



PHOTO BY DEBORAH ROSE SADLON  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023; Purple Martens have returned to their nest boxes at Edgewater Park.

# Plain Press

Cleveland’s Westside Newspaper

## Woman discovers recovery in Cleveland

by Erik Ault  
It can happen to anyone.  
Jen Halstead was a teenager from Trumbull County with a promising future. She had a loving and supportive family with both parents at home. She was following the typical life plan: Col-

lege, kids, a quiet home in the country. Yet she woke up twenty years later wondering, “How did I get here?”  
None of them dreamed it would strike their family, least of all Jen. She had heard the stories of people lost to addiction but never considered she

would succumb. She thought she was just partying and living life. But inch by inch, she lost control.  
It started with smoking marijuana as a teenager. She would smoke it when hanging out with friends. But these people would slowly introduce her to stronger substances.

Despite trying harder drugs, she still felt she was in control of her behavior. She had a life and a future, but she also enjoyed partying which did not interfere with her life plans. Even having a child at seventeen did not hinder her desire to build a future. In spite of her increasing drug usage, she maintained a normal life: She graduated high school, had a job with the federal government and went to college supported by her parents and boyfriend.

She was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis at 18. To manage the pain, a doctor prescribed her opioids. This was in the early 2000s when knowledge of the harmful and addictive nature of painkillers was not as widespread. But the prescription was just the bridge she didn’t need, one that would link her from partying to addiction. She already knew how to get access to street drugs, but she was always too inhibited. After taking the doctor’s prescription, now she knew what she wanted.

She increasingly took stronger drugs but still never viewed herself as a drug abuser. But as time went on, she became increasingly involved in the drug lifestyle. She would have periods of **continued on page 5**



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER HALSTEAD  
Wednesday, March 22, 2023; Edna House for Women, 2007 W. 65th; Jennifer Halstead, an alumna of the drug recovery program at Edna House, standing next to the sign of the residential building. Women reside at the Edna House for six months regardless of their ability to pay where they become sober and productive. According to the website, “Our vision is that every woman who desires sobriety has the opportunity to achieve it.”



PHOTO BY DEBORAH ROSE SADLON  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023; Cuyahoga County Engineer’s Building, 2429 West Superior Viaduct: This building is slated for demolition to make way for the Bridgeworks mixed use project.

## Study examines connecting Lakeview with surrounding community

by Bruce Checefsky  
“This project is very near and dear to my heart,” said Matt Giles, Principal at OHM Advisors, a private company providing architecture, engineering, planning, urban design and landscape architecture, surveying, and construction engineering. Giles is a lifelong Cleveland resident. “It aligns very closely with my interest.”  
Giles explained to the fifty or so attendees at the Malachi Center Social Hall in Ohio City, there for the overview of Lakeview Connects, a project to improve linkages between areas south of the Shoreway and Lakeview to reduce its physical isolation. Lakeview Connects differs from the Lakeview Terrace Master Plan. The Master Plan of Lakeview Terrace involved rehabbing the apartment buildings and modernization of the community center.  
Ohio City Inc (OCI) commissioned the \$103,000 Lakeview Connects

study. The Gund Foundation and Cleveland Foundation made the project possible.  
“How do we connect Lakeview Terrace with the rest of Ohio City?” Giles asked, projecting a slide that showed a Connectivity Analysis Study Area.  
Giles said Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), which owns and manages the property, has a long-range plan to de-concentrate centers of poverty throughout the Greater Cleveland area, including Lakeview Terrace, a message not meant to have people leave but blur the lines between Lakeview Terrace and the surrounding community.  
“There are better ways to integrate the immediate Lakeview Terrace neighborhood with the surrounding neighborhood,” Giles said, “while improving safety, access, connectivity, and inclusive redevelopment.” **continued on page 4**

## Development projects seek Tax Increment Financing

by Chuck Hoven  
It has become a trend in Cleveland for big projects to now request 30-year non-school Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for developments. For years the City of Cleveland has given 15-year tax abatements for residential developments.

Now the 30-year non-school TIF offers another way to subsidize developments.  
The City of Cleveland Economic Development Department Director Tessa Jackson said at this year’s budget hearings that she wants to review the long-term financial implications City

of Cleveland development incentives. However, presently the Economic Development Department is still recommending 30-year non-school TIFs for large projects. Tax Increment Financing allows the developer to divert a portion **continued on page 4**



PHOTO BY DEBORAH ROSE SADLON  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023; Lakeview Community Center, 1290 W. 25th Street: A plan called Lakeview Connects hopes to establish links between the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority’s Lakeview Terrace community and the surrounding Ohio City neighborhood.



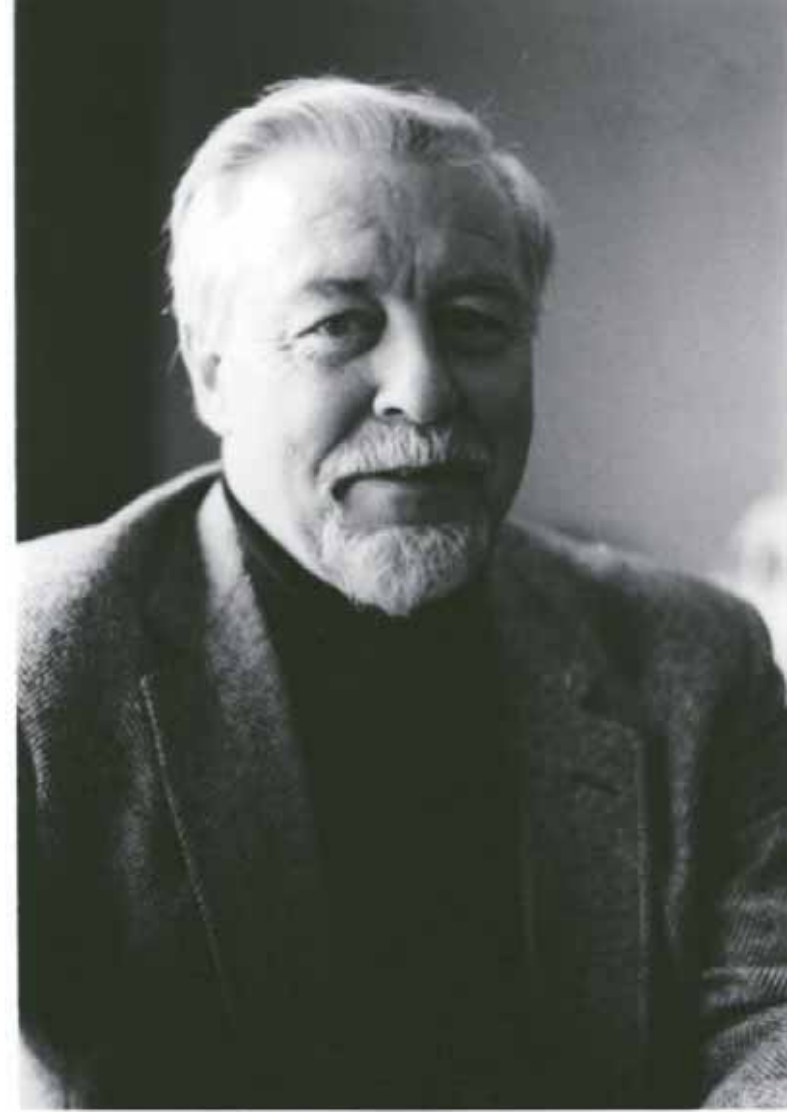


PHOTO FROM PLAIN PRESS ARCHIVES

In Memory of George Hrbek: June 20, 1931- February 19, 2023.

**ARTS**  
**ART HOUSE'S NEXT FAMILY OPEN STUDIO** will be on Saturday, April 17 from 1-3 p.m. This a free, family-friendly workshop occurs on the third Saturday of every month (unless

there is a holiday). Children of all ages are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Be sure to read our policies page before you register online. A \$5 donation per person for supplies is recommended. Register at [arthousinc.org](http://arthousinc.org).

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## In Memory – George Hrbek

### We'll See You on The Frontlines, George

by Molly Martin

I can hardly believe that George Hrbek is gone, but if I find him somewhere, I know it'll be on the frontlines of social justice movements as they are happening. Most people who have lived on the Near West Side for decades can rightfully scoff at my knowing George for only four years, but that didn't stop me from soaking up as much time as his family could spare.

I first heard the name George Hrbek in 2019 when I started working with the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH), the organization he helped found in the late 1980s to establish a community watchdog to hold our public systems accountable to providing dignified care for people experiencing homelessness. George had a way of moving moments into action. It was his sacred practice. The first time we met, I sat across from him at a table in the back of Denison United Church of Christ. We were organizing a protest in response to cease and desist threats to the church for providing overnight hospitality to unhoused people on cold winter nights. At the action later that week, 80 of us gathered outside City Hall, while inside George pitched a tent

with Rev. Nozomi Ikuta and others until the city's Safety Director agreed to meet with us on Christmas Eve.

George was a Lutheran minister who built a white antiracist spiritual community in Chicago, and he was also my teacher. He always had a genuine desire to understand me, and people who are willing to fail by acting. George was resolute on how deeply committed we must remain to challenging public institutions and the well-intended for their capacity to squash transformation from happening. After his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, George became a champion for participatory budgeting (PB), our budding local campaign for more direct democracy and resident-led decision-making on public spending. He gave public comment at City Hall the month before he passed, urging City Council to support a PB pilot.

In late January, we held a community dinner together in support of a Youth Drop-In Center at 4100 Franklin Blvd. During dinner, my heart stretched a mile wide the moment I noticed a hospital band on George's wrist. I stared at him with concern, while he looked back at me and asked, "So what exactly is your plan to bring all these people back in this room so we can get the meeting

started?"

Ten days before George died, we sat together drinking milkshakes and I reaffirmed my promise to grassroots movement building. I promised him that I would honor his life by continuing to build a joyful community filled with hope and an undying love for life, as he had. George reminded me often that he wanted to be remembered for being a flawed person, or what he called a "real human being." While I relished his thoughts on change, politics, and his own death, what I learned most from George came from his actions in this life. In the blink of time that we knew each other, I witnessed him reveal truth in the way he interacted with others in the world.

I miss George's pure attention and the way he proclaimed someone's presence when they entered a room. There are so many moments ahead of us to channel the same conviction that made George unafraid of consequences. I cannot wait to be with him on the frontlines again soon.

*George Hrbek was born June 20, 1931, in New York City. Surrounded by family, he died at home on February 19, 2023.*

**CHILDREN'S DAY, DIA DEL NINO**, April 29 from 1-3 p.m. at the Pivot Center for Art, Dance and Expression, 2937 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street.

**SPACES:** 2900 Detroit Ave. Open Wednesday-Saturday from 12 PM - 5 PM, and by appointment. *Magic Mountains, Magic Cities* Tia-Simone Gardner (Saint Paul, MN) Oracle Gallery Thru April 28. *Fulfillment Center, Pt. I Alexander Si* (New York, NY) Gund Gallery Thru April 28

**WALKABOUT TREMONT:** Showcases the best of Tremont's creative, diverse and walkable neighborhood the second Friday of each month. For more information visit [walkabouttremont.com](http://walkabouttremont.com)

**WEST 78<sup>TH</sup> STREET STUDIOS** has over fifty venues open the third Friday of each month from 5-9 p.m. Located on W. 78<sup>th</sup> Street north of Lake Avenue.



**GORDON SQUARE ARTS DISTRICT:** For arts events in the Gordon Square Arts District visit: [gordonsquare.org](http://gordonsquare.org)

**PIVOT CENTER FOR ART, DANCE AND EXPRESSION:** visit the center from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily. For individ-

Tube at: <http://www.youtube.com/cuyahogaCounty> or call 698-2010 to access the schedule of various Cuyahoga County Council committee meetings.

**WARD 12 NEWSLETTER** from Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer is available by entering [bit.ly/ward12/Newsletter](http://bit.ly/ward12/Newsletter) into your browser.

**WARD 14 OFFICE** has moved to The Pivot Center for Art, Dance and Expression at 2937 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. Free parking. Appointments preferred – call 664-4238.

#### EDUCATION

**DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF OHIO** offers free books for kids ages 0 -5. Sign up and get a free book every month from birth to age 5. To sign up go to [OhioImaginationLibrary.org](http://OhioImaginationLibrary.org) to start your child's free monthly book delivery.

**CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT** is holding a Pre-K -8 Enrollment Fair on Wednesday, April 5 from 5-7 p.m. at John

continued on page 7

# Get it while it lasts!

## COVID-19 resources FREE until May 11<sup>th</sup>

Vaccines are still the primary way to fight COVID. No cost COVID test kits and vaccinations are available at Cuyahoga County Board of Health and Cleveland Department of Public Health Community Health Clinics until May 11.

After May 12, you will have to pay out-of-pocket or with insurance. You have choices. Minimize your risk of COVID-19 infection by getting vaccinated TODAY.



Cuyahoga County: Call 216-201-2000 for more information or visit <https://ccbh.net/> Cleveland: Call 216-664-2324 or visit <https://www.clevelandhealth.org/>

**Western Reserve**  
Area Agency on Aging  
If you have questions about long-term care and support services, visit [www.areasolutions.org](http://www.areasolutions.org)

ual organization hours visit [pivotartcenter.com](http://pivotartcenter.com)

**COMMUNITY FIRST DISTRICT POLICING COMMITTEE** will meet Thursday, April 6, from 6-7 p.m. at the Gunning Recreation Center Benjamin Rose Senior Center, 16700 Puritas Avenue. (please note new location this month). Join with the Cleveland Community Relations Board, Cleveland Division of Police, county officials, First District Police, and community residents to discuss safety issues in the First Police District.

**CLEVELAND CITY COUNCIL** meetings are available live and recorded on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/clevelandcitycouncil>. They are also available live at TV20 at [tv20cleveland.com/watch-now/](http://tv20cleveland.com/watch-now/). To find listings of upcoming City Council and Committee meetings visit: [www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/resources/events](http://www.clevelandcitycouncil.org/resources/events).

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COUNCIL** meetings are held at 5 p.m. every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at Cuyahoga County Administration Building at 2079 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street (E. 9<sup>th</sup> and Prospect). You can watch the meetings – live or archived on You-

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Development at W. 11<sup>th</sup> and Fairfield rushed while issues raised at block club go unresolved

by Chuck Hoven

The fallout from a rushed decision over a development project on W. 11<sup>th</sup> and Fairfield has led to one long time devoted Tremont developer selling his properties and moving to Cuyahoga Falls. Board of Zoning Appeals June 27, 2022 approval of a variance for parking lot for retail establishments that would share a driveway with buildings owned by David Territo in a multifamily residential district was the issue that drove him from the city. Speaking of the City of Cleveland’s Board of Zoning Appeals, Territo said, “the biggest problem is they didn’t follow their own zoning laws. They followed nothing.” Territo said he sold his properties to someone that will use them as an Air-BnB.

Tremont West Development Corporation which prides itself in its process of having block club approval before projects go forward, seems to have failed to adhere to this process.

An email from TWDC Economic Development Committee Chari Fredrick Calatrello was submitted by Tremont West Development Corporation for the record to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) at its June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. The email shows that the North of Literary Block Club, at a meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 wanted to rescind its April vote in support of the variances.

In the email Calatrello says, “I just came from a spirited North of Literary meeting where the main issue on the agenda involved residents of W. 11<sup>th</sup> who would be impacted by the Driftwood developers’ proposal to add 25 parking spaces off the existing easement access on W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Primarily, Dave Territo, but also other neighbors complained that the plan would cause traffic and safety issues for them.” The email says, “after much discussion, the block club voted to reconsider the original vote in light of the parking plan that was developed after the April meeting and to recommend that the parties return to the Economic Development Committee to further discussion on the parking issue.”

The email noted a request was being made via Executive Director Cory Riordan to Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack to ask for a postponement of the June 27<sup>th</sup> BZA meeting so the issue can be addressed at TWDC’s July 7<sup>th</sup> Economic Development Committee meeting.

The postponement never occurred. And both Councilman Kerry McCormack spoke of the importance of the community process in Tremont. Then without acknowledging that the North of Literary Block Club and the TWDC Economic Development Committee chair wanted to revisit the issue, he said the neighborhood block club approved of the project, the Economic Development Committee and the TWDC Board approved the proposed development. He offered his support for the project.

Territo, Keith Sutton – Territo’s long time development partner, and others that testified against the use of the driveway with the shared easement and a parking lot configuration that impacted residents of a front house on W. 11<sup>th</sup> as well as rear houses that used the driveway with the easement.

In making a motion to approve the retail space and the parking lot BZA

member Alana Faith noted the support of both Councilman McCormack and Tremont West Development Corporation. The BZA approved both variances by a 4-0 vote.

In making the decision to approve the variances, the Board of Zoning Appeals voted against the advice of their own staff attorney that the law required screening between the proposed parking lot and the nearby residents. She cited the law that said, “The parking lot and that portion of the driveway back of the building line are to be adequately screened from the street from the adjoining property in a residence district by a hedge sightly fence or wall not less than 4 feet 6 inches high and not more than 5 feet high located back of the setback building line. All lighting is to be arranged so that there will be no glare that is known to occupants of adjoining property and residence district and the surface parking lot is to be smoothly graded hard surfaced and adequately drained.”

One proposal from those opposed to the project involved reducing the size of the parking lot from 25 to 13 spaces. Putting in screening and giving up the right to the easement was another proposal. Territo said he was not opposed to the overall project just the cars that would be driving past the homes next to the development, including one residence whose door opened right into the drive with the easement.

Former City of Cleveland Planning Director Bob Brown testified for the nearby residents and said that there was no hardship that wasn’t self-imposed by the developers. He said the health, safety and welfare of residents should be given precedence over increased profit for the developer

The problem brought up at the block club meeting was that the developers planned to have retail space that would be accessed by customers through the same driveway. A resident who attended the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, explained to the Plain Press that this would mean that an upstairs resident of 2220 W. 11<sup>th</sup> would be exiting her house door that opened into the shared driveway. The resident explained that if the new development was all residential, the residents could be given a notice to drive slowly past her door in case she was coming out. If the people using the driveway were retail customers of businesses, giving such notice would not be possible.

While the owners of 2220 W. 11<sup>th</sup> and the rear houses made that case before the Board of Zoning Appeals at its June 27, 2022 meeting, the Board of Zoning Appeals, despite this safety concern, awarded a variance to allow retail establishments on the site.

The proposed project called for 100 residential units, 5,000 square feet

of retail space and the creation of an additional 25 car parking lot for both residential and retail use.

1111 Fairfield Avenue mixed use apartment project spokesperson Aaron Taylor of J-Roc Development told the Board of Zoning Appeals that everyone was excited about the apartment project and the retail. He said the house at 2226 W. 11<sup>th</sup> was purchased to provide additional parking because neighbors at the block club meeting requested more parking be supplied for the project. He noted that the retail portion of the project was what required a variance.

The project is in a multifamily residential district where retail is not allowed –therefore a variance would be needed to go forward.

TWDC Executive Director Cory Riordan noted the approval of the project at the April 19 North of Literary Block Club May 5<sup>th</sup> Economic Dev Committee. Riordan said the North of Literary Block Club agreed to hear from directly impacted neighbor at their June meeting at which time the Block Club was still very supportive of the building. There were questions about the parking lot, he said.

While Riordan attached the email referenced above that indicated the North of Literary Block Club and Economic Development Committee desired to revisit the issue concerning the additional parking for the project. He seemed to downplay the issue and let Councilman McCormack’s contention that the project had full support of TWDC go unchallenged.

TWDC’s involvement

What was not mentioned in the BZA testimony was the financial stake that TWDC has in the project.

The Tremont West Development Corporation’s (TWDC) minutes of its Board of Directors meeting show some of the history of a development project and role of the development corporation in that process.

The January 2022 TWDC Board of Director’s minutes reference pressure from the City of Cleveland to expedite a project proposed by J-Roc, the developers of a previous project in Tremont called Electric Gardens, for a new project called Driftwood Apartments at the corner of W. 11<sup>th</sup> and Fairfield. The minutes say: “Developers of Electric Gardens seeking Block Club agenda in February. Going through standard TWDC process but has generally faster timelines than feasible. City of Cleveland is pushing things through faster and encouraging expedience, TWDC is seeking more community input opportunity.”

The minutes of the February 17, 2022 TWDC Board of Directors meeting have a short note in the Executive Director’s report concerning W. 11<sup>th</sup>



PHOTO BY DEBORAH ROSE SADLON  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023; W. 11<sup>th</sup> and Fairfield: Despite objections raised at the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting on June 27,2022, the Board of Zoning Appeals approved a variance allowing 5,000 square feet of retail space as part of a project by 1209 Fairfield LLC in a multi-family residential district. Owners of the property at 2220 W. 11, just South of the new development, did not object to the 100 residential units proposed, but were concerned that there would be no way to contact retail customers of businesses in the project to ask them to go slowly down the driveway their house will share with the new development. Their concern was that their tenant exits her apartment by a door located in the shared driveway.

and Fairfield “Meeting with Block Club went well. New Developer (same as Electric Gardens).”

The February 17, 2022 minutes of the TWDC Board of Directors meeting included a mention of a discussion of the West 11<sup>th</sup> Street Development concerning a Non-Binding Letter of Intent and Purchase Agreement. The minutes say: “TWDC Developer fee projection: \$100K or 10% of development, whichever is greater; Sale of parcel would be \$40K; Includes 20% @100% AMI affordability provisions.”

In its March 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting the TWDC Board of Directors, TWDC Executive Director Cory Riorden reported to the Board indicates that the block club did an initial review of plans for the 90-unit development at W. 11<sup>th</sup> and Fairfield at a February 15, 2022 meeting.

At the same March 17, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting, Tremont West Development Corporation announced the sale of a parcel of land for the W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street Development the sales price was listed at \$40,000. Executive Director Cory Riordan updated the Board of Directors on what had happened since the February meeting. The minutes indicated that TWDC had acquired property and is involved with the development team. A development agreement had been negotiated between the developer and TWDC. 20% of the units are to be affordable and TWDC and the Developer fund will receive funds as a result of the project. The report indicated that TWDC can claw the lot back if ground is not broken within 24 months. The purchase agreement was then approved by the Board of Directors.

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**PHOTO BY BRUCE CHECEFSKY**  
**Tuesday, March 7, 2023; Lakeview Connects meeting, Malachi Center Social Hall, 2416 Superior Viaduct: Arthur Schmidt, a project manager and senior planner with OHM Advisors, reviews results from stakeholders in a working group and interviews with community residents.**

## DEVELOPMENT SEEKS TAX FINANCING

continued from page one

of the property taxes they would ordinarily pay on the development towards paying off the financing for the project.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

The Finance, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Cleveland City Council Meeting of March 13, 2023 reviewed and approved two requests for 30 year TIFs. One request was for the Bridgeworks Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) project at the site of the former County Engineers Building on Superior Viaduct just South of St. Malachi Church. The other was for 1900 E. 6<sup>th</sup> LLC.

The Bridgeworks LLC project is to include 140 residential apartments, a 132-room hotel, 246 space parking garage, a 120-seat restaurant and bar, and 12,000 square feet of office space. The estimated cost of the project is over \$103.7 million. The project is heavily subsidized with a City of Cleveland awarding 15-year tax abatement for the residential portion of the project in addition to the 30-year non-school Tax Increment Financing. The project is also seeking a 2-million-dollar economic development loan from Cuyahoga County. Developers of the project are Graham Vesey and Marika Shiori Clark, who have undertaken several development projects in the Hingetown district of the Ohio City neighborhood.

The second project approved for a 30-year non-school TIF, 1900 E. 6 LLC involves investing \$63.4 million converting the Baker Building in downtown Cleveland into 97 room hotel. The firm investing in the project is NouvoRE, a Denver-based firm that *Crain's Cleveland Business* in a September 8, 2022 article titled “NuovoRE, developer tied to the Walton family (family behind founding of Walmart), details plans for downtown Cleveland hotel” says has ties to the “uber-wealthy Walton Family.”

According to the *Crain's Cleveland Business* article the project will be called the Fidelity Hotel. The Crain's article outlines some of the Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority's involvement in subsidizing the project, including a way the project is using its connection to the Port Authority to avoid paying Cuyahoga County sales tax on construction materials.

While City Council members asked some good questions, it was clear from the discussion at the Committee meeting that City Council members were willing to approve the projects without having

full knowledge the benefits and costs of the project.

For example, in the first hearing when questioning Graham Vesey of Bridgeworks LLC, Cleveland City Council President Blaine Griffin, who also served as the Chair of the Finance, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee seemed to be praising Vesey for having 70 of the 140 apartments with rents affordable at 100% of the Area Median Income (AMI) rather than the 80% other developers were doing. Griffin said, “As my colleague Councilwoman Santana reminds me 80% AMI is not always affordable, 100% AMI is a little bit of a sweeter deal.”

It may be a sweeter deal for the developer, but not for potential renters. 100% AMI, as measured by the federal Housing and Urban Development Department, refers to the median income for the Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor Ohio Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA). In 2021 the AMI for the Cleveland SMSA was \$62,315 a year. This means a household would have to have a household income of at least \$62,315 a year to afford to rent one of the apartments at Bridgeworks. At 80% AMI a household would have to have an income of \$49,852 to afford to rent one of the apartments at Bridgeworks.

Ward 8 City Council Representative Michale Polensek did ask how the 100% AMI translated into monthly rent costs. Developer Graham Vesey said at 100% AMI the workforce affordable apartments would have rents starting at between \$1,500 and \$1,700 a month.

Using the HUD definition of affordable units does little for most Cleveland residents being able to afford units in Bridgeworks. The median household income in the City of Cleveland is \$33,678. Also, 31.4 percent of Clevelanders are living below the poverty line which means a household of three with income less than \$24,000 a year.

City Council members did not dial down and determine how much the TIF for Bridgeworks would cost the non-school government entities losing property tax – the City of Cleveland, the Cleveland Public Libraries, the MetroParks and Cuyahoga County.

Ward 16 City Council Representative Brian Kazy did ask how much the TIF for the 1900 E. 6<sup>th</sup> project would cost per year. The City of Cleveland's Economic Development Department staff person said the developer would be paying \$495,000 in new taxes to the Cleve-

# CONNECTING LAKEVIEW WITH NEIGHBORHOODS

continued from page one

An assessment of sidewalk areas showed non-existing or damaged sidewalks, limiting pedestrian infrastructure. Another map showed existing community assets in the Ohio City neighborhood near Lakeview Terrace. OMH determined that residents of Lakeview Terrace like where they lived, with the proximity to buses, schools, and services, but need help getting to destinations.

The air quality is an issue and has been for many years. Traffic along the Shoreway and trucks from Whiskey Island and south of the river from Ontario Stone have caused a density of dust and particles to rise around Lakeview Terrace as delivery trucks make their way to I-90 and the Cleveland Inner Belt, added Giles. OCI monitors air quality for an accurate reading on various levels.

Arthur Schmidt, a project manager and senior planner with OHM Advisors, reviewed results from stakeholders in their working group along with earlier interviews with Ohio City community residents and used that information to create an outline of community objectives, including equity, inclusion, and access.

“We talked about opportunities for minority-owned and local businesses from a land use perspective,” said Schmidt. “Preserving existing industry, adding office and light industry, continuing to provide affordable housing and create market-rate housing, and even louder from the community were more restaurants and retail, and a celebration of the community through arts and culture.”

Safety was a key issue, along with pollution and environmental impacts and access to the riverfront from the community. Schmidt said results from the survey informed the next steps in the process, which include taking ideas and suggestions back to OHM to provide solutions and recommendations. Giles added that he would like to see all Ohio City neighbors have access to the river and the Flats West Bank through Lakeview Terrace.

CMHA is the seventh largest

public housing authority in the United States, with 60 affordable housing developments and over 10,000 units.

There are 44 residential buildings of three types at Lakeview Terrace, some with views of the lake. The housing complex included the first community center in a public housing project and was innovative for its decorative arts, made possible by the Treasury Relief Art Project in 1935.

“Sometimes I feel like when we say stuff, they are not taking it in or listening to us,” said Lakeview resident Samantha Gallo, referring to meetings held by OCI and their advisors, often held in the community room at Lakeview Terrace. “We want more interaction with the community, like parks and public spaces.”

While Giles and OHM Advisors have reached out asking residents about their needs, it is not always what you think, according to Erle Potts, a resident who has lived at Lakeview Terrace for ten years.

“They ask us questions about what we need,” said Potts. “They always talk about restaurants and bars, and once you get to W25th Street and Detroit Ave towards Lorain Ave, that is an alcoholic avenue. We could use more children and younger adult-friendly activities.”

Potts said residents of Lakeview Terrace need maintenance issues resolved that are the responsibility of CMHA, including renovation and repair of individual units.

At the center of the air quality issue is dust kicked up by trucks leaving Ontario Stone Corporation, making their way to I-90 and the Cleveland Inner Belt. Ontario Stone operates a storage area south of the Cuyahoga River, where the crushed stone gets delivered to various construction companies in the Northern Ohio region. Dust blows toward Lakeview Terrace, causing residents to close their windows and wear masks during the worst of it.

A report by the American Lung Association found Cleveland ranked as the 27th most polluted city in the nation for particle pollution and ozone.

“The levels of ozone and particle

pollution in Cleveland can harm the health of all of our residents, but particularly at risk are children, older adults, pregnant people, and those living with chronic disease. Both ozone and particle pollution can cause premature death and other serious health effects, such as asthma attacks, cardiovascular damage, and developmental and reproductive harm. Particle pollution can also cause lung cancer,” said Ken Fletcher, Director of Advocacy for the Lung Association, in the report issued in April 2022.

Marc Barricelli, vice president of Ontario Stone Corp, said his company has been in business since 1960 and has owned the property where they operate since the 1970s. His grandfather was an Italian immigrant who came to Cleveland during the Great Depression. He expanded the family trucking business and recognized the need for limestone for building and construction.

“We wholesale limestone. Any construction project completed in Cleveland and the surrounding area has our limestone in it,” he said. “This plan [Lakeview Connects] will affect our business. For many years industry, residential, and entertainment have not worked together. We are all neighbors and need a solution. I am not some obscure, nameless individual from several states away. I am here to find an equitable solution.”

Barricelli said most businesses in a residential area face challenges, but there is no reason to be adversarial like it was in the 1980s. Elevating the Willow Avenue Bridge has been suggested as a possible solution to reduce truck traffic near Lakeview Terrace. Most of the discussions have been worth considering, but some ideas are unacceptable to him.

“When discussing the Willow Avenue Bridge as a solution, elevating it means using a lot more land to make it work properly and to code,” he said, suggesting it could interrupt his business.

“I do not favor anything that goes directly in the middle of my land. If something should happen to us, it is not a hole easily filled.”

ing apartments, restaurants, and hotels. In a market with a shrinking population are we simply shifting jobs from older businesses to newer ones?

Most importantly, how will the development make any difference to Cleveland residents? How many Cleveland residents will be hired? What will the prevailing wages be? Would the project go forward and create these jobs without the subsidies? Will the developers share their numbers to prove their benefit to the community outweighs the community's need for increased property tax revenue? What could be funded by property tax dollars that the City of Cleveland, the Cleveland Public Library system, the MetroParks, and Cuyahoga County are giving up?

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# WOMAN IN RECOVERY

continued from page one

stability but would often fall back into destructive behaviors. She got caught up with a guy who pushed a riskier life. While with him, she denied that she had a problem. But this denial came to a head in 2006 when she was arrested and incarcerated for complicity in a bank robbery. Her parents, aided by her now sober ex-boyfriend, took custody of her children. Now Jennifer had a record.

This was when she reflected that something had gone wrong. She had dreams and ideals. She wanted a good job in finance and wanted to work with autistic children. She desperately wanted to get back on track in life to be a good mother and a member of society. But now she was in her mid-twenties and in prison. “I have wasted so much time,” she realized. It was time for a change.

She got out in 2011 but still struggled with sobriety afterward. She thought that willpower alone would drive the necessary changes. She was exercising, going to school for social work and sincerely trying. But it was not enough. Again, another doctor prescribed her opioids for pain management, even though she was an established user. It was all too much. She never learned how to cope with the stresses of life without drugs. She relapsed again.

After her incarceration, she maintained only periodic contact with her parents and children. They thought the prison sentence would be enough to break her bad habits. Four years after it, she was using and trafficking again. But she was far from just partying and having fun. She was trapped entirely by addiction: “It starts out by thinking, ‘I’m going to have fun’ or for the social aspect. But it’ll end up usually using by yourself in a dark place. It’s not like you’re using to go out and have a good time. You’re using to get through the day,” she said. No one knew what to do.

She was caught by a police officer with having a personal amount of fentanyl, and Jennifer had convinced herself that though she was only using a small amount, it was not enough to cause damage. But she was wrong. She kept using to the point of no return.

Narcan brought her back. In 2019, a police officer found her overdosed and administered the opioid antagonist to clear her system and revive her. They took her back to the station and put her on probation. Trumbull County probation sent her to Edna House, a drug treatment house for women on W. 65<sup>th</sup> in Cleveland, to await her charges.

She entered Edna House hopeless, riddled with guilt and shame. “Where did my life go?” she wondered. She was convinced that, at 38, she had burned through all of her chances in life, so being sent to a halfway house in an unfamiliar city was pointless. The charges of her probation violation came in: Ten more years in prison. She felt that she finally had enough and was ready to do whatever it takes to give up her addiction, but it was too little too late. Now she was to live with the consequences of her actions for a decade behind bars.

But surprisingly, in the summer of 2021, the judge showed mercy and lowered her felony charge to a misdemeanor. She no longer faced the threat of a prison sentence. He had no reason to grant her leniency, but now she was given one final chance to set things right. She considers this to be a miracle that allowed her to turn her life around.

Edna House was the key to this turnaround. Living with other women who faced similar issues showed her that she is not alone and how to live a healthy life. “Edna House was probably the best thing that happened because it took me out. For six months, I was surrounded by other women who changed their lives. There’s just something really special about Edna. When the



PHOTO BY ERIK AULT  
Tuesday, March 21, 2023; Edna House for Women, 2007 W. 65th; the facade of Edna House, which is housed in the former convent at St. Colman’s. Edna House took over the convent in April of 2006 and has helped over 1500 women tackle their issues and learn necessary life skills. Many alumnae return to the Edna House as volunteers to help current residents on their path of recovery.

Edna alumnae come in, it’s not just that they’re sober, it’s that they’re successful and doing really well for themselves which is super encouraging,” she feels.

Once she had been in the program for six months, she started working as a parking lot attendant at the United Bank Building on W. 25th. She has been doing this now for a year. She even found a second job working at MetroHealth with women in recovery. She was surprised that MetroHealth would hire someone like her, given her background. But her background is the exact reason why they hired her: They wanted someone who can show struggling women that recovery is possible.

Falling into the mire of addiction can happen to anyone. But so can redemption. Jennifer is living proof of this. She will soon enter Cleveland State to finish her degree in social work. She is committed to helping other women recover. And despite all the trauma her addiction has put her family through, she is still close with her parents and children whom she visits on the weekends. She is grateful for the opportunities she has received since coming to Cleveland. She is not afraid to confront the choices she made in the past which made her who she is today. But most importantly, she envisions a bright future for herself and her family. She can now be an attentive mother to her children and productive member of society: “I’m not fearful all the time of what’s going to catch up to me. I can be a good example to people. I can’t change anybody, but I’m just going to keep doing what I’m doing and be supportive.”

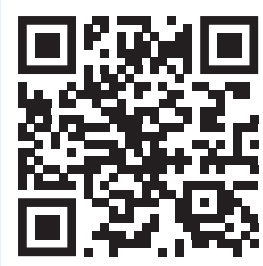
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# Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus opposes public funding for Browns Stadium

by Bruce Checefsky

The Cleveland Browns lease at FirstEnergy Stadium will expire in 2028. The Haslam family and Haslam Sports Group, owners of the Browns, launched a feasibility study regarding the future of FirstEnergy Stadium conducted by HKS Architects, which designed the Minnesota Vikings \$1 billion enclosed US Bank Stadium. The study completed in February has not been released.

Ward 12 Cleveland City Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer reported on efforts by the City Council to unlock the costs of operating the Cleveland sports arena at the recent Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus (CCPC) March Membership Meeting. After considerable debate by City Council members at the February 24 budget hearings, Maurer concluded the answer is found in the \$9 million a year to pay off the bonds still owned on the existing stadium. Capital repairs add \$4 million. Insurance and property taxes bring the total to \$14.6 million to keep the stadium on the books.

The Browns pay \$250,000 yearly to rent the stadium. Other revenue includes \$4 million a year, a percentage



Ward 12 Cleveland City Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer

of the sin tax collected by Cuyahoga County, and \$10.2 million from the City of Cleveland General Fund, or 1.4% of its entire budget.

“The debts we owe are hard to find in the general budget,” said Maurer. “The annual audit offers a narrative on the stadium going back to 1997.”

Maurer and fellow city councilpersons asked the city administration if revenue from the stadium and associated taxes cover the stadium expenses.

“They told us no,” she added.

The Tennessee Titans unveiled plans for a \$2.1 billion stadium, with the city of Nashville contributing \$760 million and the state of Tennessee tossing in another \$500 million. The \$1.26 billion in public funding is the largest to date committed to a stadium project surpassing the \$850 million the Buffalo Bills received for their new \$1.4 billion stadium. The Chicago Bears recently purchased Arlington International Racecourse as a potential new site for a stadium. The city of Chicago has proposed another \$2.2 billion renovation of Soldier Field, which includes adding a roof, to keep the team downtown. The Baltimore Ravens are planning another massive renovation to M&T Bank Stadium after completing \$120 million in improvements in 2019. The Maryland Stadium Authority secured up to \$1.2 billion in borrowing power to overhaul the Ravens home and Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore Orioles, to keep both teams in town, as reported by Sports Radio, 92.3 The Fan, the flagship broadcast station for the Cleveland Browns.

A new Browns stadium could

include a dome or retractable roof near the lakefront immediately east of downtown. Early projections are between \$1 billion and \$2 billion.

“If you live in the City of Cleveland, you pay double taxes, both a County and City tax,” said Steve Holecko, Political Director of the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus (CCPC).

CCPC found during the Quicken Arena renovation referendum in 2017, now the Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, over 74% of Clevelanders opposed the expenditure.

“As far as the Cavs games at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse, and we can assume the numbers are similar to the Browns stadium, over 70% of people attending the games do not live in Cuyahoga County, and 90% do not live in the City of Cleveland,” said Holecko. “The numbers are even higher for concerts and events like Disney on Ice.”

Dr. Brad R. Humphreys, Professor of Economics at the University of West Virginia and an expert on sports economics and the economics of gambling and sports stadiums, said sports subsidy programs are shocking in their equity implications. In Cleveland, as in other major cities, taxpayers subsidize a sports team owned by a billionaire, whether they care about the Browns or have ever been to the stadium.

“It is not out of the ordinary for taxpayers in a city to be subsidizing a private activity by a for-profit, privately held firm,” said Humphreys. “Team owners can threaten to move their franchise. The threat is credible. It is the root of the problem.”

The increasing trend around the

country is for sports franchise owners to demand a new sports stadium, and they have the leverage to do it, even while the current stadiums are still functional, said Humphreys. A domed stadium could provide a superior fan experience, but paying for it out of general tax revenue from the City is difficult to define on equity grounds.

“This happens largely outside the control of individual taxpayers in Cleveland because of a public policy in the United States that allows team owners to threaten to leave the city. If there were no credible threat, Haslam could not extract this kind of subsidy from taxpayers. They know the football team is deeply ingrained part of the civic fabric of Cleveland and can gain tremendous leverage by the rules of public policy.”

Roldo Bartimole, an independent journalist who started a political newsletter *Point of View*, which ran from June 1968 to December 2000, and wrote for *The Cleveland Edition*, *The Cleveland Free Times*, *Cool Cleveland*, and earlier in his career, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, said none of the stadiums pay property taxes. Twenty-five years later, he figured Cuyahoga County lost over \$500 million in tax revenue.

“Most of the lost taxes, at least 60%, come from the Cleveland Schools,” said Bartimole. “The stadium owners promised to pay \$15 million yearly to the public schools and never did.”

Humphreys said professional sports teams and facilities are good at concentrating economic activity in and around the stadium on game day. New economic impact, which would not happen in the city if the team and game



Journalist Roldo Bartimole were not there, is hard to define.

“Someone going out to get a beer on game day would have happened somewhere else in Cleveland at some other time,” he said. “That spending is not an actual tangible economic benefit to the community. Twenty years of research published in peer review economic journals shows no tangible new economic benefits associated with professional sports in any city at any time. It is a myth to claim economic benefits by a new NFL stadium.”

The Browns regular season from 1999 to 2023, following the construction of FirstEnergy Stadium, is 127-258-1. The franchise ranked near the bottom of the division every season except for a playoff win in 2020.

“Some frustrated voices are coming from City Council whenever a discussion about the stadium arises,” said Maurer, speaking for herself and not on behalf of City Council. “Our sports teams are part of the community fabric of the city. It is who we are. The NFL has made it complicated because of their track record in treating players, the physical toll of the game, racial elements, and certainly our quarterback. The Browns are not a team easy to root for.”

## Corner of W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Chatham was once an important part of grocery shopping in Cleveland

From the late 1930s until the early 1960s the corner of W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Chatham was a vibrant part of the grocery shopping experience of many Clevelanders who came to shop at the West Side Market. Yarid Sahley, age 86, whose family was in the grocery business during that time period, shared some of his memories with the *Plain Press*.

Yarid Sahley currently serves as an Arch Deacon at St. George Syrian Orthodox Church on W. 14<sup>th</sup> in Cleveland’s old South Side, now called the Tremont neighborhood, and sometimes passes by the corner of W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Chatham where his family members owned businesses during his childhood and young adult years.

Yarid’s father, Roger Sahley, owned a produce store just south of Chatham, at a location that today is a parking lot. Yarid’s uncle, Farris Sahley owned a grocery store on the corner of Chatham at 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup>. The Sahley brothers – Farris and Roger -- rented their storefronts from Herman Herskovic and Gilbert Rosewater who owned a furniture store on W. 25<sup>th</sup> south of Chatham.

The website [www.clevelandhistorical.org](http://www.clevelandhistorical.org) notes that the West Side Market opened its Produce Arcade in 1914 – two years after the opening of the West Side Market. In addition to the 126 stands in the Produce Arcade, the City of Cleveland for years allowed other merchants to set up stands on the sidewalks near the market. As a child Yarid remembers the produce merchants selling their goods on the sidewalks of W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street in the area within a couple of blocks of the West Side Market.

These sidewalk sales included his family selling produce in front of his father’s produce store. He remembers the police coming by on occasion to tell them and other produce merchants to back up to the sidewalk and stay out of the street. He says W. 25<sup>th</sup> was very lively with people coming and going on the streetcars. He remembers

women picking up live chickens to take home from the West Side Market. Yarid remembers liking to watch a merchant that ground fresh horseradish at a stand on W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street.

When his father had the produce business, Yarid remembers going with him to the food terminal on Woodland Avenue. He recalls his father taking him to an establishment near the food terminal when he was about five or six years old. He said he remembers going up some stairs and meeting the Don of the Produce World. He sat on the Don’s lap and was given a quarter, which Yarid said was a lot of money for a child of that time. Yarid explained that the Mafia controlled the produce business during that time.

Yarid’s Uncle Farris ran two good sized grocery stores. The Sahley Grocery Company which opened the stores in the late 1930s had one location at 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup> (Northwest Corner of W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Chatham) and one location at 13550 Lorain Avenue. The groceries sold dry goods like coffee, sugar and flour, canned and bottled goods, boxed goods, and various soaps and cleaning products. Yarid says at the time the Sahley Grocery Company was a big store. When the stores opened, its competitors were A & P and American Meat Market.

Yarid says that both his father and his uncle got their start in the grocery business selling produce at the Central Market which was downtown where Progressive Field is today. Yarid said other Cleveland grocers that got their start at the Central Market at that time included members of the Fazio and Rego families.

A 1939 ad from Sahley Grocery Company shows some of the items sold at the time with their prices: 3 LB Box of Argo Starch for 19¢; Lifebuoy Soap – 5 bars for 24¢; large bar of Ivory Soap for 7 ½¢; Snow Drift Shortening , 3 LB Can for 43¢; Pillsbury’s Family Circle Flour, 24 ½ LB Bag for 65¢; Pure Cane Sugar, 10 LB Bag for 44¢; 2 LB

can of Del Monte Coffee for 45¢; 2 LB Box of Graham Crackers 13¢; three 14 oz. bottles of Catsup 25¢; Giant Green Peas, two cans for 29¢; and Borax, twenty mule, 2 LB box for 25¢.

The years during World War II also had an impact on the grocery business. Yarid Sahley still has a copy of a War Ration Book issued in his name in 1942 when he was a child. The book shows some of the Rationing Orders and Regulations that people had to submit to and grocery merchants like his uncle had to follow.

Yarid said his uncle ran the Sahley Grocery at 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup> until about 1945. He then sold it to Jim Shalala, who ran the store from about 1945 to 1947. Shalala then moved to a new location at Ridge and Pearl Road and sold the store at 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup> back to

### City of Cleveland announces formation of the new Cleveland Public Market Corporation

The first months of this year have brought major developments for the West Side Market, including the founding of the new non-profit, the naming of the inaugural board, the initiation of the executive director search, and the release of the first phase of the Market master plan.

Articles of incorporation for the new Cleveland Public Market Corporation (CPMC) were filed on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, establishing the new non-profit governing body for the West Side Market.

CPMC board members were recommended by the West Side Market Advisory Committee and Mayor Justin M. Bibb. The board will initially be comprised of 15 members, with a maximum 21 in the future. It includes three people nominated by Mayor Bibb, one by Cleveland City Council, and three people nominated by the board of the United West Side Market Tenants Association (UWSMTA). Moving forward, directors will be nominated by the Mayor, City Council, UWSMTA, or the Board of Directors.

“The Advisory Committee conducted

the Sahley family. Yarid said that his father then moved from the produce store south of Chatham to run the larger grocery at 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup> from about 1947 until maybe 1960 or 1961. At that time his father traded stores with his landlords, Herman Herskovic and Gilbert Rosewater, who moved their furniture business to 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup>. Yarid Sahley said, “I still remember Herman and Gilbert rather well. They were gentleman in all respects.” His father, Roger, opted for a smaller grocery again in his old location, south of Chatham and continued to run it for a couple of more years – till maybe 1963, says Yarid.

Today, the former Sahley Grocery Company location at 2104 W. 25<sup>th</sup> is an empty storefront. The Maron family now owns the building, and a family member lives on the top floor.

an extensive process of outlining criteria and recommending initial board members so we could ensure the board represents a broad range of expertise, connections, and lived experiences, reflecting our diverse customer and merchant base,” said Jessica Trivisonno, Senior Strategist for the West Side Market.

The inaugural CPMC board members are: Dave Abbott, retired president of The George Gund Foundation; Carrie Carpenter, Senior Vice President, Regional Manager of Corporate Affairs, Huntington National Bank; Shelly Cayette, Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, Cleveland Cavaliers; Amanda Dempsey, previous West Side Market Manager; Colette Jones, Chief Marketing Officer, Cleveland Foundation; Henry Hilow, Attorney, Hilow & Spellacy; Dr. Don Malone, President of Cleveland Clinic’s Ohio Hospitals and Family Health Centers; Kerry McCormack, Ward 3 Councilmember; Tom McNair, Executive Director, Ohio City Inc.; Randy McShepard, Vice President of Public Affairs and Chief Talent Officer,

Following its time as the home of the Sahley Grocery, the building served as a furniture store for many years. Tom Feuerman, an employee at the store from 1969 to 1979, purchased the business along with his brother Alex in 1979 and continued to run the business as W. 25<sup>th</sup> Furnishings until July of 2015 when MRN Management (the Maron family business) told the Feuerman brothers that they would not be renewing the lease.

**Editor’s Note:** This article contains some corrections to the timeline and succession of business owners in an article in the September 2017 *Plain Press* titled *Building at W. 25<sup>th</sup> and Chatham once a grocery, then a furniture store, now awaiting a new tenant*.

RPM International, founder of Rid-All Green Partnership; Tom Nagel, retired from DB Schenker; Jason Russell, Vice President, Operations and Leasing, Bedrock Detroit; Tanisha Velez, Owner, Cleveland Fresh Microgreens; Ramat Wiley, Owner, Adun Spice Company; and Ann Zoller, Senior Advisor, Strategy Design Partners

The formation of CPMC is part of the Bibb Administration’s strategy to revitalize West Side Market. The non-profit model follows national best-practice for the management of public markets. Mayor Bibb’s nominees to the board are Dave Abbott, Jason Russell, and Ramat Wiley. The UWSMTA nominees to the board are Amanda Dempsey, Henry Hilow, and Tom Nagel.

“Establishing CPMC will provide the Market the stability and mission-driven direction it needs to thrive and be preserved as a community asset,” said Mayor Bibb, “I feel confident that this initial board of leaders will set West Side Market on the right path.”

The search for the Executive Director  
**continued on page 7**



Roundtable discussion with Mayor Justin Bibb sheds some light on City’s development agenda

Mayor Justin Bibb and WOYU 95.9 FM radio station hosted a Community Media Roundtable on February 15th. The roundtable served as an opportunity for community news outlets to dialogue with Mayor Bibb on topics of concern in the neighborhoods they serve.

Managing Editor Chuck Hoven represented the Plain Press at the Community Media Roundtable.

**Chuck Hoven:** Hi Mayor Bibb. The Plain Press is a community newspaper started in 1971. We serve largely the West Side neighborhoods of Cleveland.

My question has to do with reform of some of the boards and commissions. I know you haven’t had a chance to appoint a lot of new people yet.

There are some concerns when neighbors in a neighborhood are faced with a big development. There are inevitably issues involving conflicts. And these Boards (Board of Zoning Appeals, Landmarks Commission, and Planning Commission) decide some of those issues.

I think there is a need for some ethical standards. We have situations where let’s say a development corporation buys a parcel of land and instead of saying “Let’s meet with the neighbors and decide what we do with this parcel,” they go to some developer and make a deal to sell it to them. Then, as part of that, there is also a deal for a development fee that would go to the development corporation. The fee may be \$100,000 or 10% of the project cost – whichever is the greater amount. So, the development corporation has an incentive – the bigger the project, the more revenue they get.

And that development corporation then goes to one of these boards and the board says, “Well the development corporation supports the project, the councilperson supports the project, so we support the project.” The councilperson may have gotten a campaign donation from the developer, maybe \$1,000 a year for the past four years. But they don’t disclose that. So, I think there needs to be some ethical considerations when that comes up.

Then, the committee itself and the City of Cleveland staff seem to be favoring the developers. They will let the developer talk, the architect talk, the

development corporation talk, the councilperson talk with no limits. But when a neighborhood person wants to talk – it’s two minutes. You get two minutes, and only two of you can talk – you have to represent the whole neighborhood.

So, with some of these things, people just look at it and say “Well, we’re not getting a fair shake.”

And, when you look at the Landmarks Commission, there are supposed to be seven mayoral appointments. Only six of those positions are filled. Only one of the six mayoral appointees comes from the lists that are required by the City Ordinance. The Cleveland Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Early Settlers Association and the Western Reserve Historical Society are supposed to give lists of nominees to the Mayor from which the Mayor can choose appointees. Only one person on the Landmarks Commission has been appointed from those lists, which is Michele Anderson.

So, in those Historic Districts, these people are supposed to protect some of the history and culture of the city and instead it seems like whatever the developer wants to do is approved.

When some little neighborhood person mistakenly puts vinyl windows on a house in a historic district – they make the homeowner take them off. When some developer puts in a new building with all vinyl windows in a historic district “Oh good -- it’s the greatest thing since sliced bread.”

So, I just wanted you to speak maybe to some reform of some of these committees and looking to requiring proper qualifications for your future appointments.

**Mayor Justin Bibb:** Thank you, Chuck. You bring up an issue that we’ve seen in Cleveland for a long time, particularly on the West Side where there’s been a lot of development and the key challenge is how do you manage density and growth while maintaining the historical contents and attributes of those neighborhoods.

And I would argue, Chuck, it has to be a balancing act. We can’t go in the direction of one or the other. Because in some cases you have issues where developers have too much authority and too much influence, but in other cases

you have a lot of NIMBYism (Not In My Back Yard ism) too. And that can inhibit change.

So, I think it requires a couple of things. First, and foremost, the right kind of engagement between residents and members of City Council because, as Mayor, I never want to usurp their local authority and power. And I want to make sure I respect that body of government and respect what is happening at the Ward level.

Second, you bring up an opportunity for us in terms of ethical disclosures on our boards and commissions. Now, as an elected official, both myself and members of City Council are required to disclose any kind of conflict of interest to the Ohio Ethics Commission.

Perhaps that is something we should encourage for our boards and commissions in the City of Cleveland, and that’s something I can take a look at with my law director, Mark Griffin. I think it is a fantastic idea.

The other thing I want to point out to you is something that is on the to do list of my director of City Planning, Joyce Huang – reforming our meeting process so it is more inclusive, more equitable, more transparent – so we get the right voices around the table. Because what I don’t want to see is the same five people that always say “no” showing up at every meeting saying “no”.

We have a lot of that to be very honest with you. So, how do we reform our meeting process for these critical development projects to address this? And then, I would say to a larger macro issue we are trying to solve for – our zoning code in Cleveland is over 100 years old. We are still using the Euclidian Zoning Code in the City of Cleveland. So, we are trying to, through legislation and hopefully with the support of City Council, reform our zoning code so we can go to a form-based code versus the Euclidian Zoning Code to allow more flexibility to address some of these issues that we see structurally in how development occurs.

So, I would say those are a couple of the things we can do in the near term to address some of those concerns. But the biggest takeaway, Chuck, I would say from me is “It’s a balancing act.”



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Friday, March 17, 2023; St. Colman Church, 2027 W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street: (L-R) Dave Lewis, Edward Burke, and Nicki Lewis. Father and daughter team Dave and Nicki Lewis, both City of Cleveland Public Utilities Security officers, helped direct traffic, provide security, and assist pedestrians crossing the street to attend mass at St. Colman prior to the Saint Patrick’s Day parade. Ed Burke was one of the pedestrians who benefited from their assistance in crossing the street. Dave Lewis said he has been helping at events at St. Colman Church for at least ten years.

CLEVELAND MARKET CORP  
continued from page 6

rector of CPMC has also begun, led by Waverly Partners, LLC.

Moving forward, the inaugural board will collaborate with the Advisory Committee and Market Ventures, Inc. to continue developing a master plan for the Market.

Phase one of the plan has been released. The study conducted reveals the important role the Market plays as a source of fresh food for its culturally, economically, and geographically diverse customer base. However, the report recognizes the structural and business challenges confronting the Market, including a high vacancy rate and inadequate retail facilities.

The next phase of the master plan will provide concrete recommendations and a vision for the future of the Market.

“Despite the challenges that the Market has faced in the past few decades, it continues to act as an anchor institution in Cleveland. Moving forward, we hope to take advantage of the Market’s

strengths to ensure it can be a thriving community asset for the next generation,” said Mayor Bibb.

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COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

Marshall High School.

EMPLOYMENT

**ASPIRE GREATER CLEVELAND** helps adults reach their employment goals by providing FREE education, workforce training and job search assistance. Services include: GED/ High School Equivalency Test Preparation classes; English for speakers of other languages classes; Citizenship Test Preparation classes; basic reading classes; career services center and on-line classes. For more information call 833-ASPIRE2 (833-277-4732) or visit [www.aspiregreatercleveland.org](http://www.aspiregreatercleveland.org).

EVENTS

**EASTER EGG HUNT:** April 1 from Noon – 4 p.m. at Storer Park, 3397 W. 67<sup>th</sup> Street. Free food. Fun games. Live music. Give-aways.

FOOD

**DRIVE THRU FOOD DISTRIBUTION** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (April 19<sup>th</sup> this month) of each month from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Thomas McCafferty, 4242 Lorain Avenue. Please clear your trunk so food can be placed directly in your trunk. Also do not arrive before 10:30 a.m.

**FOOD PANTRY** at Greater Heights Church of Christ at 2409 Willowdale

Avenue (across from Riverside Cemetery is open from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Serving all of Cuyahoga County. Bring your ID and shopping bags. Shop for items of your choice. For more information visit [www.greaterhtscoc.com](http://www.greaterhtscoc.com) or call 616-4422.

**GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK'S** new distribution hub is open and ready to serve families in need. For more information call 738-2067 or visit <https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org> or stop by the new distribution center at 13815 Coit Road., Cleveland, Ohio 44110.

HEALTH

**METROHEALTH** will host a Minority Men’s Health Fair on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 5-8:30 p.m. at the Main Campus and the Ohio City Health Center. To register call 957-3862. Sign up and take advantage of more than 30 free health screenings  
**BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PARENT SUPPORT LEAD PROGRAM** empowers parents of children ages 3-5 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 ser-

vices through the Early Intervention program. Learn more at: [escneo.org/ParentSupportLeadProgram.aspx](http://escneo.org/ParentSupportLeadProgram.aspx)  
**HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE SAVE THE DREAM OHIO** offers help to homeowners who have fallen behind on their mortgage due to COVID. To check if you qualify or for help with past due mortgage payments, taxes or utilities call Frances Cintron at the Spanish American Committee at 961-2100 or email her at: [francesc@spanishamerican.org](mailto:francesc@spanishamerican.org).

HOME REPAIRS

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY’S HOME REPAIR RESOURCE CENTER** offers home repair loans of up to \$15,000 to homeowners who may not qualify for traditional financing. For more information or to apply call 381-6100 ext. 10 or visit: [hrrc-ch.org](http://hrrc-ch.org).

LEAD REMOVAL

**LEAD SAFE RESOURCE CENTER** offers resources on how to have your rental property inspected and resources to help landlords make their property lead safe. For more information call 833-601-5323, email [info@leadsafecel.org](mailto:info@leadsafecel.org) or visit [leadsafecel.org](http://leadsafecel.org).

RESOURCES

**UNITED WAY 211: 211 is the county-wide number for social services like food pantries, government assistance and mental health services. CITY OF CLEVELAND CALL CENTER:** 311 is the City of Cleveland’s number to contact any City of Cleveland department or for any city service requests like replacement garbage bins, out traffic lights and clogged sewer drains.

SAFETY

**DOES YOUR HOME HAVE SMOKE ALARMS:** Cleveland residents can

continued on page 8

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# Legal Aid Can Help with Estate Planning, Upcoming Free Brief Advice Clinic

by Tonya Sams

Most people hope to live a long, healthy, and happy life. But what do you do when the unexpected occurs such as injury, sickness, or even death? One way to prepare is through estate planning. An estate plan can provide peace of mind by addressing important aspects of your medical and financial life, and ensuring that your loved ones have the tools they need to comply with your wishes. Here are a few areas that you may need to consider:

**Advance Directives:** These documents instruct healthcare providers on what to do if you are unable to communicate due to injury or illness. Examples of advance directives are Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and a Living Will.

When creating a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, you are naming a person to make decisions regarding your medical needs if you are unable to.

A Living Will is a document that states the medical treatment that you would like to receive in the event you are unable to communicate, are terminally ill, or are rendered unconscious. This includes stating if you would like to have life sustaining treatment. You can also use this document to declare if you would like to be an organ or tissue donor.

Because both Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and the Living

Will specify different areas regarding medical care, it is good idea to have both documents.

**Durable Power of Attorney:** This document is different from a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. A Durable Power of Attorney (durable POA) names a person, referred to as the “attorney in fact”, to be responsible for a person’s affairs if they are unable to. This could include decisions about taxes, housing, banking, benefits and more. The person creating the durable POA still has the power to make decisions, but the “attorney in fact” is there to assist them in carrying out those decisions.

**Will:** A Will is different from a Living Will. While a Living Will addresses medical issues, a Will addresses the other aspects of your life if you were to die. This would include who would get custody of your children, who would be named beneficiaries, who would inherit your property, how your assets would be distributed and more. Without a Will, the court would make these decisions which, at times, can be a long process.

Need help with estate planning? The Legal Society Aid Society of Cleveland will be hosting a free Brief Advice Clinic focused on Estate Planning on April 29 from 9:30-11 a.m. at Fairhill Partners, 12200 Fairhill Road, Cleveland, OH 44120.

At the April 29<sup>th</sup> Brief Advice Clinic, attorneys and volunteers will be on hand



PHOTO BY ERIK AULT

**Tuesday, March 21, 2023; AJ Rose Manufacturing Co. 3115 W. 38th St: The charred remains of the AJ Rose Manufacturing Co Sign. A fire broke out at the warehouse at W. 38<sup>th</sup> and Clark Ave on March 1. The fire caused nitrogen and propane tanks to explode. Two employees were treated for minor injuries at the site, but no one sought hospitalization.**

to answer questions regarding: Basic Wills; Financial and Healthcare Powers of Attorney; Living Wills/Advanced Directives; Transfer on Death Paperwork; Foreclosure; Public benefits; Consumer/debt problems; and other civil legal issues

Cannot attend this one on 4/29?

Legal Aid hosts many other free legal advice events, and you can bring your questions to any upcoming Brief Advice Clinic, simply visit [lasclev.org](http://lasclev.org), go to the “Events” tab, then ‘Clinics’ and pick a date good for you. Have other

questions? Call Legal Aid at 888-817-3777 or seek help 24/7 at [lasclev.org](http://lasclev.org).

**Tonya Sams is the Development and Communications Assistant at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland**

## HAPPY EASTER FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCHES

**Easter Greetings from St. Malachi Parish**  
2459 Washington Avenue  
Near Detroit & West 25th  
216-861-5343

**EASTER SERVICES**

**Holy Thursday – April 6**  
7:30 PM – Mass of the Lord’s Supper  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 11:00 PM

**Good Friday – April 7**  
12:00 Noon - Solemn Stations of the Cross  
3:00 PM - Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion with Communion

**Holy Saturday – April 8**  
8:45 PM Easter Vigil Mass

**Easter Sunday – April 9**  
10:00 AM Mass  
[www.stmalachi.org](http://www.stmalachi.org)  
**— ALL WELCOME ! —**

**ST. JOHN CANTIUS**  
906 COLLEGE AVE.  
216-781-9095

**Holy Thursday**  
6:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord’s Supper

**Good Friday**  
2:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross (Polish)  
3:00 p.m. Passion (English)  
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (English)

**Holy Saturday**  
11 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. Food Blessing  
7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday**  
8:00 am Traditional Polish Mass & Procession  
11:30 am Mass (English)

**St Patrick, Bridge**  
**Easter Services**

**Holy Thursday - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Good Friday — 3:00 p.m.**  
**Holy Saturday – 8:45 p.m.**  
**Easter Sunday – 8:30 a.m.**  
**& 11:00 a.m.**

**Come, Join Us!**

**ST. AUGUSTINE**  
**ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Holy Thursday, April 6**  
6:30 PM

**Good Friday, April 7**  
Stations of the Cross: 2 PM  
Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion: 7 PM

**Holy Saturday, April 8-**  
Blessing of Easter Food: 2 PM  
Easter Vigil of the Lord’s Resurrection: 8:45 PM

**Easter Sunday**  
Mass of the Lord’s Resurrection  
8:30 AM and 11 AM

All services will be signed for the Deaf

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](http://staugustinecleveland.org)  
2486 W. 14th Street, Cleveland, OH 44113 • (216)-781-5530

**St. Barbara Church**  
1505 Denison Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109  
216 661-1191

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**  
**April 6-9, 2023**

**HOLY THURSDAY, 7:00 p.m.** Mass

**GOOD FRIDAY, 3:00 p.m.,** Solemn Reading of the Passion  
6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross followed by Confession

**HOLY SATURDAY, 1:00 p.m.,** Blessing of Easter Foods,  
**8:30 p.m., EASTER MASS**

**EASTER SUNDAY, 9:00 a.m.** Mass in English  
11:00 a.m. Mass in Polish

**Saint Ignatius**  
**Of Antioch Church**  
10205 Lorain Avenue  
(at West Boulevard)

“A Church with a mission in the city”  
216-251-0300

✠ 2023 ✠

**HOLY WEEK SACRED TRIDUUM**

**Palm Sunday -**  
April 1, Saturday, 5pm,  
April 2, Sunday, 9am, 11am,  
5pm (Latin)

**Holy Thursday -**  
April 6  
9am Morning Prayer,  
10am School Prayer Service,  
6pm Simple Soup Dinner,  
8pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper

**Good Friday -**  
April 7  
9am Morning Prayer,  
3pm Celebration of the Lord’  
Passion

**Holy Saturday -**  
April 8  
9am Morning Prayer,  
1pm Blessing of Food,  
8:30pm Easter Vigil Mass

**Easter Sunday -**  
April 9  
9am, 11am, 5pm (Latin)

**SIOA.WECONNECT.COM**

## COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 7

call the Operation Save-A-Life 24-hour hotline at 361-5535 to apply for FREE smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are installed by Cleveland firefighters at no cost to residents. Please note the application and installation process may take up to 90 days.

### TAXES

**FREE TAX PREPARATION:** Make sure you receive your full tax refund. Eligible households can receive up to \$6,900 from the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. Free tax preparation is currently available and Northwest neigh-

borhoods is hosting a site at the Gordon Square Arcade, 6516 Detroit Avenue. Schedule an appointment by visiting [www.refundohio.org](http://www.refundohio.org) or calling 211.

### WORKERS RIGHTS

**APRIL WAGE THEFT CLINIC:** The Northeast Ohio Worker Center will be hosting a Wage Theft Clinic, Saturday, April 8 from Noon to 3 p.m. at ComU-copia Place, 7201 Kinsman Road. Workers who attend a wage theft clinic have the opportunity to meet with a volunteer, discuss why they believe their employer has been stealing from them, and begin the process of getting relief.

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

**2023 Holy Week Schedule**  
**Saint Rocco Church • Cleveland, Ohio**

**Palm Sunday: April 2nd**  
Saturday 4pm/ Sunday 7:30am, 9:30am and Traditional Latin High Mass @ 12noon  
Procession with palms @ 9:30am Mass

**Holy Thursday: April 6th**  
Mass of the Lord’s Last Supper @ 7:30pm  
Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist until 11pm  
Parish holy hour 9pm-10pm  
Confessions 9pm – 10pm

**Good Friday: April 7th**  
Confessions 12pm – 3pm, & 7pm – 8pm  
Veneration of the Cross & Passion of Lord 3:00pm  
Procession thru the streets 6:30pm  
Devotions & homily on the Sorrowful Mother  
Blessing and veneration of the Relic of the True Cross

**Holy Saturday: April 8th**  
Confessions 9am – 11am  
Blessing of Easter Food 11:00am  
Easter Vigil Mass 8:45pm

**Easter Sunday: April 9th**  
7:30am, 9:30am and Traditional Latin High Mass @ 12noon  
\*CONFESSIONS are always available Monday thru Friday 6pm – 6:20pm, and before the 4pm, 9:30am and 12noon Sunday Masses all year thru.

**\*\*COME TO OUR FABULOUS FISH FRY EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT: 4pm – 7pm !**

**3205 Fulton Road, Cleveland OH 44109**  
**ph: 216-961-8331 / web: [saintroccocleveland.com](http://saintroccocleveland.com)**  
**Happy Easter! Buona Pasqua!**

**Franklin Circle Church**  
**1688 Fulton Road**  
**Ohio City’s fully-inclusive**  
**community of faith**

**Free Community Breakfast**  
Sun., April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> • 8:30-10 am

**Good Friday**  
Ecumenical Service 7 pm

**Join Us Easter Sunday**  
10:30 am Service  
12-1:30 pm Free Community Lunch  
[www.FranklinCircleChurch.org](http://www.FranklinCircleChurch.org)