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In memory of Gloria Aron: December 28, 1945 -January 31, 2023

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

Board of Zoning Appeals approves Youth Drop in Center

by Bruce Checefsky

Tasha Jones gets up every morning to go to work just like thousands of residents of Ohio City. She buys food at the West Side Market and shops for groceries at Dave's Supermarket on Carroll Avenue. Jones exercises at the local gym and uses the Cleveland Public Library West Branch. She pays Social Security, Medicare, and income tax on earned income, in addition to the Ohio income tax, and frequents local restaurants and small businesses that line the streets of Ohio

City, a premier urban neighborhood in Cleveland. Unlike most people of this mixed ethnic and socially diverse enclave, she sleeps in her car at night.

Jones was born in Cleveland and grew up in Tremont and Ohio City. Her grandmother owned an antique store on Loran Ave where Jones learned commercial business practices and the fine art of customer service. She felt safe as a child because the community provided activities in Lincoln Park, local libraries, and the neighborhood. She graduated from Cleveland

Heights High School, attended Tri-C to study business management and administration, and graduated with an Associate Degree with a minor in industrial operations.

She joined the Carpenters Local Union No. 435 and did the architectural restoration. In October 2022, Jones was in a car accident and lost the use of her left eye. Her car got impounded, and her eye injury affected her ability to work. During the same month, she made plans to move into a new apartment, giving up her lease, and when the accident happened, she had to use her security deposit to get her car back from the impounded lot.

The apartment was unavailable a week later. She is still looking for an affordable rental, and for now, it is more cost-effective to live in her car.

"I wake in my vehicle every morning at about 6 AM. When the temperature is twenty or thirty 30 degrees outside or colder on some nights, the temperature inside my vehicle is the same. Before getting out of my sleeping bag, I warm up my car. I grab a coffee, maybe a workout at the gym, shower and go to work, or run errands. I go to the

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PHOTO BY ERIK AULT

Saturday, February 4, 2023; Transit Equity Day Rally in Public Square: Akshai Singh rallying supporters of better public transit. Transit supporters chanted, "No Rider Left Behind!" and "Fix it! Fund it! Make it fair!" to make passersby aware of the problems plaguing public transit, which is a lifeline for so many Clevelanders.

More confusion at the CAC Board of Trustees regular meeting

by Bruce Checefsky

Chaos and confusion returned to the February meeting of Cuyahoga Arts and Culture (CAC), as the Board of Trustees continued to butt heads and publicly criticize each other. The five-member board consists of Charna Sherman, Michele Scott Taylor, Nancy Mendez, Karolyn Isenhardt, and Jenita McGowan. They meet regularly to discuss budgeting and

grants. McGowan missed her second consecutive meeting. Taylor and McGowan have terms set to expire on March 31, 2023.

Following a delay in approving minutes of the December 14, 2022, regular meeting, Sherman, former board president, asked for a remedy on several items that were, in her opinion, recorded inaccurately, including the approval of grants. A debate took place

over the language used to describe her request. At the center of the controversy were the discrepancies in commitment and expenditure in 2019, 2020, and 2021. She asked the board to roll over the remaining individual artists' funds from 2022, which were not spent, to Assembly For The Arts, increasing their 2023 funds for distribution from

continued online at
<https://plainpress.blog>



PHOTO BY ERIK AULT

Saturday, February 4, 2023; Transit Equity Day Rally in Public Square: Matthew Ahn sharing with supporters the benefits that improved and free public transit would have on the community and how poor public transportation service disproportionately affects minority communities.

In Memory Gloria Aron

December 28, 1945 – January 31, 2023

In the words of Gloria Aron:

"Desegregation changed my life forever. I became a community activist. But even more important was when parents, black and white came together. We not only learned how to work together for change but many of us developed life-long friendships. What is most important to me is how my kids and how their children develop their friendships.

Friendships based on shared interests and liking each other not because of someone's color or ethnic background. They respect differences..." *Gloria Aron, parent and community activist.*

Gloria Aron, lifelong resident of the Near West Side of Cleveland, believed strongly in the power of neighborhood people getting together, identifying issues, and finding solutions. Throughout her adult life Gloria Aron was involved in issue-oriented grass roots community organizing.

Aron understood the essence of how

to go about changing unjust systems. In a memoir she wrote for the *Women's History Project*, she said, "Change only comes when we all work together, each bringing their skills and all of us learning and working together to make the systems work. It does not matter whether it is about education, a problem in your neighborhood, or big issues like health care. The steps to successful change are the same."

Aron was involved in a good number of efforts to make life better for Clevelanders. Her efforts were especially aimed at helping low-income residents of the city.

When the Cleveland Public Schools were facing a desegregation order in 1979, and Gloria's daughter Chris was about to learn whether or not she would be going to Audubon Junior High in the Buckeye Woodland neighborhood, Aron said some staff members from the West Side Community House came to the Parent Teachers Association meeting at

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PHOTO BY IAN HEISEY

Saturday, February 11, Street Studio, St. Paul's Community Church, 4427 Franklin Boulevard: Sundown plays the piano accompanied by Michael Wells on the drums. Street Studio provides a place of peace and respect for people to share a song or a poem and have access to a piano, guitars, drums, a microphone, and a supportive circle of listeners. All are welcome. The next Street Studio will take place Saturday, March 11th at 1 pm at St. Paul's Community Church. For more information email: heisey2140@sbcglobal.net

Bop Stop @ The Music Settlement	771-6551
Blank Canvas Theatre	440-941-0458
www.blackcanvastheatre.com	
Canvas	www.CanvasCLE.com
Cleveland Contra Dance	330-626-2129
Cleveland International Film Festival	623-3456
www.clevelandfilm.org	
Cleveland Museum of Art.....	421-7350
Community Arts Center (Pivot Centet)	707-2483
Cleveland Museum of Natural History	231-4600
www.CMNH.org	
Cleveland Music School Settlement.....	421-5806
Cleveland Public Theatre.....	631-2727
www.cptonline.org	
Convergence Continuum	687-0074
www.convergence-continuum.org	
Cudell Fine Arts Center.....	664-4183
Cuyahoga Arts and Culture	515-8303
www.cacgrants.org	
Cuyahoga County Archives	443-7250
Dancing Wheels..www.dancingwheels.org	432-0306
Gordon Square Arts District	930-4566
www.gordonsquare.org	
Gordon Square Review.. www.gordonsquarereview.org	
ica art conservtion .. www.ica-artconservation.org..	658-8700
Inlet Dance Theatre	www.inletdance.org
Joyful Noise.....	267-1373
Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center	894-5664
www.juliadeburgos.org	
LatinUs Theater www.latinustheater.com	369-7158
Les Délices	www.lesdelices.org.....
Literary Cleveland www.litcleveland.org	532-3875
Mural My Neighborhood	664-2562
Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA)	421-8671
Music Settlement	421-5806
Near West Theatre. www.nearwesttheatre.org.....	961-9750
One Community Reads. https://www.onecommunityreads.org	
Pivot Center for Art, Dance & Expression	
www.pivotartcenter.com	
Quire Cleveland .. www.quireclevelad.org	223-8854
Rainey Institute Pivot Center	881-1766
www.raineyinstitute.org/rainey-pivot-center/	
Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.....	781-7625
78 th Street Studios ...www.78thstreetstudios.com ..	640-5965
SPACES	621-2314
Talespinner Children’sTheater	264-9680
Transformer Station...www.transformerstation.org	938-5429
Western Reserve Historical Society	721-5722

COMMUNITY ACTION

Action Network	www.actionnetwork.org
AIDS Task Force of Greater Cleveland.....	621-0766
All Aboard Ohio	www.allaboardohio.org
American Civil Liberties Union (Ohio).....	472-2200
Big Creek Connects.....	661-7706
www.bigcreekconnects.org	
Bike Cleveland	www.bikecleveland.org.....
Black Lives Matter in Cuyahoga County	319-4870
Building Hope in the City	281-4673
www.buildinghopeinthecity.org	
Canalway Partners.	520-1825
www.canalwaypartners/events/towpath-tappening	
Catholic Charities ... www.ccdocle.org	334-2903
CWRU Social Justice Institute	368-7568
Center for Community Solutions.....	781-2944
Child & Family Advocates of Cuyahoga Cty	443-3377
Citizens Climate Lobby, Ohio	513-264-1079
City Club of Cleveland ... www.cityclub.org	621-0082
Cleveland Animal Protective League	771-4616
Cleveland Climate Watch	631-3337
Cleveland Community Police Commission	755-4272
www.clepc.org	
Cleveland Diocese Social Action Office	939-3843
Cleveland Documenters ... www.cleveland.documenters.org	
Cleveland End Poverty Now Coalition	651-2606
Cleveland Environmental Action Network	245-1073
Cleveland Family Center for Missing Children and Adults	
www.clevelandmissing.org	
Cleveland Hope Exchange www.hopeforcle.com ..	282-7588
Cleveland Jobs With Justice.....	440-333-7007
Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing	359-1060
http://clashcle.org	
Cleveland Lead Safe Network	536-2233
www.clevelandleadsafe.net	
Cleveland Mediation Center.....	621-1919
www.clevelandmediation.org	
Cleveland Peace Action	205-1427
www.peaceactioncleveland.org	
Cleveland Police Foundation	536-6776
www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org	
Clevelanders for Public Transit.....	714-2164
www.CLEforTransit.org	
Coalition to Stop the Inhumanity at the Cuyahoga County Jail	
http://bit.ly/jailco	285-0283
Collaborative to End Human Trafficking	440-872-6500
www.collabtoendht.org	
Common Good Ohio	795-5375
www.commongoodohio.org	
Community Animal Retention Effort (CARE)	255-5012
Community Relations Board.....	664-3290
Council for Economic Opp in Gr. Clev	696-9077
Council on American Islamic Relations	830-2247
www.ohio.cair.com	
Court Community Service.....	771-2222
Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus	505-5088

The Urban Barber Association (TUBA)	245-8822
www.TheUrbanBarberAssociation.org	
United Way of Greater Cleveland.....	436-2264
www.unitedwaycleveland.org	
Universal Health Care Action Network	241-8422
Utilities for All	651-2606
We Are the Uninsured.....	281-8945 ext. 205
West Side Family Resources Network	771-7297 Ext. 4
YWCA Greater Cleveland	881-6878
www.ymcaofcleveland.org	

COMMUNITY CENTERS

Arrupe Neighborhood Partnership Program.....	961-1260
www.ignatius.edu	
Bridge CLE	www.bridgecle.org
Catholic Charities Covenant Center	574-9000
Clark Recreation Center.....	664-4657
Cleveland Metroparks	635-3200
www.Clevelandmetroparks.com	
Cleveland Family Center for Missing Children and Adults	
www.clevelandmissing.org	232-6470
Cudell Recreation Center.....	664-4137
Resource and Support Services Specialist ...	857-7629
Cuyahoga Valley National Park	330-657-2752
www.nps.gov/cuva	
Estabrook Recreation Center	664-4149
Foundation Center www.foundationcenter.org	861-1933
Franklin Circle Christian Church	781-8232
www.FranklinCircleChurch.org	
Halloran Park Skating Rink	664-4187
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT)	
Community Center of Greater Cleveland.....	651-5428
www.lgbtcleveland.org	
May Dugan Center.www.maydugancenter.org.....	631-5800
Merrick House ...www.merrickhouse.org.....	771-5077
Michael Zone Recreation Center.....	664-3373
Resource and Support Service Specialist	857-3238
Neighborhood Centers Association.....	298-4440
Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center	651-8236
POPCE Neighborhood Center	651-6698
www.popceclevelandoh.org	
Renee Jones Empowerment Center	417-0823
www.rjecempower.org	
St. Malachi Center.www.stmalachicenter.org.....	771-3036
St. Paul’s Community Outreach Center	651-6250
www.stpaulscommunityoutreach.org	
Salvation Army Ohio City Corps.....	631-1515
www.salvationarmycleveland.org/ohiocity	
Salvation Army West Park Corps	252-3593
Schools as Neighborhood Resources	658-1360
The Centers for Families and Children	651-2037
www.thecentersohio.org	
The Foundry Rowing Center	440-596-7069
www.clevelandfoundryorg	
Veterans Center - West.....	440-845-5023
West Side Catholic Center..www.wsccenter.org.....	631-4741
West Side Community House (WSC.....	771-7297
WSCH Family Resource Specialist	771-7297 ext. 340
WSCH Family Wrap for Success 771-7297 ext. 340	
www.WSCHouse.org	

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Bellaire Puritas Development Corp..www.bpdc.org..	671-2710
Catholic Diocese of Cleveland	696-6525
Cleveland Council on World Affairs.....	781-3730
Cleveland EcoVillage	961-4242 Ext. 227
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress.....	830-2770
Cleveland Plus	www.clevelandplus.com
Cleveland Police Foundation	623-3333
Cleveland Westside Village	714-2814
cwsvillage@gmail.com	
clevelandwestside.helpfulvillage.com	
Collective Arts Network	www.CANjournal.org
Community Shares...www.communityshares.org.....	361-9920
Congregation of St. Joseph	www.CSJoseph.org
Friends of Clark Field	310-6810
Greater Cleveland Partnership	592-2376
Greater Cleveland Volunteers	391-9500 x 2116
Ideastream Public Media, 89.7, 90.3 ,104.9 FM	578-0903
www.ideastream.org	
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry .(LMM).....	696-2715
Community Re-Entry	696-2717
www.lutheranmetro.org	
Metro West Community Development Organization	
www.metrowestcle.org	961-9073
Neighbor Up	361-0042
North Coast District United Methodist Church.....	441-4527
Northeast Ohio Amateur Radio Society.....	www.noars.net
Northeast Ohio City Council Association	282-3969
Northwest Neighborhoods	962-4242
www.nwneighborhoods.org	
Ohio City Bicycle Co-op	216-830-2667
Ohio City Inc	www.ohiocity.org.....
Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp.....	459-1000
www.oldbrooklyn.com	
OneHope NEO	onehopeneo.com
Scranton Road Ministries Com. Dev. Corp.....	861-5323
Tremont West Development Corporation.....	575-0920
www.tremontwest.org	
Western Elmwood Berea Corp (WEBCO)	
webcoanita@gmail.com	
Westown Community Development Corp.....	941-9262
www.westowncdc.org	
West Side Market Tenants Association	664-3387

www.metrocatholic.org	
Near West Intergenerational School	961-4308
www.NearWestSchool.org	
Ohio Academy of Science	www.ohiosci.org
Ohio School Boards Association	800-589-OSBA
www.ohioschoolboards.org	
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School	281-7146
www.OLMC-Cleveland.org	
Pathway Caring for Children.....	267-7070
PBS Learning Media	www.pblearningmedia.org
Positive Education Program.....	361-4400
PRE4CLE ... www.PRE4CLE.org	901-4214
Refuse of Cuyahoga County	
http://refuseofcuyahogacounty.webstarts.com	
Safe Routes to School	838-4981
Say Yes to Education Cleveland	273-6350
www.sayyescleveland.org	
St. Augustine Child Enrichment Center	939-7681
staugministries.org/cec	
St. Augustine Learning Center.....	781-5530
St. Ignatius High School www.ignatius.edu	651-0222
St. Ignatius of Antioch School.....	671-0535
www.stignatiusofantioch-school.org	
St. Rocco School.....	961-8557
Say Yes to Education Cleveland	386-1730
www.sayyescleveland.org	
Seeds of Literacy..... www.seedsofliteracy.org	661-7950
Starting Point.....www.starting-point.org	575-0061
State Board of Career Colleges/Schools	614-466-2752
U.S. Dept of Ed Federal Student Aid	1-800-433-3243
Urban Community School.....	939-8330
www.urbancommunityschool.org	
The Centers for Family and Children	961-2997
www.thecentersohio.org	
The Welsh Academy	www.ignatius.edu/welsh-academy
West Tech Alumni Association www.westtech.org.	631-9822

EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING

AARP Foundation Senior Employment	881-1155
Advanced Technology Center – Tri C.....	987-0198
Community Re-Entry/Lutheran Ministry.....	696-2717
CEOGC’s Employment Training Program.....	651-5188
Cuyahoga Job and Family Services	987-7000
Workforce Opportunity Resource Center	987-6578
Employment Alliance	875-0460
Esperanza Threads www.esperanzathreads.com....	961-9009
Junior League of Cleveland.....	231-6300
Legal Aid’s Worker Info Line	861-5899
Linking Employment Abilities & Potential.	
LEAP..... www.leapinfo.org.....	696-2716
Manufacturing Works ..www.mfgworkscl.org	588-1440
New Bridge	867-9775
Ohio Jobs and Family Services	OhioMEANSJobs.com
St. Vincent de Paul Job Training Program	
www.svdpcle.org.....	696-6525 ext. 3580
Support Empower Engage Develop Sustain (SEEDS) .	
SEEDS Ward 14 Community Engagement.....	664-4238
Towards Employment.....	696-5750
www.towardsemploymnet.org	
Urban League.....	622-0999
Vocational Guidance Services.....	431-7800
Westside Catholic Center.....	631-4741 ext. 167
Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU)	776-3900
www.youthopportunities.org	

ETHNIC GROUPS

American Indian Movement of Ohio.....	533-9443
Arab American Community Center for Economic	
& Social Services (AACCESS-Ohio).....	252-2900
Asian Services in Action	881-0330
Cleveland State University (CSU) Office of	
Inclusion and Multi-Cultural Engagement.....	687-9394
El Barrio Workforce Center	325-WORK
Esperanza.....www.esperanzainc.org.....	651-7178
Friendship Foundation of Amer-Vietnamese.....	651-6748
Hispanic Business Center ...www.hbcenter.org.....	281-4422
Hispanic Senior Center.....	631-3599
Hispanic UMADAOP	459-1222
www.hispanicumadaop.org	
Irish American Archives Society	941-5727
La Providencia – Hispanic Services Office	574-9000
Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage.....	593-0575
Nepali News Network	www.nepalinewsnetwork.com
Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition	295-0283
www.neoblackhealthcoalition.org	
N.E. Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	281-4422
www.neohcc.org	
Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center.....	651-8236
Quinone Ministries	254-2944
San Lorenzo Club.....	651-6540
Somali Community Center	938-6071
Spanish American Committee.....	961-2100
www.spanishamerican.org	
Ukrainian Museum-Archives.....	781-4329
United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland.....	566-9263

FOOD & HOUSEHOLD RESOURCES

Cleveland Seed Bank..... www.ClevelandSeedBank.org	
Cuyahoga Benefits Application Hotline:	416-4440
Cuyahoga Cty Department of Jobs and Family Services	
Ohio Direction Card.....	987-7000
Greater Cleveland Food Bank.....	738-2265
www.GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org	
Gr. Cleveland Food Bank Benefit Help Line.....	738-2067

Home remodeler closes doors

by Erik Ault

Since 1948, Breit’s Kitchen and Bath in the Gordon Square District has helped homeowners perfect their dream home. That chapter officially closed as of the 13th of February when Bob Breitenbach cleared out the last of the business’ belongings. He sat down with the *Plain Press* to remember his family business’ years serving Cleveland.

Breit’s was founded by WWII veteran Ernest (Ernie) Breitenbach, who made breakfast nooks and upholstered them in the back of Buehner’s Office

Supply store. Being a naturally gifted tradesman, Ernie was asked by the customers to create tabletops. This was a long process until Cleveland Plywood came to Ernie and asked him if he thought contact cement, which had just come out, would speed the process. “It transformed this business from where he would make one top every three days to one every three hours,” Bob, Ernie’s youngest son, recounted.

Once the countertops proved to be successful, Ernie quit making breakfast nooks and focused on formica tabletops.

In the 50s, he was able to move his business into its own building at 5218 Detroit Road and hired a crew. It was a different world back then, according to Bob: “This place was a tinderbox. They’re lucky it didn’t burn down. Everybody smoked. These guys would be cutting wood and smoking at the same time.”

As the business grew, Ernie was able to expand, and in the early sixties they started making birch cabinets, serving customers all along the west side. Ernie and his family originally lived near W. 80th and Lake but eventually settled in North Olmsted. Yet his business stayed in the same spot on Detroit Avenue.

Ernie was a skilled craftsman and good businessman, but running the business was always a learning experience. “We wrecked a *lot* of Formica. Believe me. But it was cheap for us,” Bob recalled.

Ernie retired in the late seventies and passed the business to his oldest son, Art. It was a family business which included family squabbles, but Ernie never let this disrupt the business or sever family ties. Art ran the business with Bob until 2012, when Art sold his share of the business to Bob, who has maintained sole ownership since then. There’s still business to be had, but Bob says he is ready to retire: “I’m not sad to leave. I’m done,” he said.

He remembers a lot about the surrounding neighborhood before the gentrification. There were many places that had burned down under mysterious circumstances or businesses that did not seem on the level. But he loved

serving the customers, no matter where they were: “Mrs. Johnson out in Avon Lake- really liked working for them. Mrs. Powell in Fairview Park- all very nice people.”

Bob is finishing up his final project in a home in Fairview Park, and then he is done. But he’s not going away. He will stay in the area with his family to enjoy his retirement. Many buildings in the area have been razed to make way for new ones; but the property from which Breit’s remodeled so many businesses and homes will remain intact. A developer will renovate the century-old former showroom, allowing local businesses to move in such as the women’s clothing store Yellowcake Shop. So, the building will continue to stand as a legacy of Ernie Breitenbach’s dedication to the west side and as a reminder of the hard work and loyalty which sustained the neighborhood through the years.

PB CLE is fighting for residents to have real power to make real decisions

To the Editor:

Participatory Budgeting Cleveland (PB CLE) starts with the simple idea that Cleveland residents deserve real power to make real decisions about public spending in their neighborhoods. Participatory budgeting, or a People’s Budget, builds new knowledge about how budgets work and how our City spends money.

In his comments to the *Plain Press*, Councilman Kris Harsh opposes the idea of a People’s Budget. He calls PB CLE’s proposal to convene hundreds of residents in Ward 13 and thousands of residents across the city to vote on how to spend public money through a People’s Budget ‘asinine’, ‘Reganesque’, ‘Orwellian.’

His comments show a misunderstanding-

ing of PB CLE’s proposal and a flaccid vision for democracy in Cleveland. PB CLE, a grassroots coalition of 800 residents and 60 organizations, wants deep democracy in Cleveland, where a modest portion of the City’s budget is in the hands of residents to discuss and then decide how to spend on projects that matter to them. That is power to the people – real democracy. Mayor Bibb and four members of City Council – all of whom are female – have endorsed PB CLE’s proposal to enable residents to have power. They see it as an investment in new civic infrastructure at a time democracy is under attack in Ohio and beyond.

A People’s Budget invites residents to develop ideas and select the best ones over a 12-month process. It’s hand-on, grassroots leadership development at a time when we need more leaders willing to take on tough fights to unify neighborhoods and challenge corporate power and inequality. It’s popular and it works: A recent statewide poll by Policy Matters Ohio shows nearly 8 in 10 residents of cities in Ohio support participatory budgeting. And a 2021 study showed that voters living in a district with PB in New York were 8% more likely to vote in an ordinary election.

We hope --that instead of battling a group of residents trying to strengthen our city’s fraying civic institutions, and instead of defending the status quo in a city full of injustice -- Councilman Harsh embraces PB CLE as a strategy to deepen democracy in Cleveland.

Jonathan Welle
Co-coordinator of PB CLE

Councilman Harsh suggests PB CLE predetermine how the money gets spent. We disagree. Residents are experts in their neighborhood. They know better than any single group or any single person, including their Councilperson, what’s most needed in their neighborhood.

Variance for Youth Drop-In Center applauded

To the Editor:

I have been a resident of the Near West Side for over 25 years, and I am grateful that the City of Cleveland Board of Zoning Appeals granted the variance needed for the Youth Drop-In Center project on Franklin Blvd.

Finally, a new project that so many neighborhood residents support will move forward. This project reflects our history and identity as a neighborhood that meets the needs of our vulnerable residents.

Sadly, it has been a tough fight for all those involved in the planning of the Youth Drop-In Center, especially for the young adult leaders of the project. As a resident who chooses to remain on the Near West Side despite the accelerated commercial and luxury housing development for wealthy new residents, it gives me hope that all is not lost.

If developers such as Knez and Dalad received the resistance that the young adult leaders experienced, then maybe we would have more equitable housing in our neighborhood. Instead, the green lights that for-profit developers are granted have created an economic disparity in our neighborhood that shows that profit is valued over affordability and community for low-income families.

Cleveland’s legacy of exclusionary zoning has played out so many times in hearings of the Board of Zoning Appeals, but today we are celebrating a rare inclusionary zoning win for our community that affirms the existence of people in need on Franklin Blvd.

Paula Miller

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Addiction Crisis Information & Referral Hotline .. 623-6888
Crisis Text: 4HOPE to 741741
Bellefaire JBC Homeless & Missing Youth 24/7 Hotline
www.saveCLEkids.com..... 570-8010
Fire • Police • Medical.....911
Frontline Service 24 Hour Suicide Prevention, Mental Health/
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988
Poison Control Center.....1-800-222-1222
RTA Police..... 566-5163
United Way HelpLink211

ABUSE

Adult Abuse Hotline Cuyahoga County
Dept of Senior & Adult Services.....420-6700
Child Abuse Hotline.....696-KIDS (5437)
Cleveland Animal Protective League.....771-4616
Animal Cruelty Hotline 377-1630
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center Hotline.....619-6192
www.clevelandrapeccrisis.org/chat
Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities
Major Unusual Incident (MUI) Hotline.....440-333-6841
Journey Center for Safety and Healing 229-2420
..... 24 Hour Helpline.....391-HELP (4357)
www.journeyneo.org
Long Term Care Ombudsman www.ltco.org ...800-365-3112
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
www.missingkids.com800-843-5678
National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline
..... 888-373-7888

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Arts Cleveland ...www.artscleveland.org.....575-0331



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2023 Plain Press

Cuyahoga River Community Plan	241-2414 x 610
Disability Rights Ohio	800-282-9181
.....	TTY 800-858-3542
.....	www.disabilityrightsohio.org
Drink Local Drink Tap	440-381-6430
.....	www.drinklocaldrinktap.org
Empowering & Strengthening Ohio's People.	
ESOP	(877) 731-3767
Enterprise Community Partners.....	631-0280
Environmental Health Watch.....	www.ehw.org961-4646
Fair Housing Office (City of Cleveland)	664-2018
Friends of Big Creek.....	661-7706
Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge (Facebook)	
Global Cleveland	472-3282
Greater Cleveland Community Shares.....	361-9920
Greater Cleveland Congregations	769-8732
.....	www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org
Greater Cleveland Housing Justice Coalition	770-0389
Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland.....	619-8155
.....	www.hungernetwork.org
Inter-Religious Task Force on Central Amer	961-0003
.....	www.IRTFcleveland.org
ioby Cleveland	www.ioby.org
It's About Us	440-227-8556
Keep Our Greenway Green	440-537-6461
Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity	
.....	www.leapbio.org
LAND Studio	621-5413
.....	www.LAND-studio.org
Legal Aid Society of Cleveland	888-817-3777
.....	www.lasclev.org
League of Women's Voters of Cleveland.....	781-8375
Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland	961-6968
Neighborhood Connections	361-0042
.....	www.neighborhoodgrants.org
Neighborhood Leadership Institute	812-8700
.....	www.neighborhoodleadership.org
New Beginnings Ministries	916-9270
NEO CANDO	http://neocando.case.edu
Northeast Ohio Worker Center ..	www.neoworkercenter.org
Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality.	651-2606
.....	www.ohiobudgetequality.org
Ohio Citizen Action.....	861-5200
Ohio Civil Rights Commission.....	787-3150
Ohio Climate Justice Fund	614-774-6358
Ohio Organizing Collaborative	330-743-1196
Ohio Patients' Rights	221-2724
Open Streets Cleveland (ciclevia.com)	512-0253
Organize! Ohio www.organizeohio.org	651-2606
Participatory Budgeting Cleveland	www.pbcle.com
Partnership for a Safer Cleveland.....	523-1128
Plain Press.....	https://plainpress.blog621-3060
Policy Matters Ohio. www.policymattersohio.org ...	361-9801
Protection & Advocacy System for Individuals with Mental Illness Advisory Council	
.....	www.disabilityrightsohio.org/paimi-advisory-council
Public Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).....	440-442-7297
.....	www.PAWSOHIO.org
Saint Colman's Outreach Ministry.....	651-0550
Saint Vincent de Paul Society	696-6525 x 3150
.....	www.svdpcle.org
Social Ventures Partners of Cleveland.....	231-2300
The Land	www.theland.org
The Literacy Cooperative	776-6180
.....	www.literacycooperative.org

WVIZ ideastream	www.wviz.org	916-6301
YWCA of Greater Cleveland.....		881-6878

EDUCATION

After School Prevention Resources (LMM).....	651-6841	
America SCORES	881-7988	
Applewood/Children's Aid Society Campus	521-6511	
Applewood Jones Campus	741-2241	
Aspire Greater Cleveland	621-9483	
	aspiregreatercleveland.org	
Audio Magazine Articles	888-724-6423	
Believe in Ohio	https://believeinohio.org	
Breakthrough Schools.	367-5720	
	www.BreakthroughSchools.org	
Broadway School of Music and the Arts.....	641-0630	
	www.broadwayschool.org	
Case Western Reserve University www.cwru.edu	368-2090	
Catholic Diocese Education Office.....	696-6525 ext. 1172	
Cleveland Metropolitan School District Board	838-0030	
Cleveland Central Catholic High School.....	441-4700	
Cleveland Engineering Society	440-462-9382	
	www.cesnet.org	
Cleveland Metropolitan School District	838-0000	
CMSD Volunteer Manager	838-0337	
Special Education Department	838-7733	
Office of Family & Community Engagement	838-3223	
	www.clevelandmetroschools.org	
Cleveland State University (CSU).....	687-2000	
	www.csuohio.edu	
Cleveland Teachers Union.....	www.ctu279.org	861-7676
Cleveland Transformation Alliance	592-2425	
	www.mycleschool.org	
College Now Greater Cleveland	241-5587	
Continuing Adult Education Program for Adults		
with MR/DD..(Catholic Diocese).....	334-2963	
Cuyahoga Community College	987-4000	
TRiO Educational Opportunity Centers	987-0291	
	www.tri-c.edu/EOCintake	
Tri-C Veterans Upward Bound www.tri-c.edu		
	987-4938	
Cuyahoga County		
Office of Early Childhood	www.Cuyahogakids.org	
Board of Developmental Disabilities.	241-8230	
	www.CuyahogaBDD.org	
Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Educ Ctr.....	330-657-2796	
Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio.....	www.EEOhio.org	
Esperanza.....	www.esperanzainc.org	651-7178
Garrett Morgan School of Science	838-8450	
Gerson School	694-7200	
Great Lakes Science Museum.....	694-2000	
Hawken School Early Childhood Center.....	440/423-2950	
Head Start (CEOGC).....	www.ceogc.org	589-9922
Horizon Education Centers Market Square	930-5437	
	Old Brooklyn	584-5437
Horizon Science Academy	739-9911	
Ideastream Education	www.ideastream.org/education	
Joyful Noise Neighborhood Music School	952-4398	
	www.joyfulnoiseschool.org	
Junior Achievement.....	861-8080	
Leadership Programs	687-5497	
Lincoln West High School	383-7000	
Max Hayes High School.....	383-9400	
	www.NewMaxHayes.com	
Menlo Park Academy	440-925-6365	
Metro Catholic School.....	281-4044 x 128	



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Community Guide

Healthy Cleveland	www.healthycle.org
Needs Cleveland...www.needsclleveland.org.....	400-8213
Ohio Direction Card Customer Service Center. 866-386-3071	
Self Service Portal: ssp.benefits.ohio.gov	
OSU Extension's Urban Gardening	429-8246
Ohio State University Extension	
Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga Cty	429-8200 ext. 1
Pilgrim Congregational UCC	861-7388
Redeemer Crisis Center.....	281-0808
St. Augustine Church.....	781-5530
St. Augustine Home Delivered Meals	631-7717
staugministries.org/home-delivered-meals	
St. Herman's House of Hospitality.....	631-9860
www.sainthermans.com	
St. Malachi Church Meal Program	861-5343
www.stmalachi.org	
St. Vincent de Paul Society	
Brookside Hunger Center	749-4295
Community Corner Hunger Center	631-6508
St. Pat's Hunger Center	281-5854
Salvation Army Cleveland Adult Rehabilitation	881-2625
Seeds of Hope	281-2958
Twice Blessed Free Store	273-7447

GOVERNMENT

Adult Probation - City.....	664-4930
City of Cleveland Dog Kennel.....	664-3069
Cleveland City Hall-- all City Depts	311
Cleveland Clerk of Courts	www.cmcoh.org 664-4860
Cleveland Community Police Commission	505-2920
www.clepc.org	
Cleveland Public Power ... www.cpp.org	664-3156
City Council Offices	664-2840
www.clevelandcitycouncil.org	
Ward 3 Council Member Kerry McCormick.....	664-2691
Ward 11 Council Member Danny Kelly.....	664-3708
Ward 12 Council Member Rebecca Maurer	664-4233
Ward 13 Council Member Kris Harsh	664-2943
Ward 14 Council Member Jasmin Santana	664-4238
Ward 15 Council Member Jenny Spencer.....	664-4235
Ward 16 Council Member Brian Kazy	664-2942
Cleveland Lead Hazard Control.....	664-4021
Congresswoman Shontel Brown (D-11)	522-4900
U.S. Senator J.D. Vance	522-7095
U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown	522-7272
www.brown.senate.gov	
Conservancy/Cuy Valley National Park	330-657-2909
Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.....	443-3200
Cuyahoga County Council	698-2010
District 3 Council Member Martin Sweeney	698-2230
District 7 Council Member Yvonne Conwell	698-2017
Cuyahoga County Job & Family Services.. 1-844-640-6446	
www.benefits.ohio.gov	
Cuyahoga County Dog Licenses: www.cuyahogadogs.com	
Cuyahoga County Job and Family Service Centers	
Virgil Brown	987-6978
Old Brooklyn	635-2918
Cuyahoga Cty Job & Family Services.....	987-7000
Cuyahoga County Information Service Center.....	443-8000
Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office	443-6000
Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District	443-3749
www.cuyahogaswd.org	
Cuyahoga Valley National Park.....	440-546-5996
Emergency Medical Service	623-4545
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	522-1400
Fire Department (non-emergency).....	664-6350

Suicide Prevention Education Alliance	464-3471
The Arc of Greater Cleveland	622-0755
The Gathering Place	595-9546

HOMELESS RESOURCES


Bellefaire JCB Homeless Youth Program.....	932-2800
Cogswell Hall.... www.cogswellhall.org	961-1568
Community Service Alliance	351-0655
Cuyahoga County Coordinated Intake	674-6700
City Mission Shelter.....	431-3515
Cuyahoga Cty Coordinated Intake	674-6700
Emerald Development & Economic Network (EDEN) www.edeninc.org	961-9690
Front Steps Housing & Services	
St. Joseph's Commons.....	781-2250
www.frontstepsservices.org	
Joseph's Home www.josephshome.com	685-1551
Laura's Home	472-5500
Metanoia Project www.metanoiaproject.org	338-0181
Next Step	221-8920
Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.....	432-0540
www.neoch.org	
Providence House..... www.provhouse.org	651-5982
St. Herman's House of Hospitality....	961-3806
www.sainthermans.com	
St. Malachi Center. www.stmalachicenter.org	771-3036
Salvation Army Emergency Aid.....	861-8185
Harbor Light (Two Parent Families).....	781-3773
Trials for Hope	920-2205
www.TrialsForHope.org	
2100 Lakeside Men's Homeless Shelter.....	566-0047
Volunteers of America.....	621-0120
Westhaven Youth Shelter	941-0062
West Side Catholic Center.....	631-4741
www.helpcleveland.org	
Y-Haven	431-2018

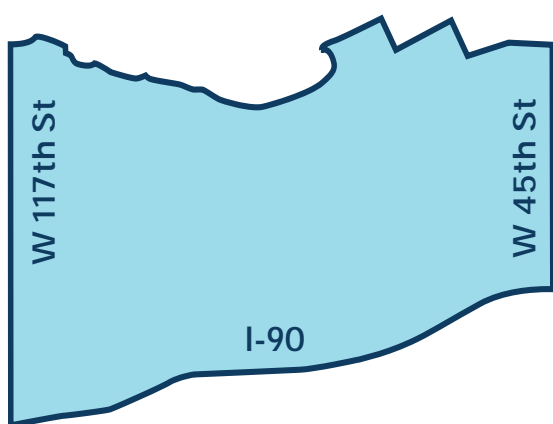
HOUSING PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

CHN Housing Partners	574-7100
www.chnhousingpartners.org	
Cleveland Department of Building & Housing	664-2007
Cleveland Energy Saver	855-343-7884
Cleveland Fair Housing & Consumer Affairs	664-4529
Cleveland Furniture Bank	459-2265
Cleveland Municipal Court Housing Division.....	664-4295
Cleveland Restoration Society.....	426-3106
Community Housing Solutions.....	651-0077
Council for Economic Opportunities in Gr.Clev.....	696-9077
Cuyahoga County Auditor's Office.....	443-7010
Cuyahoga Land Bank	698-8853
www.cuyahogalandbank.org	
CMHA Public Housing Applications.....	361-3700
CMHA Progressive Action Council	432-5536
Dept. of Aging Senior Homeowner Assistance.....	664-2833
Department of Community Development .	
Housing Rehabilitation Programs.....	664-2045
Housing Development Office.....	664-2869
Fair Housing Center for Rights and Research	361-9240
Habitat for Humanity, Greater Cleveland.....	429-1299
www.clevelandhabitat.org	
Home Repair Resource Center	381-6100
Neighborhood Assistance Corp. of Amer	888-297-5568
Northeast Ohio Apartment Association	241-1635
Ohio Housing Finance Agency	888-362-6432
Rebuilding Together	800-418-4429
Rental Housing Information Line (Legal Aid)	861-5955

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Small Business Administration.....	522-4180
Social Security Administration.....	800-772-1213
TTY	800-325-0778
Tax Prep Free..Call United Way.....	211
Tax Prep Free by AARP	623-6927
Tax Prep...Volunteer.....	www.refundohio.org
Unemployment Compensation (One Stop).....	664-4673
Veterans Affairs Dept.....	800-827-1000

PARENTING

Bright Beginnings	
Parent Support Lead Program	698-7500
https://www.esneo.org/ParentSupportLeadProgram.aspx	
Triple P-Positive Parenting Program.....	978-3292
Connecting for Kids	440-570-5908
www.conectingforkids.org	
Healthy Fathering Collaborative	211 or 436-2000

Parents get ahead of lead with new supports

Families of preschool age children minimize the legacy of lead with Bright Beginnings

Parents of preschool age children with elevated blood lead levels do not have to face the challenge alone. Bright Beginnings’ new [Parent Support Lead Program](#) empowers parents of children 3 to 5 years old with education, cleaning supplies, nutrition aids, developmental screenings, school preparedness information, and linkages to services to mitigate the impact of lead exposure. Children under age three can get services through the Early Intervention

program. “Because of rapid growth and brain development occurring in early childhood, children under the age of 6 are the most vulnerable to the detrimental impacts of lead on the body. While there may be a feeling that ‘lead poisoning’ is a problem of the past, it remains a reality for many Cuyahoga families,” said Maggie VanDyne MA, LPCC, Parent Support Supervisor at Bright Beginnings. In 2021, JAMA Pediatrics reported that children in Cuyahoga County are exposed to lead at twice the rate of the

national average. Case Western Reserve University’s 2019 study found 25% of kindergarteners in Cleveland public schools had elevated lead exposure, with some classes having over 40% of the students affected. Individuals living in the City of Cleveland are at some of the greatest risk as a vast majority of housing stock was built prior to 1978, when lead paints were outlawed for use. Exposure to lead may result in lifelong impacts on an individual’s health, behavioral functioning, and learning abilities. The Parent Support Lead Program at

Bright Beginnings addresses the specific concerns of parents with personalized service plans. Service plans focus on supporting the families’ understanding of the developmental impact of lead and outline service offerings to reduce ongoing lead exposure and encourage strategies known to promote positive child development. Service offerings may include special efforts around nutritional changes to mitigate the absorption of lead into a child’s blood stream, aiding families in maintaining lead safe spaces in their homes or providing families with developmental activities for children and helping with access to early education. Individualized supports and early action are hallmarks of the Parent Support Lead Program that serves the residents of Cuyahoga County. Those concerned about potential lead exposure or won-

dering how to react to a positive test, can access support through the [program’s webpage](#) at <https://www.escneo.org/ParentSupportLeadProgram.aspx> where they can refer themselves or someone they know. They can also contact Bright Beginnings by phone at 216-698-7500. Families of eligible children under 3 years of age may also receive these supports through Early Intervention services at Bright Beginnings. The Parent Support Lead Program at Bright Beginnings is supported by the Cuyahoga County Office of Early Childhood/Invest in Children. Bright Beginnings supports families of young children through Parent Support and Early Intervention services in Cuyahoga County and provides connections to the Help Me Grow system of supports and community resources throughout Ohio.

Legal Aid can help with Federal Income Tax issues

by Tonya Sams

If you are having tax issues, you don’t have to navigate it alone - Legal Aid is here to help! Legal Aid’s Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) is a free legal service that helps to resolve taxpayer disputes with the IRS regarding federal income tax matters. Legal Aid attorneys can help taxpayers avoid going to court because of unresolved tax issues in a number of ways including negotiating with the IRS to accept less to settle a debt than the full amount owed, and lowering or eliminating taxable income from debts that were forgiven from banks and credit companies. Legal Aid attorneys can also help

prevent the IRS from taking property, wages, and social security benefits; help with identity theft and tax preparer fraud; help obtain income tax records; protect against spousal abuses in connection with tax returns; advise taxpayers on their rights and obligations regarding the health care marketplace; and more. Legal Aid was able to help Joel (*name changed to protect privacy*) with his tax issues. Joel received a letter from the IRS saying he owed a significant amount. Joel lives with his long-time girlfriend and her three young grandchildren. He claimed all of them as dependents on his taxes, but the IRS

letter informed him that this was against the rules because he was not related to them and did not have custody. Joel was referred to Legal Aid. With Legal Aid’s help, Joel was able to demonstrate his eligibility for the child tax credits, avoid trial, and negotiate a settlement with the IRS. If you need help resolving a tax issue, call Legal Aid at 888-817-3777 or seek help 24/7 at lasclev.org. Free resources are available to help Northeast Ohio residents with tax preparation. Contact **2-1-1** or find resources at lasclev.org/taxhelp. *Tonya Sams is the Development and Communications Assistant at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland*

DROP IN CENTER

continued from page one

Laundromat or swing by the bank, and at night, I drive around Ohio City until I find a safe place to park.” Most homeless people do not own a car, especially the youth who may have been forced from their homes, unable to find suitable housing, and end up sleeping on the streets. “We [homeless] are invisible to the community, and for young people, in need

be incompatible with a residential neighborhood with young children. *The National Network for Youth Issue Brief on the Consequences of Youth Homelessness* said, in a separate article published the same year, and also provided by Garcia, says that 75 percent are substance abusers, more than a third have engaged in prostitution, and over 50 percent have a mental illness. “We are doing our best to address the safety of those we serve and the safety of those in the community,” said Foschia. “If we are improving a property and providing service consistent with the mission of our charitable organization and social service provider, what is the real issue?”

At a crowded Franklin-Clinton Block Club in the historic St. John’s Episcopal Church, residents from both sides aired their concerns and grievances. Several people opposing the YDIC asked the *Plain Press* to leave the meeting, claiming it was a private affair among neighbors. Chair Alex Frondorf had to remind attendees that it was a public meeting open to the press. A vote regarding the Board of Zoning Appeals variance request for the proposed use resulted in 30 for support of the location, 21 opposed, and one invalid. Paul Sherlock, an 11-year resident of Ohio City and the organizer of Radical Hospitality, which invites Greater Cleveland residents for free food and conversation every fourth Tuesday of the month at different locations, said he regrets the demonization that took place on both sides of the issue.

“There was an emphasis on the moral issue, like helping at-risk youth, and that people opposing the location somehow did not care about them.” On February 6, following more than two hours of testimony by both sides, the Board of Zoning Appeals granted Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry zoning code variances, allowing them to proceed with plans for the drop-in center, the first of its kind in Cuyahoga County.

“We plan to move forward with a renovation timeline and look forward to opening the center as soon as the building is ready,” said Foschia. Opponents of the youth center threatened to file a lawsuit following approval. “The neighbors on Franklin Blvd. are, of course, very disappointed that the BZA did not follow the legal standards governing their responsibilities to Cleveland citizens when evaluating requests for variances and special permits,” said Garcia. “This disappointment is compounded by frustration with the hearing that included blatant misstatements and ad hominem attacks from the proposed operators and advocates for the YDIC. At this time, the neighbors are evaluating all our options, including potential litigation.”

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of basic support like a shower, or a place to wash their clothes and charge their phones, or seek counseling, it is key to their survival,” Jones said. Jones supports the Youth Drop-In Center (YDIC) proposed for the Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry (LMM) building at 4100 Franklin Boulevard in Ohio City. She could not imagine what it must be like for a young woman in her position, without a history of renting an apartment, no home or car, and no security to rely upon. She believes such a young person would be vulnerable and at risk. Jones is too old to use the drop-in center, which serves people 16-22, but understands the importance of homeless youth having access to a place where they can rest, a shower, food, and receiving support services. “We are all only one bad day away from homelessness,” said Jones. The Youth Drop In Center (YDIC) would operate 10 hours per day, providing youth access to basic needs, including laundry, showers, phone chargers, etc., and provide intensive case management and housing navigation services available based on the comfort level of individual youths. ‘ Dolores Garcia, a resident of Ohio City and property owner on Franklin Boulevard, lives with her seven children and husband a few doors from Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry. She supports the center, just not on her block. Garcia is with several residents and homeowners on Franklin Boulevard, including Robert Shenk, his wife, Celine, and former Cleveland Housing Court Judge Ron O’Leary, that oppose the location. “The proposed youth center does not meet the needs of unhoused youths in our community,” Garcia said. “Best practices for your drop-in centers are supposed to be around the clock, twenty-four hours operations, and are not compatible with a residential neighborhood. The YDIC center at LMM is proposed as limited hours, closing at 8 PM. We have been told in no uncertain terms that there is no control by the operators of the YDIC over people once the center either closed or they left the center. We have had previous issues with unhoused people on our block.” Garcia said she experienced people trespassing on her property, sleeping on her porch, and trying to open their doors. The YDIC, because it has limited hours, will only exasperate the problem, according to her. “It is also incompatible with development along Franklin Boulevard Historic District,” she added. “Ohio City Inc (OCI) has a strategic plan to continue development along the boulevard for single and two-family homes. YDIC does not fit with that plan.” O’Leary and several residents reached out to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry to offer assistance in finding another site before the decision to move forward with the project, but never reached an agreement. Lorain Ave and W. 25th Street, and the May Dugan Center, were offered as suggestions because of their proximity to public transposition. Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry President and CEO Maria A. Foschia, hired in July 2022, said the main issue from residents is safety, which they have addressed. “There are assumptions about young adults coming into the center and what that means to serve young adults experiencing homelessness. I cannot understand why they jump to a conclusion,” said Foschia. “We will have a safety officer on site trained in trauma-informed de-escalation techniques plus a fully trained staff. We plan to improve fencing surrounding the property and add security gates, plus more lighting and safety cameras.” Garcia cited an article published by *Published Journal of Adolescent Health* in 2016 that indicated youth drop-in center users would

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Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District	881-6600
Ohio Dept. of Insurance Missing Money.....	800/686-1526
Ohio Governor Mike DeWine	614-466-3555
Ohio State Senators	
21st District: Kent Smith	614-466-4857
23rd District: Nickie J. Antonio	614-466-5123
Ohio State Representatives	
20th District: Terrence Upchurch	614-466-7954
13th District: Michael J. Skindell	614-466-5921
15th District: Richard Dell’Aquila	614-466-3100
Police Department (non-emergency).....	621-1234
Community Policing Unit.....	623-5577
Police First District.....	623-5100
First District Community Relations	664-6634
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Second District Community Relations ...	664-3293
Prosecutor’s Office (Cleveland)	664-4850
Prosecutor’s Office (Cuyahoga County).....	443-7800
RTA Answer Line.....www.rideRTA.com	621-9500
TDY (for hearing impaired)	781-4271
RTA Paratransit	566-5244
Report “Crime Guns”.....	241-8477
Social Security Administration.....	1-800-772-1213
TTY	1-800-325-0778

HEALTH CARE

Asian Services in Action -- International	
Community Health Center	361-1223
Care Alliance.....	781-6228
CWRU School of Dentistry	368-3200
Center for Integrated Therapies.....	227-8668
Circle Health Services	721-4010
Cleveland Sight Center.....	791-8118
COVID-19 Vaccine Location Information - Ohio	
https://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov	
Cuy Community College Community Health, Wellness	
And Preventive Care Center.....	987-3555
Cuy Community College Dental Services	987-4413
Grace Hospital.....	687-1500
Holy Family Home Health Care & Hospice	440-888-7722
www.holyfamilyhome.com	
Hospice of the Western Reserve.....	383-2222
Lutheran Hospital’s Health Clinic.....	363-2413
Lutheran Hospital Physicians Center.....	363-2119
McCafferty Health Center.....	664-6603
MetroHealth Medical Center. www.metrohealth.org.	778-7800
Neighborhood Family Practice	281-0872
www.nfpmedcenter.org	
Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland.....	961-8804
St. Augustine Health Campus	634-7400
St. Augustine Towers Assisted Living	634-7444
staugministries.org	
Tri-C Preventive Care Center	987-3555
Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic at McCafferty HC.....	939-0699
Visiting Nurse Association.....	931-1300
William Patrick Day Early Childhood Center.....	736-2920

HEALTH RESOURCES

Achievement Center for Children.....	292-9700
Affordable Care Act www.healthcare.gov.....	1-800-318-2596
Alzheimer’s Association -Cleveland Area.....	721-8457
American Red Cross.....	431-3010
Arthritis Foundation Northeastern Ohio	831-7000
Canine Companions	www.canine.org .
Catholic Charities Health and Human Ser.....	334-2900
Cleveland Department of Public Health	664-2324
www.clevelandhealth.org	
Cleveland Emergency Medical Services	664-2555
Cleveland Health Partnership	664-4350
Cleveland Division of Environment	664-2300
Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center.....	231-8787
Cuyahoga County Board of Health.....	201-2000
Cuyahoga Cty Veterans Service Commission.....	698-2600
Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland.....	328-9989
Epilepsy Association	579-1330
Get Covered Ohio . getcoveredohio.org	833-628-4467
Health Improvement Partnership Cuyahoga	309-2447
www.hipcuyahoga.org	
Help Foundation	432-4810
Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County.....	698-7500
Hospice of the Western Reserve.....	383-2222
Lead Safe Living and Healthy Homes	664-2175
Lupus Foundation of America/Ohio	888-665-8787
Malachi House.....www.malachihouse.org.....	621-8831
Metro Health Old Brooklyn Campus	957-2192
Medicaid Hotline www.Medicaid.Ohio.gov ..	1-800-324-8680
TDD: 800-292-3572	
Medicaid Benefits http://benefits.ohio.gov. ...	1-800-324-8680
Medicare	1-800-633-4227
MetroHealth Care Plus	957-2325
MetroHealth Line.....	778-7878
Multiple Sclerosis Society.....	696-8220
North American Menopause Society.....	440-442-7550
Ohio Dept. of Developmental Disabilities	800-617-6733
Ohio Medicaid Consumer Hotline	800-324-8680
www.members.ohiomh.com	
Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission.....	227-3250
Ohio Relay Service (TTY/TTD).....	800-750-0750 ext. 711
Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program	
www.insurance.ohio.gov	800-686-1578
Pollution Standard Index – Cleveland	664-7442
Project SAFE.....	991-7233
Rose Garden Respite Center.....	671-0789
Services for Independent Living.....	731-1529 V/TTY
www.sil-oh.org	

ReStore -Habitat for Humanity	429-1299
Right to Counsel Cleveland Free Eviction Help.....	861-5835
www.FreeEvictionHelp.org	
Step Forward .. www.stepforwardtoday.org	350-8008
Thriving Communities Institute	515-8300
www.thrivingcommunitiesinstitute.org	

LIBRARIES

Cleveland Public Library Main Branch.....	623-2800
Homebound Service Department.....	623-7005
TDD-TTY.....	623-2916
www.cpl.org	
CLEVENET Library Consortium	
www.clevnet.org/cleveland.php	
Brooklyn Branch.....	623-6920
Carnegie West Branch.....	623-6927
Fulton Branch.....	623-6969
Jefferson Branch.....	623-7004
South.....	623-7060
CSU Library (Plain Press issues).....	687-2486
Cuyahoga County Public Library.....	398-1800
www.cuyahogalibrary.org	
Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled	
http://olbpd.cpl.org/	
The Foundation Center	861-1933
www.foundationcnet.org/cleveland	
www.grantSPACE.org	

MENTAL HEALTH AND HELP LINES

Alcohol, Drug Addiction Mental Health Ser.....	241-3400
ADAMHS.....	TDD . 623-6888
www.admhsc.org	
Applewood Centers.....	696-5800
Applewood Carlos & Mary Jones Center.....	741-2241
Applewood Centers – Detroit Ave	521-6511
Beech Brook Assertive Community Treatment.....	831-2255
Catholic Charities Outpatient Mental Health	939-3700
www.ccdccle.org	
Children’s Aid Society.....	521-6511
Cleveland Christian Home... www.cchome.org.....	671-0977
Cleveland Dept Public Health	
Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse	664-6666
www.clevelandhealth.org	
Community Re-Entry -LMM	696-2717
Courage to Caregivers	536-7699
www.couragetocaregivers.org	
Cuyahoga Tapestry System of Care	443-6062
Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance.....	800-826-3632
Emotions Anonymous East	440-331-6702
Frontline Services - Crisis Intervention Team.....	623-6888
Frontline Services	text: 741741
623-6555	
Future Directions COS.....	251-8265
www.futuredirections-cos.org	
LINKS-Cleveland.....	781-5530
Lutheran Family Service.... www.lfsohio.org.....	281-2500
Magnolia Club House	721-3030
www.magnoliacclubhouse.org	
Men’s Action Network.....	651-1302
MetroHealth Clinic.....	778-4428
Murtis H. Taylor Human Services System	283-4400
Children Community Behavioral Health Care.....	281-7192
www.MurtisTaylor.org	
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Gr. Cleve.....	875-7776
www.namigreatercleveland.org	
National Eating Disorders Association	800-931-2237
www.MYNEDA.org	
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	800-273-8255
Ohio Guidestone ... www.ohioguidestone.org	440-260-8300
Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services	
.....	1-877-275-6364
PLAN of NE Ohio.....	321-3611 x 6483
Signature Health (Connections)	831-6466
The Living Miracles Peer Empowerment Ctr	727-0220
Thrive Peer Recovery Ser 24 Hr. Warmline	440-886-5950

MONEY MATTERS

Affordable Care Act www.healthcare.gov....	1-800-318-2596
Better Business Bureau Anytime Line.....	241-7678
Business Advisors of Cleveland.....	426-2053
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Serv..800-MEDICARE	
City of Cleveland Office of Fair Housing and Consumer	
Affairs	664-4529
Community Financial Centers.....	205-4470
Consumer Finance Protection Bureau	
www.consumerfinance.gov	
Cuyahoga Cty Consumer Affairs SCAM SQUAD ..	443-7226
www.consumeraffairs.cuayhoagcounty.us	
Cuyahoga County Job & Family Services	881-5554
Cuyahoga EITC Coalition ...www.refundohio.org..	436-2000
Do Not Call Registry.....	1-888-382-1222
Earned Income Tax Credits .. www.refundohio.org	
..... For Appointments Call... 211	
Economic Community Development Institute	912-5655
Energy Star.....	1-888-382-1222
Greater Cleveland Community Credit Union ..	216-664-2142
greaterclevcu.com	
Health Insurance Marketplace/ Affordable Care Act	
.....	1-800-318-2595
www.healthcare.gov www.ohioforhealth.org	
Internal Revenue Service (IRS).....	1-800-829-1040
Medicaid Consumer Hotline	1-800-324-8680
Medicare Part B.....	1-800-633-4227
Ohio Atty Gen Consumer Protection	800-282-0515
Ohio Benefits	www.benefits.ohio.gov
Ohio Consumers’ Counsel.....	800-282-9448
Ohioans With Disabilities.....	1-800-282-4536 voiceTTY
Ohio Victims of Crime Program.....	800-582-2877

	www.neofathering.net
MomsFirst Outreach Offices	
Merrick House	771-5077
May Dugan	631-5800

SENIORS

A Place for Us.....	672-5730
Benjamin Rose Institute.....	791-8000
Cleveland Department of Aging.....	664-2833
www.city.cleveland.oh.us	
Cleveland State University Project 60.....	687-2279
Cuyahoga Com College	
Center for Aging Initiatives...987-2274	
Cuyahoga County	
Division of Senior & Adult Services.....	420-6700
www.dsas.cuyahogacounty.us	
Golden Buckeye Card.....	1-800-422-1976
Greater Cleveland Volunteers	391-9500
Gunning Park – Rose Center for Aging Well ..	373-1917
Hispanic Senior Center.....	631-3599
James Woods Rose Center for Aging Well.....	373-1916
Kirby Manor Apartments.....	521-5445
Long Term Care Ombudsman.. www.ltco.org ...	696-2719
National Caucus & Center on Black Aged.....	721-9197
North Coast Seniors Connect.....	623-2902 ext. 10
www.cpl.org/seniors.aspx	
Ohio Department of Aging Elder Rights Unit....	800-282-1206
Ohio Senior Health Insurance Info Prog.....	800-686-1578
Older Person Law Unit.(Legal Aid).....	687-1900
Passport	800-626-7277
Senior Citizen Resources Inc.	749-5367
Senior Transportation Services	1-800-983-4782
West Rose Multipurpose Senior Ctr.....	631-7717
West Side Community House Senior Enrichment	
.....	771-7297 ext. 303
Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging.....	621-0303
Family Caregiver Support Program ...	800-581-6884
www.areaagingsolutions.org	

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

ADAMHS.....	348-4830
Alcoholics Anonymous	241-7387
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Ascent info@ascent.org	844-7 ASCENT
Catholic Charities Services- Hispanic Center.....	631-3499
Community Action Against Addiction.....	881-0765
Covenant Adolescent Chemical Dependency	
Treatment and Prevention Center.....	574-9000
Cleveland Treatment Center ... Project SAFE.....	991-7233
Drug Information Prog. -Cuy County.....	436-2000 or 211
Edna House for Women ... www.ednahouse.org...	281-7751
Frontline Services Mobile Crisis Team	623-6888
Hispanic Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse	
Outreach Program (HUMADAOP).....	459-1222
Hitchcock Center for Women	421-0662
Matt Talbot Inn.....	440-843-5522
MetroHealth Project DAWN (Naloxone).....	778-5677
www.metrohealth.org/projectdawn	
Narcotics Anonymous.....	1-888-GET-HOPE (438-4673)
www.wagsna.com	
Northeast Ohio Recovery Residence Network	860-0696
Recovery Resources.....	431-4131
Salvation Army Alcohol Detox Unit.....	781-2121
Stella Maris	781-0550
www.stellamariscleveland.com	
Women’s Recovery Center	651-1450
www.womensctr.org	

YOUTH

Bellefaire JCB	932-2800
Big Brothers, Big Sisters.....	621-8223
Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio	883-2106
Boy Scouts of America.....	861-6060
Camp Happiness (Children w/ MR/DD)	334-2963
Centers for Families and Children.(Intake).....	623-1445
City Life Center (Youth for Christ)	465-3997
www.yfccleveland.org	
Cleveland Christian Home	671-0977
Adoption.	688-4186
Future Coalition	www.futurecoalition.org
Girl Scouts of Lake Erie Council.....	481-1313
Hispanic Youth Center (HUMADAOP)	459-1222
Junior Achievement of Greater Cleveland.....	861-8080
Juvenile Court.....	443-8400
Juvenile Detention Center.....	443-3300
Keep Playing Cleveland	440-227-2598
Merrick House	771-5077
Merrick House West Youth Program	398-8420
My Commitment My Community (MyCom)	399-2271
Next Step	221-8920
OhioGuidestone	440-234-2006
Saint Malachi Center.....	771-3036
Salvation Army Ohio City	631-1515
Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth	295-7239
West Bethel Baptist Church Youth Services	281-6044
West Denison Baseball Leagues	251-5790
www.westdenisonbaseball.org	
W. 130 TriLeague	www.trileague.com..... 476-8456
West Side Community House	
Sisterhood Program	771-7297 ext. 315
Boys Council	771-7297 ext. 346
Youth Community Diversion Program.....	664-6250
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	566-5445
www.youthopportunities.org	
Youth Pages for Cuyahoga County Teens	
www.211cleveland.org/youthpages	

GLORIA ARON

continued from page one

her daughter’s school to invite parents to tour Audubon. Gloria went on the tour and together parents from both schools identified 16 problems that needed addressing at Audubon. Gloria said she timidly raised her hand to volunteer to speak to the Cleveland School Board about their issues. The parents also went to the grassroots community group the Buckeye Woodland Community Congress to seek help with their cause. Aron said 13 of the 16 problems they brought to the Board of Education were fixed. This included a broken bathroom that had previously resulted in boys and girls sharing a bathroom with a hall monitor directing who could go in.

Aron’s involvement in educational issues continued with participation in efforts by Cleveland settlement houses and a group called WELCOME (West-siders, Eastsiders Let’s Come Together) working for peaceful desegregation. She joined with other parents through the West Side Ecumenical Ministry to help create a handbook to help guide parents in helping their children with their homework. Aron became a founding member of the Cleveland School Budget Coalition – a citywide group involved in identifying how to better direct school funding to make an impact on classroom learning.

Aron was one of the parent representatives on the Advisory Commission to the Office on School Monitoring and Community Relations which oversaw the desegregation order administered by United States District Court Judge Frank Battisti. Aron believed that the desegregation order if completely implemented would make good things happen for under resourced schools in low-income neighborhood

throughout the City of Cleveland. Commenting on that effort in writing for the Women’s History Project, Aron said, “I truly believe desegregation made many good things happen like the Arts Magnet; black and white parents coming together with common concerns; and lifelong friendships between adults and kids were formed. Sadly, Judge Battisti’s untimely death brought it to an end too soon. The work was not finished, and our kids continue to suffer.”

In sharing the story of her life with the Women’s History Project, Aron recalls a dispute with Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization over how Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds would be spent that led her block club to join Near West Neighbors in Action (NWNIA). Aron says she became the representative of her block club to NWNIA and became chair of its CDBG Committee. Aron says all the NWNIA block clubs came up with a plan for spending CDBG funds and presented it the Cleveland City Council CDBG Committee. Aron also represented NWNIA on a citywide coalition of grassroots community groups and on the national Neighborhood Peoples in Action (NPA) group.

An article in the March 22, 1982 issue of the *Plain Press* titled *500 Near West Neighbors attend convention* notes the crowd of over 500 people that attended the convention of NWNIA that year at St. Ignatius High School where Congressman Louis Stokes addressed the crowd. At that meeting, Gloria Aron was elected president of NWNIA.

NWNIA was involved in citywide efforts to get funding for a weatherization program and relief for residents facing having their gas shutoff. Aron was involved in some of the famous

actions that led to retribution against grassroots community organizations by the City of Cleveland and some funding organizations. “Yes, I took part in the board-up of East Ohio Gas, the shutdown of Sohio’s Annual Meeting, and the Hunt Club action. Although we could have thought through some of these actions more carefully, our purpose and reasons for them were clear. Our campaign was to get these institutions to commit more dollars to help people with their gas bills,” she said.

A spin off from NWNIA was the Near West Housing Corporation which became involved in creating affordable low-income housing through a lease-purchase program.

Aron was also involved for many years with area settlement houses such as the West Side Community House and Merrick House. Through that involvement, Aron participated in creating a shelter for homeless families so families would not be split up when they were homeless and in reforming the way Cuyahoga County addressed sex abuse.

Aron also focused on health care and creating a fairer State of Ohio Budget. In the 1980s she participated in efforts supported by Merrick House to keep Metro Hospital as a public hospital when hospital administrators wanted to make it a private hospital.

In 1995 when MetroHealth tried to close its Outpatient Pharmacy, Aron was among those who reacted immediately to prevent that from happening. When hospital administrators came back with a proposal to just keep it open for those with Medicaid and insurance, the community members challenged that decision before the Federal Office of Civil Rights in Chicago and won. The ruling stated that because of federal funding MetroHealth had received in the past it was required to keep the pharmacy open and available to all in the community.

In more recent years, Aron has

been involved with a Northern Ohio coalition that began in 2003 as part of a statewide coalition that brought 5,000 people to Columbus to protest State of Ohio budget cuts that would affect healthcare, childcare, senior programs, and other services that many Ohioans depended upon. That action led to the formation of a group, now called Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE) that meets every two years to make budget recommendations and testify before the Ohio legislature on the importance of State of Ohio programs in the State budget.

Aron continued to be an advocate for her immediate neighborhood on W. 81st between Lorain and Madison. The June 2022 *Plain Press* reported that Gloria Aron and her neighbor Nora Rodriguez used the Public Comment period at the May 16 City Council meeting to testify about speeding cars that ignored the stop sign at W. 81st and Lawn Avenue.

Celebration of Life

Community members are invited to a Celebration of Gloria Aron’s Life to be held on Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the home of Chris Aron and Dan Thatcher – 6884 Anthony Lane, Parma Hts. OH. Parking is available on the street or the parking lot of Valley Forge High School 9999 Independence Blvd.

To view tributes to Gloria Aron by family and friends visit the *Plain Press* website at: <https://plainpress.blog>.

Editor’s Note: Sources used for this article include the *Plain Press* archives, the *Women’s History Project* and several recorded interviews of Gloria Aron: “Gloria Aron interview, 09 June 2007” (2007). *Cleveland Regional Oral History Collection*. Interview 955021_999034. <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/croh000/871>; and “Gloria Aron interview, 14 July 2017” (2017). *Cleveland Regional Oral History Collection*. Interview 955035. <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/croh000/1100>.

COMMUNITY BOARD

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHERE TO FIND RESOURCES FOR SENIORS? The Cleveland Westside Village will have a speaker from the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging on March 11, 2023 at 1:30pm at the Carnegie West Library, 1900 Fulton Rd. Cleveland. Fatima Perkins, Director of Community Outreach and Advocacy at the WRAAA will provide information on WRAAA

programs and resources including the Aging and Disability Resource Center, which provides information, assistance and referral to help older adults maintain their independence, and the Family Caregiver Support Program, which helps caregivers connect with resources. Please register for the event at: <https://clevelandwestside.helpfulvillage.com/events/283-do-you-have-questions-about-where-to-find-resources-for-seniors>

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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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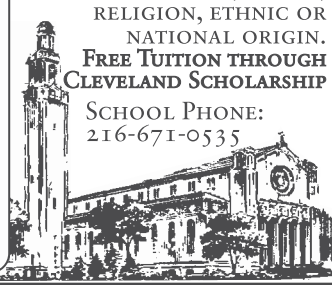


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Mass Times:
MTWF: 9AM
SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL: 5:00PM
SUNDAY: 9AM AND 11AM
TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS:
MONDAY 5:30 & SUNDAY 5PM
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & CONFESSION:
3:30-4:30PM IN CHURCH
ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND LAST RITES: AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
INQUIRIES ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC: CALL CHURCH OFFICE

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