día de Muertos 2021 hosted by Cleveland Public Theatre/ Teatro Público de Cleveland & Día de Muertos Ohio under the direction of Artistic Director Héctor Castellanos Lara; Cleveland Public Theatre – Church, Parish Hall and surrounding area, 6205 Detroit Avenue: Woman with a smiling skeleton face in the parking area outside of the Parish Hall with the mural on the side of TRD Leather in the background.

**SUICIDE PREVENTION**  
**SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION** is composed of organizations, community members and survivors dedicated to instilling hope, raising awareness, providing education and promoting resources in an effort to reduce the incidence of suicidal behavior. The Coalition is chaired by Chardé Hollins, LSW, Behavioral Health Pre-

vention Specialist. If you would like to join the Coalition, please contact Chardé by email at [holins@adamhscc.org](mailto:holins@adamhscc.org). For more information visit the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County at [www.adamhscc.org](http://www.adamhscc.org) or call 216-241-3400. Follow the ADAMHS Board on social media @ADAMHSCCBoard

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### The Tree of Remembrance

As 2021 comes to a close and we face the holiday season, the loss of a loved one seems to be comes more painful. Reflecting on the past, and thinking about the future, we often find this time of year difficult or even challenging as we try to find a way to honor our loved ones.

At Walter Martens and Sons, the late Bernadine Zub Martens created a special holiday experience that would recognize and pay tribute to that special loved one. That was the driving force behind The Tree of Remembrance.

We are happy to announce that once again, our family and staff will be holding our annual holiday service in person on **Saturday, December 11th at 5PM.** As always, our ceremony will include a formal dedication of our tree with a candlelight memorial service to honor those loved ones laid to rest since November of 2019.

In addition, you and your family are invited to come to the funeral home between 11AM and 5PM from Friday, November 26th to Friday, December 10th and place a memorial inscription on an ornament provided by us to hang on the tree.

This event is open to everyone regardless of who has served you.

For more information, call 216-281-7111.



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