



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, August 13, 2022; Lincoln Heights Block Club party and tribute to Henry Senyak, Porco Lounge, 2527 W. 25th Street: Henry Senyak holds up a Certificate of Appreciation from the Lincoln Heights Block Club noting the formal dedication of the Henry P. Senyak Lincoln Heights Development Fund. (See related story on Page 3)

FREE

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

Vol. 49, No. 9 September 2022

Plain Press

Cleveland's Near Westside Newspaper

Creation of care response model urged for responding to calls for mental health or behavioral health crises

Progressive think tanks and mental health advocates have joined in a collaborative effort to spur the City of Cleveland to speed its implementation of a care response model for responding to calls it receives calls for help with a

mental health crisis or behavioral health crisis. Mental Health & Addiction Advocacy Coalition, the Center for Community Solutions and Policy Matters Ohio released a report on August 17th 2022, titled, "Creating a

care response model in Cleveland for those in crisis."

The report notes a national trend that involves many communities reducing their reliance on police to respond to mental and behavioral health emergencies and instead implementing a "health first approach or care response." The report says, "many policymakers and community members see these alternatives as the best way to assist people who need compassion and support, rather than an armed response."

The report cited an article by the Vera Institute of Justice titled "Civilian Crisis Response: A Toolkit for Equitable Alternatives to Police" which says, "Civilian responders are often mental health workers, peers with lived experience similar to those of the people needing help, and other specially trained individuals."

In advocating for a change in policy, the report cites a *Washington Post* analysis that says African Americans and Hispanics are killed by police in a number disproportionate to their percentage of the population. The report also cites a 2015 report from The Treatment Advocacy Center titled "Overlooked in the Undercounted: The Role of Mental Illness in Fatal Law Enforcement Encounters" which provides evidence that "at least one of

continued on page 4



THE CONCERT TRUCK

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, August 6, 2022; Piano Days CLE event at Cleveland Public Library's Carnegie Branch, Fulton Road at Bridge Avenue: Pianists Nick Luby and Susan Zhang provide a free piano concert to area residents from The Concert Truck. The Concert Truck is a 16-foot box truck converted to a mobile concert hall complete with lights, sound system and a piano.

Who pays property taxes to support services when the economy is dominated by nonprofits?

by Stephanie Czekalinski

This is part three of a series examining the tax-exempt status of nonprofit hospitals in Northeast Ohio and how the loss of tax dollars impacts communities.

Fifty years ago, when Clevelanders needed to fund schools, pay for parks, or expand libraries, they relied on booming tax revenue from large companies. General Motors, Republic Steel Corp. and Ford Motor Co. employed thousands of people and provided a tax base to fund services for the community.

But Cuyahoga County's economy has changed. As those industrial jobs dried up and many companies left the area, governments and local communities could no longer count on those tax dollars to support services.

And the Cleveland area can't fall back on property tax dollars from the industries that have replaced manufacturing companies.

The Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals, both nonprofits, are among the largest employers in Cuyahoga County and together own billions of dollars of tax-exempt properties.

While their employees do pay income taxes, the nonprofit hospital systems do not pay property taxes on the vast majority of their real estate, said Zach Schiller of Policy Matters Ohio, a liberal non-profit research group.

"It used to be that the largest employers by and large ... were contributors to the tax base and in particular to the schools," Schiller said. "It puts the school districts, in particular, behind the eight ball when their largest employers don't pay taxes."

The Cleveland Clinic owned at least \$2.4 billion in tax-exempt property countywide as of 2018 assessments, an Ideastream Public Media analysis of Cuyahoga County fiscal records shows. If that property was taxable, it would likely contribute about \$84 million to government and school coffers annually. University Hospitals owns at least \$797 million in property, the records show. Their property taxes could contribute about \$28 million to county coffers each year.

The Clinic and UH officials declined

continued on page 4

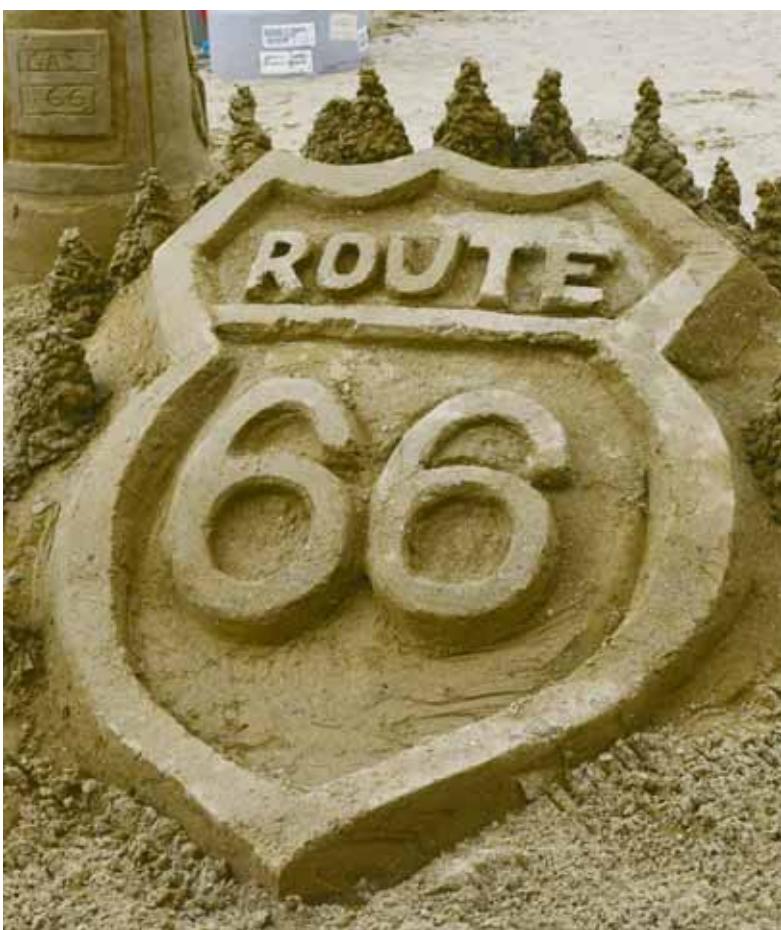


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, August 6, 2022, American Institute of Architects (AIA) Cleveland Sandfest, Edgewater Beach: Ten teams competed in a sandcastle and sand sculpture contest. This Route 66 sign was a part of Vocon's entry in the contest titled "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" which won the prize for Best Sculpture. The AIA Cleveland Sandfest raises funds for the AIA Cleveland's Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program.

November 8 Election set to change the Ohio Supreme Court

by Bruce Cheecksky

Earlier this year, the Ohio Supreme Court invalidated legislative district maps and sent them back to the Ohio Redistricting Commission for revision, rejecting their fourth attempt at a plan for state redistricting as unconstitutional and unfairly favoring Republicans. Republicans on the Ohio Redistricting Commission filed a challenge in federal court to ask a panel of judges to intervene. A panel of three federal

judges stepped in to force the state to implement a redistricting plan before the August special elections, which served as an election for state representatives, state senators, and the state central committee. Republicans have an advantage in about 54% of the districts.

In a 2-1 decision, Judge Amul R. Thapar, U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge, and Judge Benjamin J. Beaton, Western District of Kentucky,

both appointed by former President Donald Trump, voted in favor of the third set of maps even with the Ohio Supreme Court decision that it was unconstitutional. Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice O'Connor, a Republican who joined three Democrats on the Ohio Supreme Court in the majority decision to reject the maps, said that Republicans on the Redistricting Commission engaged in a stunning rebuke of the rule

continued on page 5



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, August 7, 2022; Puerto Rican Cultural Festival, Roberto Clemente Park, 3690 Seymour Avenue: The band, Grupo Fuego, entertains the crowd.



The Community Board

ARTS/THEATER

SPACES, 2900 Detroit Avenue, presents Front International 2022's Oh, Gods of Dust and Rainbows thru October 2nd, Open Wednesdays thru Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment.

BENEFITS

NEW SNAP WAIVER INCREASES ACCESS FOR OLDER ADULTS: Ohio has a new Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) demonstration project called the Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) waiver. With the ESAP waiver, older adult households (age 60+) with no earned income will only have to re-certify their eligibility for SNAP benefits every 36 months, instead of every two years as was the case before the waiver. Recipients will still have to report any changes in income that would make them ineligible for SNAP during the 36-month period. For more information or to apply contact Ohio Benefits at 1-844-640-6446 or www.Benefits.Ohio.Gov. Or contact the Cuyahoga County Department of Job and Family Services at 216-443-5884.

CONCERT

FOLK MUSIC STRING BAND FRONT PORCH will be in concert at the pavilion in Ohio City's Fairview Park (on W. 38th St just south of Franklin Boulevard) at **6:30 p.m.** on Thursday, September 8th. The concert is sponsored by Cleveland Westside Village. Free and open to the public. Please bring your lawn chair or blanket. Sodas and snacks will be provided. You are welcome to bring a picnic dinner. For more information about Front Porch visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FrontPorchBerea>

ELECTION

VOTING RIGHTS, REDISTRICTING AND THE IMPACT OF VOTER TURNOUT: September 22, 6-7:15 p.m. Register online at: <https://www.unitedwaycleveland.org/event/voting-rights-redistricting-and-impact-on-voter-turnout>. Sponsored by United Way and the YWCA.

YWOMEN VOTE 2022: YWCA campaign eliminating racism and empowering women. For more information visit the YWCA website at www.ywomenvote.org

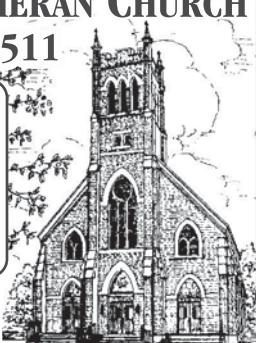
VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE: To vote in the November 8th General Election the deadline to be

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

**HISTORIC ST. ROCCO CHURCH**

3205 Fulton Road, Cleveland OH 44109
Ph: 216-961-8331 • 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.

On campus and virtual classes offered.

Franklin Circle Christian Church
1688 Fulton Road
216-781-8232

www.FranklinCircleChurch.org

Ohio City's fully-inclusive community of faith



**In-Person
& Live Stream**
Every Sunday at 10:30
Free
Community Breakfast
Sun. Sept. 18th • 8:30-10 am



properly registered to vote is October 11th. You must register or update your voter registration no later than 30 days prior to an election.

REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE:

To register to vote or to update your address online use the Ohio Secretary of State's Online Voter Registration website, olvr.ohiosos.gov, which provides a convenient and secure way to register to vote. You will need the following information: Ohio Driver's License Number, Name, Date of Birth, Address, and last four digits of your Social Security number.

REGISTER TO VOTE BY MAIL:

To register to vote by mail you can download a voter registration card at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website at: boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/voters or call 216-443-VOTE (8683) to have a voter registration card mailed to you. Fill out the card and mail it to Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, Registration Department, 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2497. The envelope must be postmarked thirty days prior to the election (October 11th) in order for you to be eligible to vote on November 8th. You can also drop off the completed voter registration card at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at 2925 Euclid Avenue in the 24-hour security monitored drop box in the parking lot.

REGISTER TO VOTE IN PERSON:

You can register to vote in person at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections office at 2925 Euclid Avenue. If you register before October 11th you can vote in the November 8th Primary Election. The Board of Elections is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

FAMILY

ARE YOU PROVIDING CARE TO AN ADULT FAMILY MEMBER? REM Ohio Shared Living offers the ability to supplement family income while caring for your relative at home. REM Ohio program staff are also available to provide support, training and emergency assistance. For more information about the Ohio Shared Living Program (OSL) and how to become a mentor in Ohio, please contact an OSL Recruiter at 855-6114OSL (4675) or email at REM.OhioSharedLiving@sevitahealth.com

FOOD

PRODUCE GIVEAWAY: September 8th and 22nd, 2-4 p.m. at POPCE Community Garden, 5416 Storer Avenue.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, August 6, 2022, American Institute of Architects (AIA) Cleveland Sandfest, Edgewater Beach: This sand sculpture of a Guardian is part of an overall sand sculpture tribute to the Cleveland baseball team designed by members of a team from Yourkovich and Dibo, a Cleveland law firm.

HEALTH CARE

COVID-19 VACCINES: No-cost COVID-19 vaccines are available to individuals ages 6 months or older at McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Avenue on Mondays from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Those under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to receive the vaccine. Walk-in or pre-register. To schedule an appointment, call 216-664-2222

HARM REDUCTION SAVES LIVES:

Information on where to get free fentanyl tests strips and how to use them at adamhsc.org/harm-reduction. If using substances, don't be alone. If someone who has Naloxone is not physically near you, use the **Brave App** or **Never Use Alone Hotline**: 1-800-484-3731. Carry Naloxone, the medication that reverses an overdose. Get it mailed to you for free

from **Thrive for Change** or **Harm Reduction Ohio**. Project DAWN has various locations you can pick up Naloxone from: McCafferty Health Center, 4242 Lorain Avenue, Mondays and Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and Thursdays Noon – 8 p.m.; MetroHealth Mobile Unit RV & Syringe Exchange Program, 3370 W. 25th Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.; and Cleveland Emergency Medical Services, 1701 Lakeside, Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

MEETINGS

SECOND DISTRICT COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE holds its monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 6 pm. at The Family Ministry Center, 3389 Fulton Road.

GREATER CLEVELAND REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (GCRTA) BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING: Tuesday, September 20th, 9 a.m. at GCRTA headquarters, 1240 W. 6th. Agendas posted 24 hours in advance at www.riderta.com

PETS

NEIGHBORHOOD PETS OUT-REACH AND RESOURCE CENTER, 3711 E. 55th Street, supports people with financial needs by helping them keep their pets in their homes.

continued on page 7

ST. AUGUSTINE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH SCHEDULE

MASS

Saturday Vigil: 4:15 PM (Interpreted for the Deaf)

Sunday:

8:30 AM (Interpreted for the Deaf)

11:00 AM (Fully Signed for the Deaf)

CONFESIONS

Saturday: 3:30 – 4:00 PM

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.

ST. AUGUSTINE
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

staugustinecleveland.org



2486 W. 14th Street, Cleveland, OH 44113 • (216)-781-5530

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

Mass Times:

MTWF: 9AM

SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL: 5:00PM

SUNDAY: 9AM AND 11AM

TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS:

MONDAY 5:30 & SUNDAY 5PM

EUCARISTIC ADORATION & CONFESSION:

3:30-4:30PM IN CHURCH

ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND LAST

RITES: AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

INQUIRIES ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC:
CALL CHURCH OFFICE

ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTOCH CATHOLIC SCHOOL (K-8)

ADMITS STUDENTS WITHOUT

DISCRIMINATION ON THE

BASIS OF RACE, COLOR,

RELIGION, ETHNIC OR

NATIONAL ORIGIN.

FREE TUITION THROUGH

CLEVELAND SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOOL PHONE:

216-671-0535

MEMBER OF THE

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY MEDIA

ASSOCIATION OF GREATER CLEVELAND

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

Reporters: Bruce Checfsky & Jack Barnes

Photo Editor: Coriana Close;

Photographer: Greg Rosenberg

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.

Plain Press

2012 W. 25th STE 500

Cleveland, OH 44113

Phone: (216) 621-3060

email:

plainpress@gmail.com

Advertising email:

plainpressads@yahoo.com

Website:

Lincoln Heights Block Club honors Henry Senyak for his many contributions to the neighborhood and the City of Cleveland

by Chuck Hoven

Neighbors and friends of Henry Senyak gathered at the Porco Lounge and Tiki Bar on W. 25th Street on August 13th to share food and drink and honor Senyak for his many years of service to the Lincoln Heights Block Club, the Tremont neighborhood, and the City of Cleveland.

At the luncheon, the Lincoln Heights Block Club and Tremont West Development Corporation staff presented Senyak with a Certificate of Appreciation noting the naming of the block club's community benefits fund in his honor. The fund will now be called the Henry P. Senyak Lincoln Heights Development Fund.

A March 2020 article by Bruce Checfsky in the *Plain Press* titled "Reaching Lincoln Heights proposal outlines a land use plan for the Lincoln Heights neighborhood" talks about the creation of the developers fund as a "recommendation initiated by Lincoln Heights Block Club Chairperson Henry Senyak." The article explains the reasoning behind the fund aimed at developers getting a 15-year tax abatement from the City of Cleveland saying:

Senyak, who has been a central figure in making sure longtime residents are heard and their financial situations considered at a time when large scale development projects multiply in the neighborhood, believes a Lincoln Developers Fund could help with home repairs and other expenses residents on fixed incomes might have trouble paying for. The fund is not meant to pay in full for projects, but rather augment any costs associated with home maintenance for existing residents. Developers would pay into the fund an amount determined by the size of the development.

In a recent interview, Senyak said the City of Cleveland Planning Department formally adopted the Reaching Lincoln Heights neighborhood plan which included the development fund or community benefits agreement. He said the Lincoln Heights Block Club's Reaching Lincoln Heights neighborhood plan was the first block club neighborhood plan formally accepted by the City Planning Department that included such a community benefits agreement. Senyak says other block clubs in the City of Cleveland are now using this plan as a model to help create community benefit agreements for their neighborhoods.

City of Cleveland takes measures to reduce speeding

On Monday, August 15, the City of Cleveland began installing 10 radar speed feedback signs at strategic locations across the city. These signs display the travel speeds of passing vehicles to increase drivers' attention and awareness and reduce speeding.

The signs will be rotated to new locations monthly based on speed data and requests from Cleveland Police, City Council members, and residents.

The City of Cleveland currently has 10 radar speed feedback signs purchased by the Cleveland Division of Police. In the coming months, 18 more will be procured using discretionary funding from Cleveland City Council.

For the first month, the radar speed feedback signs will be installed in the following locations: West 85th – Madison to I-90; Bosworth – Lorain to Bellaire; Spring – West 11th to

Senyak, in accepting the naming of the development fund in his name, said if the cancer he is fighting takes him he would like to see the I-71 Overpass on Starkweather between Scranton and W. 14th be named the Gertrude and Henry Senyak Memorial Overpass. He thought this would be a fitting way to honor his mother, one of the first woman business owners in Tremont, and her son who contributed so much to the neighborhood and the City of Cleveland through his volunteer efforts.

Henry Senyak said the business, Senyak Dry Cleaners and Shoe Repair, started as a partnership between Henry's dad, Henry E. Senyak, and his father's brother-in-law Charles Rawlings in 1950 or 1951. In 1958, Charles Rawlings sold his share in the building and business to Henry E. and Gertrude Senyak. Thus, Gertrude Senyak became a business owner. Gertrude Pilar (maiden name) Senyak already had experience in the dry-cleaning business having worked at Auburn Dry Cleaners at W. 14th and Auburn.

When Henry's dad got a City of Cleveland job in the early 1960s as a Division of Streets inspector, Henry's mom, Gertrude, operated the business. Henry said Senyak Cleaners contracted with Woodbine Cleaners at W. 32nd and Bridge to do the washing portion of the dry cleaning, so his father would drop off and pick up clothing there on his way to and from work.

When Henry was a child (born in May of 1963) his playpen was placed behind the counter at the drycleaners so his mom could watch him and still tend to customers at the dry cleaners. Henry Senyak says, to this day, some of the old-timers in the neighborhood, who were customers of the dry cleaners, remember him as a child playing in the show case of the dry cleaners.

Senyak says his mother ran the dry cleaners until 1980. The income from the drycleaners helped to pay Henry's tuition of \$600 a year at Cleveland Central Catholic. When the dry-cleaning revenue significantly declined, which led to the closure of the business a year before he graduated from high school, Senyak says Our Lady of Mercy Church helped pay a portion of his tuition in exchange for his helping out at the parish.

Gertrude Senyak was a regular presence at neighborhood meetings. At Gertrude Senyak's funeral at Saint Augustine Church in January of 2018, Tremont West Development Corporation staff person Scott

Rosenstein said Mrs. Senyak was the person that made him feel welcome in the neighborhood when he first started working in Tremont. He said at neighborhood meetings her smile, kindness, and warm greetings of people using their first names, made all feel genuinely welcome.

At Gertrude Senyak's funeral, Fr. Joe McNulty recalled how, when he first came to the neighborhood over 40 years ago, he took his clothes for dry cleaning at the Senyak Cleaners and was told, "You're a priest. We cannot charge you." He said he continued to use their dry-cleaning service where Gertrude worked with her late husband Henry on the corner of Scranton and Starkweather.

McNulty noted the involvement of the Senyak Family at the Our Lady of Mercy Parish (now closed) and the St. Augustine Parish in Tremont. He said how proud Gertrude Senyak was of her son Henry's activism in the Lincoln Heights Block Club, and the Tremont and Near West Side neighborhoods.

Gertrude Senyak had much to be proud of in her son's contributions to the neighborhood and the City of Cleveland.

Henry Senyak recalls how his involvement in neighborhood issues continued on page 6

Cleveland native serves aboard floating airport USS Carl Vinson

by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jerry Jimenez, Navy Office of Community Outreach

SANDIEGO - A native of Cleveland, Ohio, serves the U.S. Navy aboard one of the world's largest warships, the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, USS Carl Vinson.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Damion Schultz, a 2016 James Ford Rhodes High School graduate, joined the Navy six years ago.

"I did four years of Junior Reserved Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) in high school," said Schultz. "I wanted to be the first person in my family to serve in the military, so I joined the Navy."

Today, Schultz serves as a master-at-arms. Schultz relies upon skills and values from lessons learned in Cleveland to succeed in the military.

"Learning how to adapt to change was one of my biggest lessons from my hometown," said Schultz.

Homeported in San Diego, California, USS Carl Vinson is the United States Navy's third Nimitz-class supercarrier. She is named for Carl Vinson, a Congressman from Georgia, in recognition of his contributions to the U.S. Navy.

Aircraft carriers provide unique capabilities and survivability. They are a powerful exhibition of the American Navy's legacy of innovation,



PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS SANG KIM, NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT ELEMENT WEST Cleveland native, Petty Officer 2nd Class Damion Schultz, serving aboard a floating airport, the USS Carl Vinson. Schultz is a 2016 graduate of James Ford Rhodes High School. He joined the Navy six years ago. Schultz says, "I did four years of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) in high school. I wanted to be the first person in my family to serve in the military, so I joined the Navy."

Plain Press: For information on Advertising

Email Ed Tishel at plainpressads@yahoo.com



Earle B. Turner Cleveland Clerk of Courts

Address old warrants in Cleveland and 13 suburbs

Coming to

2nd Calvary Baptist Church

12017 Emery Ave. 44135

Thurs. September 22nd

Signing up first 50 @ 9AM

Servicing them @ 1PM

**SPRING
FALL
CLEANUP
TREES
TRIMMED
OR
REMOVED**
(216) 326-4377



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, August 6, 2022, American Institute of Architects (AIA) Cleveland Sandfest, Edgewater Beach: This sandcastle by AECOM, titled "Lego World Tour", won the competition for the Best Sandcastle.

American Institute of Architects Cleveland hosts 2022 Sandfest at Edgewater Beach -- raises funds for scholarships

On Saturday, August 6, 2022, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Cleveland held its Sandfest, Edgewater Beach. Ten teams competed in a sandcastle and sand sculpture contest. The AIA Cleveland Sandfest raises funds for the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program.

Among the judges of the contests were some well known Clevelander: Ward 15 Cleveland City Council Representative Jenny Spencer, Cleveland.com Art and Architecture Critic Steven Litt, Cleveland City Planning Commission Chair Lillian Kuri, 93.1 WZAK Radio Personality Ahmaad Crump, and Project Manager at Land Studio Erin Guido.

The judges picked winners in three categories: Winner of the Best Sandcastle award was "Everything is Awesome" by AdCom. Voco's entry in the contest titled "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" won the prize for Best Sculpture. Winner of the Best Theme was "RTA takes you everywhere" by RDL Architecture.

Attendees at the Sandfest also had a hand in voting a sand sculpture the Best of the Beach. The GDP Group's sand sculpture "On the Edge of a New Frontier" won 352 out of 1005 votes cast to be named Best of the Beach.

The ACE Mentor Program is a nonprofit organization that helps

prepare high school students for careers in Architecture, Engineering and Construction. The program provides mentoring to students by industry professionals and scholarships. Participating high schools include Collinwood High School, High Tech Academy, John Hay School of Architecture and Design, John Marshall School of Engineering, James Ford Rhodes High School, Lincoln West School of Science and Health, Max Hayes High School, New Tech East, New Tech West, Shaker Heights High School, Ted Ginn Leadership Academy, and Warrensville Heights High School.

WHO PAYS PROPERTY TAXES?

continued from page one

to be interviewed specifically on the tax break issue, but said they do pay property taxes on for-profit operations in their systems, like food and retail. They also pointed to the billions of dollars they say they contribute to the community each year.

And both health systems are powerful economic drivers in the region.

"Our most recent *Economic and Fiscal Impact Report*, examining 2019 data, shows that more than 133,000 jobs in Ohio, generating approximately \$8.8 billion in wages and earnings, were directly and indirectly attributed to Cleveland Clinic," a Clinic spokesperson wrote in an email.

Those thousands of employees also pay income taxes.

The Clinic says, due to its economic activity in 2019, employees and vendors paid \$2.3 billion in federal income taxes and \$1.3 billion in total state and local taxes. Last year, "UH employment generated \$48.5 million in income taxes to the state of Ohio and \$34.7 million in income taxes to local cities," according to a hospital media release.

But Schiller takes issue with employers taking credit for taxes paid by their employees — calling it unfair.

"If we're looking at how do we finance public education in particular, but City services as well, we should look to major employers to be important sources of support," he said. "Not just out of some populous notion, but also because they're major recipients of public services [like police and fire protection], and so they should pay something for those public services."

UH said in a release that hospitals aren't always booming. Across the country, UH said, hospitals and health systems — including UH — are

financially struggling to provide care.

"Many of the most prestigious institutions in the nation reported first quarter losses in the millions of dollars, attributable to rising costs of labor and supplies, a workforce shortage, and in Northeast Ohio, a surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations that again forced more suspensions of nonessential surgeries and procedures," the UH statement reads.

"UH is making difficult decisions to preserve access to care for our patients. We continue to believe that the noble goal of eliminating health care disparities is work that can only be achieved through nonprofit hospitals and health systems."

What do other cities do?

In some parts of the country, municipalities are encouraging nonprofits to make payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs), rather than challenging property tax exemptions, said Greg LeRoy of Good Jobs First.

"Some cities are promoting payments ... as a way of getting those nonprofit groups to acknowledge that they need to chip in to help support the public costs that they create by virtue of their size and their presence," LeRoy said.

Boston, home to Harvard University, Boston College and Boston Medical Center, has had a voluntary PILOT program in place since the early 1960s.

In 2021, the City received more than \$35 million in cash contributions and more than \$55 million in community benefits through the program.

PILOT programs are also being touted in other parts of the Rust Belt. In May, Pittsburgh officials called for a PILOT program in their region, which is home to the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, according to [PublicSource.org](#).

This isn't just an inner-city problem. Suburbs have been hit, too, as nonprofit hospitals expand.

The loss of property tax revenue is not just impacting cities like Cleveland. As hospital systems have expanded, buying up formerly private practices and facilities, suburbs are also increasingly affected, said attorney David Seed, who represents school districts.

In 2014, the city of Beachwood lost a reported \$8 million in tax revenue after the Cleveland Clinic purchased a private medical practice and created the Beachwood Family Health Center on Cedar Road, according to [Cleveland.com](#).

The Beachwood City School district challenged the tax exemption, but the Ohio Tax Commissioner ultimately ruled that the facility should be tax-exempt because it was part of the hospital system, Seed said.

Beachwood schools isn't the only district that has been affected as hospital systems expand. In 2018, the Cleveland Clinic agreed to pay Strongsville City Schools \$1.05 million after the schools agreed not to challenge the tax-exempt status of the Clinic's Strongsville Family Health & Surgery Center on State Route 82, in front of SouthPark Mall, the [Associated Press](#) reported.

"When you have a loss of revenue from the exemption, then the local

continued on page 6

State enacts emergency expansion of low-income utility assistance program

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio on Wednesday July 20th took emergency action to broaden eligibility for a state assistance program in the face of rising natural gas prices.

Hours later, the Ohio Department of Development did the same for low-income electric customers following an [executive order](#) inked by Gov. Mike DeWine.

Both moves will boost the [eligibility threshold](#) for the Percentage of Income Payment Plan – or PIPP – Program, which enables eligible customers to pay a percentage of their gross household income toward utility bills.

Program access is being expanded to households at or below 175% of the federal poverty guideline – up from the current 150% threshold.

Under the expanded eligibility for the Utility Assistance Program 12-month household income limits are now up to \$23,783.50 for a one-person household; up to \$32,042.50 for a two-person household; up to \$40,302.50 for a three-person household; up to \$48,562.50 for a four-person household; up to \$56,822.50 for a five person household; up to \$65,082.50 for a six person household; up to \$73,342.50 for a seven person household and up to \$81,602.50 for an eight person household.

The PUCO, which oversees the natural gas portion of the program, made its move during an uncharacteristically early Wednesday morning meeting. The Department of Development, which oversees the electric portion of the program, announced its move that afternoon.

"With the rising costs of commodities, Ohioans are finding it harder to pay their utility bills," Gov. DeWine said in a statement. "By expanding eligibility for utility assistance programs, more Ohioans will get the help they need to pay their bills and keep their homes cool in the summer and warm in the winter."

In its order, the PUCO billed it as a move "necessary to preserve the public health and safety."

Recent supply auctions have led to a "significant price increase" in natural gas costs being shouldered by consumers, reads the commission's [order](#).

"These price increases have a deleterious impact on all natural gas customers but especially on low-income customers," the decision reads.

Both the emergency rule amendments take immediate effect upon their filing with the Secretary of State, the [Legislative Service Commission Track](#) and the [Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review Track](#).

The change will last for 120 days, but an expedited rulemaking process before the PUCO will now commence that could lead to making the change permanent.

"During this period while the emergency rule is in effect, the commission will conduct a rulemaking proceeding to consider the amendments ... being permanently adopted on an expedited basis through this entry," the commission wrote.

The change must also work its way through the Common Sense Initiative and a related business impact analysis during that time.

CARE RESPONSE MODEL

continued from page one

every four police killings ends the life of a person with severe mental illness."

Current efforts in Cleveland

The report offers some local context to the need for a care response. This includes the call made to Cleveland Police by the family of Tanisha Anderson for assistance in a mental health crisis. This call resulted in Anderson's death in the hands of the police officers that responded to the 911 call. The report also notes some of the crisis response policies and programs already being used in Cleveland. These include specially trained Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) police officers, and a pilot program that pairs mental health workers or social workers with police on patrol.

Examples from other cities

Researchers advocating for a care response program in Cleveland looked at a number of care response programs around the country. Of the programs described in their report, the Care Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) program, which has been operating in the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan area in Oregon since 1989, researchers said that this was perhaps the best known program. The report says CAHOOTS teams are dispatched through the police-fire-ambulance communication center and through a non-emergency number. Each CAHOOTS team consists of a worker with experience in the mental health field and either a nurse or an emergency medical technician. The dispatchers in Eugene are trained to determine which calls are appropriate for CAHOOTS and which calls require a response from an

armed patrol officer.

The researchers cited crime analysis from the Eugene Police Department that said, "CAHOOTS diverted between 3% to 8% of calls coming to the Eugene Police Department in 2021, with backup from patrol officers required 301 times. The top categories CAHOOTS responded to were non-emergency public assistance calls, welfare checks, and transportation of individuals who were often unshoused or dealing with mental health issues." The report estimates that the savings generated by the CAHOOTS program were about four times the annual budget of the program.

Recommendations

In making recommendations that Cleveland change the way it responds to crisis calls, the report says, "For too long, our local governments have relied primarily on law enforcement and the criminal legal system to address community behavioral health challenges. Rather than center the needs of individuals in crisis and connect them to supports built around recovery and stabilization, elected and institutional leaders have designed and perpetuated our system around a punitive model that sees crime, addiction, and mental health as inextricably linked. But as we now well know, the outcomes of this system have deepened inequality, consumed too many of our limited resources, and caused unnecessary harm."

The organizations making the report outline several options for funding a care response program and urge the City of Cleveland to "immediately begin to scale up a mobile crisis response pilot based on the care response model."

Plain Press
For information about advertising
Contact Ed Tishel at:
plainpressads@yahoo.com

August 2, 2022

Primary Election official results

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections has posted the official results of the August 2nd Primary Election on its website. Below are some of the results from districts that have some precincts within the area served by the Plain Press.

Cuyahoga County Turnout

10.53% of Cuyahoga County's registered voters cast ballots in the August 2nd Primary Election with 92,042 voters cast ballots out of a total of 873,795 registered voters in Cuyahoga County. Of the voters casting ballots 67,056 or 72.85% voted in the Democratic primary and 24,985 or 27.15% voted in the Republican Primary.

State Senate Candidates:

Democratic Primary

State Senate District 21

Kent Smith won the Democratic Primary (16,944 votes) over John Barnes (10,496 votes)

State Senate District 23

Nickie J. Antonio ran unopposed in the Democratic Primary (received 12,780 votes)

State Senator Candidates:

Republican Primary

State Senate District 21

Mikhail Alterman ran unopposed and received 2,867 votes

continued on page 6

NOVEMBER 8 ELECTION

continued from page one

of law by refusing to create legal maps. Ohio taxpayers footed the \$20 million bill to hold the extra election and in the face of an effort by Republicans to influence the outcome, voter turnout in August was a dismal 7.9%.

The Supreme Court of the state of Ohio is the highest judicial court in the state. The chief justice and six justices serve six-year terms, with two seats open for election every even-numbered year, except when the position of chief justice is open. Chief Justice O'Connor will not seek re-election due to age limits leaving her seat vacant for the first time since 2011. Republican Sharon Kennedy and Democrat Jennifer Brunner will battle to determine who will be the next Chief Justice.

Ohio Republicans have controlled the majority on the seven-member high court since 1986. Republican Justice Pat DeWine will face Democratic First District Court of Appeals Judge Marilyn Zayas, and Republican Justice Pat Fischer will run against Democrat 10th District Court of Appeals Judge Terri Jamison. Democrats can gain control of the Ohio Supreme Court with victories in both races. The political affiliation will be listed next to the names on the ballot for the first time.

Ohio voters will also elect a new representative to the U.S. Senate during the general election on November 8. Republican conservative commentator and author J. D. Vance is running against Democratic U.S. Representative Tim Ryan. If Ryan wins, Ohio will have two Democratic U.S. Senators for the first time since John Glenn and Howard Metzenbaum served together in the early 1990s.

Vance, the bestselling author of *Hillbilly Elegy*, and a venture capitalist with Silicon Valley ties, is viewed by some critics as an outsider with little connection to the Buckeye State. Ryan is a 10-term House member from the Youngstown area.

Ryan and Vance are competing for the Senate seat that has no incumbent Senator due to Republican Sen. Rob Portman's announcement that he would not seek re-election this year.

In the governor's race, Republican Governor Mike DeWine is seeking re-election for a second term against Democrat Nan Whaley, the former

mayor of Dayton. The DeWine campaign is focused on growing business infrastructure, arming teachers through gun legislation, and protecting the right to life. Whaley said she is ready to fight against corruption and protect reproductive freedoms.

Jonathan Petrea, a conservative Republican and Senior Partner at Ascendant Public Policy Group, said that the Democrats need to support the interests of Ohio voters to win more legislative seats if they want to gain control of the House and Senate.

"They should change their policy agenda to be in line with the people of Ohio," Petrea said. "Lower taxes and school choice. The Democrats do not have to agree with the Republicans, but a variation on policy proposals needs to support voter interest."

Democrats swept the state house and state-wide elections in 2016, and two years later, Ohioans rejected them and voted in a Republican majority. Gerrymandering did not influence the election results, according to Petrea.

"The process works. Elections have consequences. The current Redistricting Commission is a solution looking for a problem. The last thing we need as Ohioans is the federal court deciding for us. The Redistricting Commission forced our constitution to support an undemocratic process. The resulting maps are stacked to gain power not afforded by Ohioans. Alexis de Tocqueville would roll over in his grave," he added, referring to the French sociologist and political philosopher, who Wikipedia describes as an advocate for parliamentary government and skeptical of the extremes of democracy.

More than 70% of the seats for judicial office on the ballot for the 2022 midterm elections in Cuyahoga County are running unopposed. Only 7 of the candidates face challengers. In the Eighth District Court of Appeals, Cornelius J. O'Sullivan (R) is running against Michael John Ryan (D). The remaining six contested elections for Judge of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, General Division, are Tim Hess (R) - Richard A. Bell (D); Gina Marie Crawford (R) - Maureen Clancy (D); Joan Synenberg (R) - Brian Mooney (D); Denise Joan Salerno (R) - Deborah M. Turner (D); Wanda C. Jones (R) - Kevin J. Kelley (D); and Kenneth R. Callahan (R) - Jennifer



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, August 6, 2022, American Institute of Architects (AIA) Cleveland Sandfest, Edgewater Beach: This sand sculpture by GDP Group, titled "On the Edge of a New Frontier", was voted "Best of the Beach", receiving 352 votes out of 1,005 votes cast by visitors at the Sandfest.

O'Donnell (D).

Kevin J. Kelley, former Cleveland City Council president, and Cleveland mayoral candidate, is running for Judge of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, General Division. His opponent is Republican Wanda C. Jones, appointed by Gov. DeWine to fill the vacancy on the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas bench after the death of Democratic judge Joseph D. Russo.

Fundraising is an issue for judicial candidates, with the individual limits at \$650, far below the limits for other government offices. Ohio Supreme Court candidates, on the other hand, can accept a maximum of \$3,800 in contributions from individuals in primary and general elections. Organizations may give up to \$7,000 to Ohio Supreme Court candidates in primary and general elections. Political parties may contribute up to \$189,500 to candidates in primary elections and \$347,600 in general elections. Running for office is expensive and demands a constant influx of financial resources to

reach voters.

"Voting for judges is critical. Judges make important decisions about our freedom every day," Kelley said when asked about the lackluster turnout of voters in recent elections. "Decisions made at the Court of Common Pleas affect the daily life of residents. Generally speaking, as an elected official, the best day of your life is the filing deadline when you do not have an opponent. The worst thing for the system of government is not having active competitive elections."

Kelley acknowledged that while he was free to talk about issues facing the City of Cleveland as a mayoral candidate, as a candidate for a judicial seat, the law restricts him from discussing specific cases pending in court or any issue that may make its way to the court as a judge.

"It is a different world than running for mayor or city council," said Kelley.

Ross DiBello, a Cleveland attorney who worked at the law office of Cassandra Collier-Williams, a judge of the Cuyahoga County Court of

Common Pleas General Division, said information about the judicial candidates is often hard to find. DiBello ran unsuccessfully for mayor of Cleveland in 2021.

"We need an independent and publicly funded tracking system for incumbent judges to understand a candidate's judicial record, just like comparing sports players' statistics. We should disseminate information for voters to make a decision. Judges grant and terminate probation. They confirm or vacate a death penalty," he said. "We need to know who they are."

Parts of this story appeared in The Cleveland Observer.

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

**Own a home
and part
of your
neighborhood.**



HomeReady Purchase Mortgage

- 3% down
- \$3,000 down payment assistance

ThirdFederal®
SAVINGS & LOAN

1-833-707-0062

thirdfederal.com/community



Visit thirdfederal.com/community or call 1-833-707-0062 for details. 3% down is available for loan amounts up to \$250,000 and borrowers must meet certain income, geographic and other requirements to qualify. Product features subject to change without notice. ©2022 Third Federal

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

Hillson's
NUTS OF QUALITY
SINCE 1935
Visit our Factory Outlet Store
3225 W. 71st St. (South of Clark)
961-4477
Toll Free: 800-333-2818

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

MasterCard
VISA
DISCOVER
AMERICAN EXPRESS

**Best in
the
West!**



PHOTO COURTESY OF HENRY SENYAK

1965, Senyak Dry Cleaners and Shoe Repair, 2575 Scranton Road: A young Henry Senyak plays in the display counter at the dry cleaners while his mom, Gertrude Senyak, runs the business. Henry Senyak notes that Senyak Dry Cleaners was one of the first businesses in Tremont to be owned and operated by a woman.

HENRY SENYAK

continued from page 3

began to escalate due to his and his mother's concerns with noise and unruly patrons at the Starkweather, a bar across the street from their building where Henry and his mother resided above the former drycleaner building's storefront.

In 2004, frustrated with the noise and unruly behavior of patrons of the Starkweather, Henry Senyak wrote a letter to the editor of the *Plain Press*. An Ohio City resident, Ted Thelander, saw the letter and called the *Plain Press* office and said he would like to help Henry Senyak address his concerns about the Starkweather. He asked the *Plain Press* to share his contact information with Henry Senyak. Senyak recalls meeting with Thelander at the West Side Market Café. Thelander, who had spent many years as a consultant to the restaurant and hospitality industry, shared his knowledge of various regulations and codes that governed the operations of bars, nightclubs and restaurants. Thelander willingly became a mentor to Senyak. Reflecting back, Senyak says, "I owe a lot of my knowledge to Ted Thelander. He taught me a lot." In an article in the November 2020

issue of the *Plain Press* honoring the memory of Ted Thelander after his passing, Senyak says when he first met Thelander "I was just a mild-mannered citizen at the time."

Armed with the knowledge of occupancy permit limits, fire and safety code restrictions, zoning code, building and housing codes, noise restrictions and the rules surrounding liquor licenses, Senyak was successful in reigning in the behavior of patrons at the Starkweather. Word soon spread of his success, and residents of other neighborhoods saw him as "the go to guy" to help them tackle problem bars, nightclubs, and entertainment venues in their neighborhoods.

Seven years later in 2011, Cleveland City Council appointed Senyak as the citizen representative on an Ad Hoc Committee to recommend changes in the zoning and licensing of bars and restaurants and other entertainment venues. An article in the May 2011 issue of the *Plain Press* by Chuck Hoven titled "Residents weigh in on proposed regulations for restaurants, bars and entertainment venues", notes that at Senyak's urging, thirty residents from six Near West Side neighborhood came to testify before the Cleveland Planning Commission and offered their

PRIMARY

continued from page 4

State Senate District 23

Landry M. Simmons Jr. ran unopposed and received 3,952 votes

District 21 State Democratic Central Committee

21st District (woman)

Helen M. Sheehan won with 12,436 votes or 51.13% of the votes cast. Juanita Gowdy was second and Renee A. Lindsley third.

21st District (man)

Kent Smith won with 10,889 votes or 40.32% of the votes cast. Blaine A. Griffin was second. Armond D. Budish came in third; Roosevelt Coats was fourth, and Andre P. White came in fifth.

District 21 State Republican Central Committee

21 District (woman)

Lucy M. Stickan won with 2,385 votes (73.56%) over Laverne Jones Gore.

concerns about the recommended changes in the zoning, licensing of bars, restaurants, and other entertainment venues.

After the Planning Commission meeting, residents continued to monitor the legislation as it worked its way through Cleveland City Council. The legislation recommendations were never passed by City Council, but a new noise ordinance passed by City Council did result from these efforts.

Senyak, who had been a member of his block club before his heightened involvement began in 2004, soon became chairperson of the Lincoln Heights Block Club. He also served as a member of the Tremont West Development Corporation Board (TWDC) of Trustees for six years and was elected by the general membership of TWDC to serve as President of TWDC in January of 2012.

Senyak spent a couple of years volunteering his time riding around at night monitoring streetlight outages and reporting them to Cleveland Public Power's automated repair system. In March of 2011, Ohio City Near West Development Corporation hired him to continue his street light monitoring in the West Side portions of Ward 3. An April 2011 article in the *Plain Press* by Joe Narkin titled "A bright streetlight is a thing of beauty for Henry Senyak" noted the amount of time Senyak spent as a volunteer streetlight monitor, "During 2010, Senyak reported 2,900 defective streetlights to the CPP automated repair system, and he estimates that each call took him approximately 3 minutes to complete."

Senyak's experience negotiating agreements with bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues came in handy when, as chairperson of the Lincoln Heights Block Club, residents of the neighborhood raised concerns about being able to stay in the neighborhood when faced with rising property taxes. Senyak

21 District (man)

Joe Miller ran unopposed and received 2,838 votes

District 23rd State Democratic Central Committee

23rd District (woman)

Colleen Corrigan Day received 6,942 votes or 51.27% of the votes cast to edge out Diana Morgan who received 6,599 votes or 48.73% of the votes cast.

23rd District (man)

Sean P. Brennan won with 4,959 votes or 35.4% of the votes cast. Martin J. Sweeney came in second; Jeff Johnson was third; Michael Seals was fourth; and

Willie Lewis Britt was fifth.

District 23 State Republican Central Committee

23rd District (woman)

Doris Peters ran unopposed and received 4,022 votes

23rd District (man)

Brian Andrews won with 2,395 votes (51.71%) over Jonah Pelton.

District 24 State Democratic Central Committee

24th District (woman)

Megan Murphy won with 8,413 or 53.6

continued on page 7

WHO PAYS THE PROPERTY TAXES?

continued from page four

government has to make a few choices," Seed said. They either cut services or push the burden onto other taxpayers to make up for the loss of revenue.

"Those are its two choices," he said. "And they have to still provide the services."

reasoned that the new 15-year tax abated developments in the neighborhood were contributing to rising property taxes for long term residents, many of whom had much lower incomes than the new arrivals. He worked with the Lincoln Heights Block club to have the development fund, now named in his honor, as part of the Reaching Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Plan.

Senyak described some of the positive contributions that area business owners and developers are now making to the Lincoln Heights neighborhood. He said, Chris Lieb, who owns the Tremont Tap House (in the building formerly housed the Starkweather Tavern) has been a good neighbor, hosting block club events in his tavern. Josh Rosen, a partner in Sustainable Community Associates, a developer in the neighborhood has contributed by having a landscaping crew maintain the areas along Starkweather and Kenilworth under the freeway overpasses. Rosen also provides Giant Eagle gift cards to block club members to help with their grocery budgets. Senyak says Rosen sees the value of helping to maintain the social and economic diversity in the neighborhood by helping existing residents so they can afford to stay in their homes as property taxes rise.

Senyak is confident in turning over the leadership of the block club to young and very capable successors. He is also pleased with the relationships the block club has nurtured over the years. Unlike the controversial early years of his tenure as Lincoln Heights Block Club Chairman when the block club was engaged in battling with area businesses over concerns over health and safety, Senyak says the block club now has a very good relationship with all area businesses. "There is rarely controversy within Lincoln Heights; there is harmony, which ultimately was the goal to begin with," he said.

The Ideastream analysis of County Fiscal Office data shows that nonprofit hospitals, including the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals, own tax-exempt properties worth about \$302 million in Beachwood, \$163 million in Mayfield Heights, \$39.5 million in Brecksville and \$38.8 million in Independence, according to 2018 valuations.

Cuyahoga County leaders have considered payments in lieu of taxes from nonprofits before

In 2004, Jim Rokakis was the Cuyahoga County Treasurer, and he was very excited because it appeared the County was on the verge of striking a PILOT deal with local nonprofit hospitals.

Back then, County officials were discussing the possibility of multi-million-dollar annual payments from major nonprofit hospital systems, Rokakis said.

That was exciting for the former County Treasurer because those nonprofit hospitals own a sizable amount of property in Cuyahoga County, but do not have to pay taxes on much of it.

Rokakis remembers that leaders at the Cleveland Clinic and UH seemed open to the possibility. The County was suggesting payments between \$8 and \$12 million annually, he said.

But negotiations were cut off abruptly, he said. Rokakis doesn't know why negotiations didn't bear fruit.

"You can do the math. It's been 17 years," said Rokakis. "If you go with the 10 number, then it's \$170 million in payments in lieu of taxes that might have been paid to schools and other taxing subdivisions. But it never happened, obviously."

Editor's Note: This is the third part of a three-part series that examines the impact of nonprofit hospitals in Northeast Ohio and their effects on our community. **METHODOLOGY:** Ideastream Public Media used data from the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer to calculate the size of nonprofit hospitals' property holdings in the county. The dataset is not comprehensive. The numbers presented in this article are estimates based on our analysis of publicly available data. The data provided to Ideastream Public Media reflects values as of Cuyahoga County's 2018 assessments. It does not include properties for which nonprofit hospitals are currently seeking exemptions. The data provided by the county does not necessarily list a hospital's current hospital system affiliation. In those cases, hospital properties were identified through Ideastream research. This project is part of Connecting the Dots between Race and Health, a project of Ideastream Public Media funded by The Dr. Donald J. Goodman and Ruth Weber Goodman Philanthropic Fund of The Cleveland Foundation. This article was provided to the Plain Press by the online publication The Land, a local news startup that reports on Cleveland's neighborhoods and inner ring suburbs. The Land delivers in-depth stories that foster accountability, inform the community, and inspire people to take action. The Land can be accessed at <https://thelandcleveland.org>.



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

Plain Press: To Advertise Contact Ed Tishel at:
plainpressads@yahoo.com



JR Tree Works LLC
Complete tree removal & stump grinding
Specializing in real tight hard to get to areas

Owner/Operator • Noah Shrock
440-635-6666

Reasonable rates, free estimates, insured

City of Cleveland Planning Commission begins pilot program to place signs at Board of Zoning Appeals case sites

At the end of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) meeting on August 22nd, Maurice Ruelens, Chief City Planner for the Cleveland Planning Commission, shared with the board information about a new pilot program. Ruelens said he will be posting signs on BZA case sites when he goes out to take photos of the properties. The signs are intended to alert neighbors about upcoming meetings concerning developers' requests for variances. The signs are to be posted two weeks in advance of the BZA hearings, said Ruelens. The signs will be in addition to letters already sent out to residents of properties close to the property requesting a variance.

The signs have a large ZN with Zoning Notice printed below that. On the sign there is space to add information by hand under the following headings: Case #, Address, Description, Hearing Date/Time and Location. Also, on the sign is a QR Code that Ruelens says will take people right to the Board of Zoning Appeals Website. The BZA phone number and its website address are also printed on the sign.

Ruelens said that City Planning Commission staff have been talking about instituting these signs

for quite a while and finally got some made. He said a Planning Commission staff member designed the signs. Ruelens said the signs are an "attempt to make sure we are transparent about applications and that everyone in the neighborhood knows what is going on. A lot of communities around the country are doing this, so we decided we would do it too."

For places that don't have a tree lawn to put a sign on, Ruelens said a poster will be mailed to applicants to post in a primary window or primary facade that is facing the street.

Several Board of Zoning Appeals members said they thought the signs looked nice.

Some community members also had some thoughts about the placement of the signs. Council of Cleveland Neighborhoods member Laura Cyrocki said she felt any effort by the City of Cleveland to increase transparency was a good thing.

Architect David Ellison, also a member of the Council of Cleveland Neighborhoods, said he thought the signs looked too much like real estate signs. He suggested that a more official looking sign with a City of Cleveland logo and the actual wording of the variance request attached in fine print on the sign would be more appropriate.

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

Services: pet food pantry, low-cost preventative wellness care i.e. vaccines, flea prevention etc., Free ID tags & low-cost microchips, Free-spay/neuter with transportation, full-service vet care financial assistance, low-cost pet supplies, and resource referrals. Phone: 216-505-5853, Email: info@neighborhoodpetscle.org, Website: www.neighborhoodpetscle.org

RECREATION

CANALWAY PARTNERS: Free Friday night events: Biking Canal Basin. Free bike rentals and frozen treats. September 9th, 5-8 p.m. Begin at Canal Basin Park, 989 West Street. Take a

Hike. Family game night. Yard games and more at Sokolowski's Overlook on Abbey Road. September 16th 5-8 p.m. Music, Magic and More. Music, dancing and a magic show starting at Sokolowski's Overlook. September 23, 5-8 p.m. Storytime Strolls. Expert storytellers on the Towpath Trail starting at Sokolowski's Overlook September 30th, 5-8 p.m. To register visit canalwaypartners.com/events/towpathstrolls.

SERVICE DOGS

CANINE COMPANIONS' goal is to enhance independence for children, adults, and veterans with disabilities so more people can feel empowered to live their lives to the fullest. Service dogs are expertly trained in up to 45 commands.

PRIMARY RESULTS

continued from page 6

percent of the votes cast. Kelly A. Kosek came in second with 46.4 percent of the votes cast.

24th District (man)

Dean DePiero won with 4,112 votes or 25.69% of the vote. Coming in second with 4,044 votes or 25.27% of the votes cast was Dale Miller. Matt Patton came in third; Riley Armstrong Alton was fourth; and Chris Glassburn came in fifth.

District 24 State Republican Central Committee

24th District (woman)

Melanie Mason ran unopposed and received 10,145 votes.

24th District (man)

Shannon Burns won with 6,658 votes (54.08%) over second place Zach Ashcraft and third place Daniel R. Langshaw

State Representatives

Democratic Primary

District 13 Michael J. Skindell ran unopposed and received 4,831 votes

District 14

Sean Brennan ran unopposed and received 4,506 votes

District 15

Richare Dell'Agula ran unopposed and received 3,446 votes

District 17

Troy J. Greenfield ran unopposed and received 4,646 votes

District 18

Darnell T. Brewer won with 4,896 votes

District 19

Phil Robinson ran unopposed and received 5,201 votes

New Board of Zoning Appeals Yard Signs



SCREEN SHOT BY LAURA CYROCKI

Monday, August 22nd Virtual Meeting of the Cleveland Board of Zoning Appeals: At the end of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) meeting on August 22nd, Maurice Ruelens, Chief City Planner for the Cleveland Planning Commission, shared with the board information about a new pilot program. Ruelens said he will be posting signs on BZA case sites. The signs are intended to alert neighbors about upcoming meetings concerning developers' requests for variances. The signs are to be posted two weeks in advance of the BZA hearings, said Ruelens.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

is now available through phone or text to a new three-digit number: Call or text 988.

THE TREVOR PROJECT is the world's largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning) young people. For more information on how to reach a Trevor Project counselor visit: www.thetrevorproject.org.

UTILITIES

LOW INCOME WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

is available thru September 30th to Ohioans with income at or below 175% of the federal poverty level (\$46,375 for a family of four). In Cuyahoga County the program is administered by CHN Housing Partners. To make an application appointment call 216-350-8008 or schedule online at www.chn.itfrontdesk.com

VOLUNTEERS

CLEVELAND LEAD ADVOCATES FOR SAFE HOUSING (CLASH) is seeking volunteers to help keep lead on our community's agenda. CLASH is all volunteer, mostly self-funded, and working for the safety of the next generation! Cleveland Lead Safe Network is the Outreach and Engagement arm of CLASH. Voice or text message: 216-359-1060. Visit CLASH at www.clashcle.org.

**Plain Press:
To advertise
email Ed Tishel
at**

plainpressads@yahoo.com

PLAIN PRESS COMMUNITY BOARD:
FREE listings for free events and serves for area non profit and government agencies.
Email your Community Board listing to: plainpress@gmail.com

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. 25th #500 Cleveland, OH 44113.

FLEA MARKETS/THRIFTS

ST. PAUL'S THRIFT STORE: W. 45th and Franklin, Clothing, bric-a-brac, household items and more. Open Wednesdays 1 to 3pm (regular bargain prices). **First Saturday of Month: 10 to noon /clothes in store and Gym. Clothes \$1.00 a bag.** We supply the bags. All items "As Is" condition. Masks Required.

REAL ESTATE

I BUY REAL ESTATE "As Is" condition? Inherit a house? Call Pat (216) 324-3934.

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.

WANTED

PAYING CASH FOR DIABETIC TEST STRIPS: Must be sealed, unexpired, undamaged. Text/call 216-220-1506

Plain Press BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Accountant

QUIK FIX TAX SERVICES
WE STRAIGHTEN OUT MESSES
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

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

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

CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

get more IN THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!



- More joy and adventure under our new Vision for Learning
- Say Yes Cleveland now providing mental health, housing and other support services in all schools.
- PowerSchool, an easy-to-use online platform for parents to access student records, submit consent forms and communicate with teachers
- Wi-Fi on yellow buses, so students can stay connected to school and back
- Interactive Clevertouch screens in more classrooms

Enroll Now!
ChooseCMSD.org

THE CMSD EXPERIENCE *get* MORE