



PHOTO PLAIN PRESS ARCHIVES
In Memory – Henry Senyak
May 17, 1963 – August 9, 2023
See obituary on page 5

Plain Press

Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

Residents rally to save historic trees

by Abe Kurp

Residents of the Cudell neighborhood and environmentalists spoke out Wednesday August 9 at a meeting about plans to cut down around forty trees in the Cudell Commons (near the intersection of West Boulevard and Detroit Ave.) to make way for a new school. One of the

residents' biggest concerns was the destruction of one of the trees in particular: a massive bald cypress in the northeast corner of the park that residents say is over 200 years old.

Current plans from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), which are part of segment eight of the district's master building plans,

call for the new school to be built at the northeast corner of the Commons, just north of the current school, Marion C. Seltzer. CMSD officials say that this will allow students to continue to attend classes while the new school is under construction. When the new building is complete, which CMSD officials hope will be around the summer of 2025, the old building will be demolished to make way for a parking lot for the new school.

Patti Choby of the Cobalt Group, who has worked with CMSD on the master plan for over a decade, said that the new building is necessary because it will have many vital features that the current school does not have, including separate spaces for a gym and a cafeteria, a quality space for Pre-K students, and adequate parking for staff.

Residents, while acknowledging the importance of a new or updated school, say that it shouldn't come at the expense of the neighborhood's vital trees and green space.

Jamie Brazier, whose home on W. 98th Street is across the street

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PHOTO BY ERIK AULT
Sunday, Aug 6; Cleveland Puerto Rican festival, Quad Park, 2500 MetroHealth Drive; A young girl at the Puerto Rican festival waves a Puerto Rican flag in support and celebration of her culture. Puerto Rico has been a Territory of the United States since 1898.



PHOTO BY ERIK AULT
Sunday, Aug 6; Cleveland Puerto Rican festival, Quad Park, 2500 MetroHealth Drive; A singer from New York performing on stage at the festival, which drew artists from all over the East Coast and Puerto Rico.

Cleveland Clinic's Lutheran Hospital employees are prepared to strike

by Chuck Hoven

Over two hundred picketers marched around Cleveland Clinic's Lutheran Hospital on W. 25th Street on August 16th joining with members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1199 in a solidarity picket. Those picketing included members of SEIU 1199, other SEIU members from throughout Greater Cleveland and friends and supporters of the SEIU 1199 members.

SEIU members have voted to authorize a strike if their union leadership cannot secure a fair contract with Cleveland Clinic. Workers are asking for benefits and pay on par with other Cleveland Clinic hospitals for caregivers doing the same work at other Cleveland Clinic hospitals. A decision to strike may come as early as the week of September

4th, 2023.

SEIU 1199 membership at Lutheran Hospital includes many workers who are involved with caretaking at the hospital. Among the positions staffed by SEIU members are positions as Licensed Practical Nurses, Nurses' Aides, Environmental Services, Food Services, Sterile Processing, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Counselors, and secretarial staff at the nurses' stations.

In addition to pay and benefits, the union is asking Cleveland Clinic to address issues that have to do with the treatment of caregivers at the hospital. The picketers brought up complaints of harassment, intimidation, discrimination, and other attacks directed at caregivers at the hospital.

One long time employee at Lutheran Hospital, now retired,

continued on page 8

Public Debate on Participatory Budgeting set

by Bruce Checefsky

City Council member Kris Harsh, who represents Old Brooklyn and part of the Stockyard neighborhoods,

published an Op-Ed piece in the *Plain Dealer* and cleveland.com calling for a public debate with PB CLE (Participatory Budgeting) coalition.

The event is for September 26 at 6 pm in the Little Theatre inside Public Auditorium.

At the center of the debate is

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Wednesday, August 16, 2023; Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1199 Solidarity Picket, Lutheran Hospital, 1730 W. 25th Street: Two hundred SEIU members and friends and supporters from throughout the Greater Cleveland area came to show their support for SEIU 1199 members who are unsatisfied with the working conditions, benefits and compensation provided to their members by Cleveland Clinic. Lutheran Hospital is the only unionized hospital in the Cleveland Clinic system. SEIU 1199 represents caregivers at the hospital.



PHOTO BY ERIK AULT
Sunday, Aug 6; Cleveland Puerto Rican festival, Quad Park, 2500 MetroHealth Drive; An attendee walking to the festival with a Puerto Rican flag draped on her shoulders. The Puerto Rican flag was originally outlawed on the island but is now proudly displayed by members of the community.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS
MERRICK HOUSE FREE YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM for Cleveland residents, Monday thru Friday from 2:30-5:30 pm. at 1050 Starkweather Avenue in the Tremont neighborhood for students ages 6-17. Program offers homework assistance, snacks, arts and crafts, field trips, fitness activities and service projects. Some programs offered are Youth Leadership Council, Junior Achievement Curriculum, Ambassador of Compassion Curriculum. Older students (ages 13-17) are encouraged to participate in discussions on issues affecting them today. For more information or to sign up for the Youth Program at Merrick House, which serves the West Side of Cleveland, call Cymone Morgan, youth Program Director, at 216-771-5077, ext. 130

THE OHIO AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT EDUCATIONAL SAVINGS PROGRAM application window for the 2023-2024 school year is now open. For more information visit www.education.ohio.gov/ohioace. The Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) Educational Savings Account program provides funds for a variety of educational and enrichment activities. Ohio children ages 6 to 18 who meet income requirements or reside in a designated school district can receive up to \$1,000 to spend on allowable activities.

RAINEY INSTITUTE AT THE PIVOT CENTER, 2937 W. 25th, will be offering after school programs for the first time. Tuition assistance is available through the Ohio Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) program. For families that have used up their ACE funds, or who do not qualify for ACE, contact the Rainey Institute to inquire about tuition assistance at 216-881-1766.

ARTS
ART HOUSE, 3119 Denison Avenue, will have a free one day workshop on Mexican artistic practices in collaboration with Comité Mexicano de Cleveland and Metro West: Papel Picado on September 23 from 10 a.m. – Noon. Sign up on the Art House website at: www.arthouseinc.org.

78TH STREET STUDIOS THIRD FRIDAYS, September 15th at 1300 W. 78th Street. Free open house that showcases finished work and gallery exhibits every third Friday of the month from 5-9 p.m.

FREE FALL HARVEST ART CLASSES at Shalom & Tranquility Community Garden on Saturdays September 23, Sept. 30, Oct. 7, and Oct 14 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Sponsored by MyCom, MetroWest, ArtHouse and Shalom & Tranquility Community Garden. For more info visit www.arthousinc.org.

SPACES, 2900 Detroit Avenue, has the work of three artists on display in its galleries through October 20th: Searching for Mother Tongues by artist Ada Pinkston of Baltimore Maryland will be in the Gund Gallery; The gardens of Adonis are cultivated for the sake of flowers no fruits by Faysal Altunbozar of London in the UK will be on display in the Oracle Gallery; and F is For Freedom



by Vivica Sattlerwhite of Cleveland, Ohio will be on display in Toby's Vault. Gallery hours are Wednesdays thru Saturdays from Noon – 5 p.m.

WALKABOUT TREMONT: Friday, September 8: Art, food, drinks, pop-up vendors, street performers. Visit www.Experience-Tremont.com for more information.

AWARDS
NOMINATE A REGIONAL LEADER who is involved in transportation or infrastructure in the five-county region served by the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for the Ehnrfelt Award. Nominations are due by September 22, 2023. For more information visit the NOACA website at: www.noaca.org/about/annual-reports-and-events/ehnrfelt-award.

BENEFITS
HAVE YOUR SNAP (FOOD STAMPS/ EBT) BENEFITS BEEN STOLEN/ SKIMMED? You may qualify for replacement benefits. To request replacement benefits go to: <https://bit.ly/437Detr> Ohio SNAP recipients whose benefits were stolen before June 16, 2023 must submit the new JFS Form 07011 by Sept 14 [This form requires an ink signature](https://bit.ly/437Detr).

CITY OF CLEVELAND
VISIT THE CITY OF CLEVELAND WEBSITE at clevelandohio.gov offers information on City of Cleveland services and events around town.

COMMUNITY
UNITED WAY COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: September Panel Discussion: The Social Impact of Utility Debt, Thursday, September 14, Noon – 1p.m. Imagine having to choose between paying your utility bills or buying essential items for your family – a decision thousands of Greater Cleveland families face every month. Join a panel of experts as they discuss the utility needs of renters and homeowners, ways housing quality impacts utility affordability, utility costs and impact on health, and ways utility assistance programs help address utility affordability. The virtual event is free and open to the public. To register to attend visit: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_N4GfjybBSowGi-3fRpteHIA#/registration

OHIO CITY MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING: September 19 at Urban Community School in the Dolors Multipurpose Room. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for food and conversation with neighbors.

EDUCATION
MAY DUGAN CENTER COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS offered through May Dugan Center's Trauma Informed Education Resource Center (ERC) are free and accept anyone ready to learn. The ERC offers a full spectrum of learning opportunities for adult students. Students work at

their own pace, one-on-one with a classroom instructor or volunteer tutor. For more information, or to enroll in a Community Education Program call 216-631-5800, ext. 120


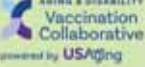
DIGITAL LEARNING CENTER, 9926-28 Lorain Avenue: Westown Community Development Corporation (WCDC), Ashbury Senior Computer Community Center (ASC3) and PCs for People announce the establishment of a new digital learning center (run by ASC3 West) and an affordable computer retail store (run by PCs for People) to connect Cleveland residents to computers, internet, and digital skills. ASC3 offers training that includes digital literacy classes from basic to advanced skills in areas including email, internet navigation and online safety, health and financial literacy. Learn more at www.asc3.org. PCs for People helps recycle computers to provide affordable computers and internet connections to area households. For more information contact www.pcsforpeople.org.

EVENTS
ST. ROCCO'S LABOR DAY FESTIVAL will be on Thursday August 31st to Monday September 4th. Hours are: 6-10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. 3-10 p.m. on Saturday. Sunday will feature a mass at 10 a.m. followed by a procession through the streets. Sunday festival hours are 1 p.m. – 10 p.m. Monday the festival hours are 1 – 10 p.m. with the return of the popular Greasy Pole contest at 2 p.m.
MAX HAYES CAR SHOW: Saturday, September 9th from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at W. 65th and Clark Avenue.

FOOD
WEST SIDE COMMUNITY HOUSE'S FREE PRODUCE SCHOOL MARKET at Halle School, 7901 Halle Avenue, Tuesday, September 24th from 3-5 p.m. Open to the public.

LITERARY PURSUITS
LITERARY CLEVELAND'S INKUBATOR CONFERENCE: Inkubator Writing Conference will officially kick off the 2023 Cleveland Book Week, with online literary panels running Sept. 18-20 and the in-person component at the downtown Cleveland Public Library Sept. 22-23. The organization will hold free writing workshops, panel discussions, craft talks, readings and more to empower writers, advance artistic dialogue, celebrate literary excellence, and amplify local voices. 2023 speakers include 2017 AWBA fiction winner Peter Ho Davies and a keynote reading with Elizabeth Acevedo. **Registration:** <https://inkubator.litcleveland.org/>
ANISFIELD-WOLF BOOK AWARDS will be held on September 28th at 6 p.m., Maltz Performing Arts Center at Case Western Reserve University (1855 Ansel



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Seasonal vaccines should be an important part of your plan for good health. The flu and COVID-19 vaccines will be available this fall. Talk with your primary care provider or pharmacist if you have questions.

Covid-19

For more information on how to plan for good health go to areaagingsolutions.org/public-health/

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For vaccines contact:
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RESIDENTS RALLY TO SAVE TREES

continued from page 1

from the park, spoke about the emotional impact of losing so many trees.

“For me, it’s a sanctuary – to see the trees and the green open spaces,” Brazier said. “By their plans, I will have a school in front of me. I’m claustrophobic anyway, and now there’s not going to be trees.”

Robert Carillio, who also lives in the area, focused on the historical impact the trees have had and what they mean to the neighborhood.

“If they remove mature healthy trees, they ruin this park,” Carillio said. “These trees are as much a part of the history and heritage of this or any neighborhood as are the human-made structures.”

Jenny Spencer, councilperson for Ward 15 who is a member of the city’s Urban Forestry Commission and whose ward includes the site in question, acknowledged the emotional impact of the proposed removals.

“We are here for an awful reason that no one wants to be here for,” Spencer said. “We are looking at the possibility of

legacy, mature trees – historic trees – being removed.”

Spencer added that, in her view, the city’s policies and procedures are not designed to protect trees. She noted that, in this project as well as others in the city, trees are not a top priority and that officials from the city’s forestry department are brought in too late in the process.

Given these and other criticisms, Jeff Henderson, an architect from ThenDesign Architecture who has worked closely with CMSD on its master plan, discussed possible changes to the project to accommodate some of the residents’ concerns. This includes moving the bald cypress to a different location, which Henderson said would cost approximately \$350,000.

Another, even more expensive possibility would be to rework the plans of the new school to give it a slightly smaller footprint that would give enough space for the bald cypress, so it wouldn’t have to be cut down.

However, Henderson said this plan would also cause delays and cost an estimated \$1.2 million more than the current

plan. And in all of the alternative plans Henderson discussed, the bald cypress would be the only tree saved.

Brazier said she was not satisfied with any of these alternative plans.

“They’re going to try to pacify us by saving one tree,” she said.

Brazier is one of the residents who say Frank Cudell, the prominent architect who owned the land the park now sits on, intended for the land to be a park indefinitely. They point to Cudell’s 1916 will to support their claims, but attorneys representing CMSD and the city said they went through all the proper channels and have a legal right to build a school on this land.

David Riley, who serves as outside legal counsel for the district, said that, despite what Cudell might have intended, he never codified his intent through a deed restriction.

“Mr. Cudell was a great architect,” Riley said. “I am not assuming he was a great lawyer.”

Still, residents vow to continue to fight to save all the trees in question.



PHOTO BY CASANDRA VASU

Cudell Commons Park, W. 98th Street, North of Madison: The Cleveland Metropolitan School District plans to build a new Marion C. Seltzer school in what is now Cudell Commons Park. Plans call for eliminating trees to make way for the new school building. This Bald Cypress is one of the mature legacy trees that Friends of Cudell Commons Park would like to save.

COMMUNITY BOARD

Rd., Cleveland, OH 44106) **Registration (opens Sept. 7):** <https://case.edu/maltzcenter/node/1561> **Watch the ceremony live via webstream at** www.anisfield-wolf.org. The Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards recognize books that have made important contributions to our understanding of racism and human diversity. It remains the only American book prize focusing on works that address racism and equity. For nearly 90 years, the distinguished books earning Anisfield-Wolf prizes have opened and challenged our minds.

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METROPARKS ZOO ON MONDAYS THE ZOO IS FREE (except for the RainForest) for residents of Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township.

To confirm your residency, bring your driver’s license or state I.D. or a current utility bill with your Cuyahoga County or Hinckley Township address along with a photo ID. Free Monday Zoo admission does not apply on Memorial Day, Independence Day (if it falls on a Monday) and Labor Day.

REUNION

SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ALL CLASS REUNION join in an evening of reminiscing with your classmates in the school gym after the Saturday, September 9th 5 p.m. mass.

SENIOR CITIZENS

MAY DUGAN CENTER’S SENIORS ON THE MOVE meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 1p.m. at 3800 Bridge Avenue. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the program, please contact Senior Health & Wellness Coordinator Vanessa Jackson vjackson@maydugancenter.org or call her at 216-631-5800, ext. 139.

WEST SIDE COMMUNITY HOUSE HEALTHY AGING CENTER, 9300 Lo-

rain Avenue, promotes health aging and links people with resources so they can continue to lead happy, rewarding and fulfilling lives in the community. Open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information contact Healthy Aging Director, Yvette Mediano at 216-771-7297, ext. 303 (Hablamos Español).

STATE OF OHIO

OHIO HAS 75 STATE PARKS: Most Ohioans live within an hour of a state park, and Ohio is one of just seven states that charges no entrance fees to its state parks. Whether it’s boating, fishing, or hiking – Ohio’s great outdoors are a great place to explore, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources **DETOUR** Trails App makes planning your excursions into the heart of adventure even easier.

VOLUNTEERS

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND has volunteer opportunities assisting at one of its many hunger centers, helping with data entry and mailings at the Central Office, organizing a food drive and many more uses of your time and talents. To join the volunteer corps, complete an application at www.svdpcle.org/get-involved/volunteers/

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PHOTO BY ERIK AULT

Sunday, August 6, 2023; Willard Park, E. 6th and Lakeside, Hiroshima Commemoration on 78th Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Cleveland Peace Action invited Quaker peace activists from the crew of the sailing ship, Golden Rule, to this event. Shortly after it began the event was cancelled due to heavy rain.

DEBATE PLANNED FOR BUDGET REFORM

continued from page 1

a charter amendment slated for voters in November to set aside 2% of the city general fund for projects submitted and voted on by residents in a process known as participatory budgeting.

“Participatory budgeting (aka “PB”) undermines movements for social justice and fails to engage residents in the electoral process,” Harsh said in his Op-Ed piece, adding, “...they could simply vote to employ themselves to run more meetings, or even engage in political activity at their choosing.”

Harsh cited convicted felon

Larry Householder as an example of politics gone off the tracks in a major corruption case in Ohio history. Householder was found guilty of racketeering conspiracy and is serving 20 years in prison for orchestrating a \$60 million illegal bribery scheme to pass a \$1.3 billion bailout for two nuclear plants in House Bill 6. He said participatory budgeting is a Trojan horse intended to guarantee PB promoters “a paycheck on the public dime without having to justify their worth or be held accountable to the taxpayers.”

PB Cleveland organizer Evan O'Reilly disagrees.

“You can just as easily point to Ken Johnson to understand why this is necessary,” said O'Reilly, referring to the former city councilman found guilty of 15 charges, including conspiracy to commit theft from a governmental program and six counts of theft from a federal program. “It comes off as tone-deaf on the part of Harsh to accuse a very active and engaged constituency of being deceptive. I find the Trojan Horse analogy very insulting.”

He added that city residents need more power in decision-making without going through the

City Council.

Debating can be traced back to the philosophical and political debates of ancient Greece or the scholars of ancient India. Protagoras of Abdera (c. 481-411 BC), who taught at Athens, is considered by many to be the father of debate. In ancient Greece, the subject of debates was often human nature, ethics, and moral dilemmas. One of the most memorable debates in American history was held in 1965 between the writer James Baldwin and William F. Buckley, the founder of National Review, at the University of Cambridge. The topic was The American Dream Is at the Expense of the American Negro. Baldwin described racial injustice in America from a deeply personal place, which led to a standing ovation.

Harsh said Cleveland City Council stands as one of the most progressive elected bodies in the nation. O'Reilly, of course, disputes it.

“I think it is clear that the City Council cares about low-income residents, but like many city governments, a lot of money and major decision-making ends up for the benefit of developers,” he said.

The source of funding is a core issue, where a Peoples Budget Fund would need to be developed, according to the amendment, and if it is passed by voters, with 2% of the city budget or \$14M per year set aside for the program. It has to come from the general fund, said Harsh, something PB organizers do not understand. The capital budget was a secondary funding source.

“The Mayor’s Office of Capital

Projects decides on the capital budget,” Harsh said. “It is not a separate entity based on tax income. We have to bond market the capital budget every year depending on the needs of the city. We would probably lose our bond rating because of inconsistent and unsustainable needs.”

Mayor Bibb did support an earlier version of participatory budgeting during his campaign but no longer supports the current proposal.

“The City budget is a complicated process that organizers do not understand. They are not professional budget analysts,” added Harsh. “Not a single member of City Council, a single member of the administration, or a single union member in the City of Cleveland supports participatory budgeting in this formation.”

Still, it can pass. An 11-person steering committee would create guidelines and rules on proposals, voting, and other procedures, with five members appointed by the Mayor and City Council. They will get a stipend of \$5,000.

Harsh sees the conflict as a direct clash between representative democracy and direct democracy. Critics of the Constitution in 1787 argued that the proposed federal government was too large and would be unresponsive to the people. In response, James Madison explored majority rule v. minority rights in his Federalist Papers No. 10.

“Direct democracy was the mob that the founding fathers were trying to shield the government from,” he said, referring to the Madison Papers. “PB will

continued on page 7

PUBLIC TOWN HALL MEETING

As a member of the community, you have an important and vital role in the education of children throughout Cleveland. Dr. Morgan invites you to a public town hall meeting to share your thoughts and suggestions on ways CMSD can continue to improve the Cleveland schools and deliver rewarding instructional experiences to all students.

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with Dr. Warren Morgan



Thursday, September 28

5:00 - 7:00 PM

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For more details including information on pre-registering for this town hall, visit
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In Memory

Henry P. Senyak

May 17, 1963 – August 9, 2023

Henry Senyak's funeral was concelebrated by four priests, who all knew Henry and had ties to the Tremont neighborhood to which he dedicated many hours of service. In delivering the eulogy for Henry Senyak at his funeral at St. Augustine Church on August 18th, St. Augustine Pastor Bill O'Donnell spoke of Henry as a person who had used the gift of the time he had been given on earth to make the world a better place. Father O'Donnell spoke of Henry's staying within the community where he was born and finding a way "to make a significant contribution."

Henry Senyak was a person who would not give up. "If he judged something important, he stayed with it," Father O'Donnell said in describing Senyak's tenacity. Father O'Donnell challenged those in attendance at the funeral saying, "someone has to take Henry's place in being committed to the common good of those on the margins that have been forgotten." Father O'Donnell urged those in attendance to "learn from Henry's life, how he made change grounded in commitment to the common good."

Father O'Donnell shared a bit of Henry's life story noting that while Henry took advanced placement and honors classes at Cleveland Central Catholic, he decided to learn a trade rather

than go to college and pursued a career as an electrician and communications specialist. Father O'Donnell also spoke of Henry as a genius whose education did not happen in the classroom, but in life.

Long time *Plain Press* readers have read of many of the accomplishments of Henry Senyak as the leader of the Lincoln Heights Block Club, member of various committees of the Tremont West Development Corporation and his time spent riding around at night to record outed streetlights so Cleveland Public Power could repair them.

An article in the September 2022 *Plain Press* titled "Lincoln Heights Block Club honors Henry Senyak for his many contributions to the neighborhood and the City of Cleveland" describes some of Senyak's accomplishments and some of the attributes described by Father O'Donnell of a tenacious advocate willing to learn from life and willing to use that knowledge to help the community he cared about.

The article notes that Henry Senyak was a member of the local block club, and that "his involvement in neighborhood issues began to escalate due to his and his mother's concerns with noise and unruly patrons at the Starkweather, a bar across the street from where Henry and his mother resided above the Senyak family's former dry-

cleaner storefront." The article goes into some of the history of Senyak's involvement in the community:

"In 2004, frustrated with the noise and unruly behavior of patrons of the Starkweather, Henry Senyak wrote a letter to the editor of the *Plain Press*. An Ohio City resident, Ted Thelander, saw the letter and called the *Plain Press* office and said he would like to help Henry Senyak address his concerns about the Starkweather. He asked the *Plain Press* to share his contact information with Henry Senyak.

Senyak recalls meeting with Thelander at the West Side Market Café. Thelander, who had spent many years as a consultant to the restaurant and hospitality industry, shared his knowledge of various regulations and codes that governed the operations of bars, nightclubs and restaurants. Thelander willingly became a mentor to Senyak. Reflecting back, Senyak says, "I owe a lot of my knowledge to Ted Thelander. He taught me a lot." In an article in the November 2020 issue of the *Plain Press* honoring the memory of Ted Thelander after his passing, Senyak says when he first met Thelander "I was just a mild-mannered citizen at the time."

Armed with the knowledge of occupancy permit limits, fire and safety code restrictions, zoning code, building and housing



PHOTO PLAIN PRESS ARCHIVES
In Memory – Henry Senyak
May 17, 1963 – August 9, 2023

codes, noise restrictions and the rules surrounding liquor licenses, Senyak was successful in reigning in the behavior of patrons at the Starkweather. Word soon spread of his success, and residents of other neighborhoods saw him as "the go to guy" to help them tackle problem bars, nightclubs, and entertainment venues in their neighborhoods."

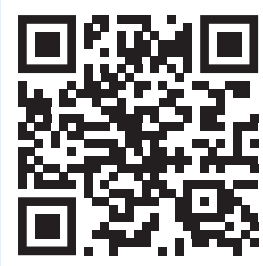
Henry Senyak, age 60, died on August 9th after battling cancer of the esophagus for over a year. Henry is survived by many first and second cousins, aunts, uncles, and other relations. He considered his community, friends, and neighbors to be family members, too.

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DEBATE PLANNED FOR BUDGET REFORM

continued from page 4

probably never get more than 5% involvement from residents in the City of Cleveland, with more likely only 3% of the population having direct control over \$14M a year.”

Harsh was on the policy and debate team in high school and learning both sides of the argument to understand the issue, regardless of your personal belief, is central to winning. He found the process valuable to issues and thinks as a society, we have lost the ability to disagree with each other civilly and respectfully. Policy debate is a great way to bring it back, he said.

“I have a strong opinion on this issue, but one of the things I hope to do is demonstrate the value of having policy debates in public,” said Harsh, “I would like to see this come back as an annual feature for City Council. We can debate stadium funding next year.”

O'Reilly does not take the public criticism personally but feels Harsh

might have.

“We are not seeking to make enemies, and a few people in City Council seem to take it personally, but this is not a referendum on their performance,” he said. “When it is time to fight, you fight, and when it is time to come to the table, you do that, too. We are going to fight for this because we believe in it. We will try to repair some of those relationships if passed.”

Jonathan Welle of Cleveland Owns and Aleena Starks of the Working Families Party will represent PB Cleveland; Harsh and a yet-to-be-named person will present the opposing view. Rhodes High School head speech and debate coach and Hathaway Brown School assistant coach Carrie Cofer will serve as moderator and timekeeper. Cofer has taught and coached speech and debate in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) for 24 years and is both the chair and a hall-of-fame

member of the Cleveland District of the Ohio Speech and Debate Association. The debate resolution is: Be It Resolved the Benefits Of Participatory Budgeting Outweigh the Harms.

“The better we are about talking to each other about differences and disagreements, the more productive we will be as a society,” said Harsh.

PB Cleveland agrees.

“I hope we can have a legitimate discussion on the merits of how this is going to work,” said O'Reilly.

The free public event will take place on Tuesday, September 26, from 6 - 7 pm in the Little Theatre inside Public Auditorium, 500 Lakeside Ave E, Cleveland, OH 44114, and broadcast on YouTube TV20.

Master Plan for West Side Market unveiled at public meeting

A standing room only crowd filled the Truss event space on the top floor of the INTRO Cleveland building at the Southeast corner of W. 25th and Lorain on June 29th to learn about plans for the future of the West Side Market.

City of Cleveland Senior Strategist for the West Side Market Jessica Trivisonno introduced Ted Spitzer, a consultant from Market Ventures, who developed a master plan for the future of the West Side Market that was guided by an advisory committee that received input from both market merchants and other area stakeholders.

The presentation by Spitzer and Trivisonno outlined proposed improvements to the West Side Market's infrastructure, the plan to transition management of the market to a nonprofit board of directors, plans to redesign the layout of the West Side Market, and the funds that would need to be raised to make the implementation of the masterplan possible.

The redesign of the West Side Market outlined in the new master plan calls for significant changes in the Arcade where the produce merchants currently have their businesses. With nearly 50% of the Arcade stalls now empty, the proposal in the master plan calls for all the produce merchants to be moved to the aisle of the arcade that runs from the West Side Market Parking Lot to Lorain Avenue. The other aisle that runs from the West Side Market Parking Lot to W. 25th will be reserved for restaurants and bars selling prepared foods and drinks. The area between the Arcade and the West Side Market Hall will have seating to accommodate customers of the restaurants and bars. The Master Plan envisions that the West Side Market will be able to charge higher rents for the restaurants and bars than it does for its traditional produce merchants, thus increasing overall revenue. This aisle and

the seating area would be open late to accommodate a dinner crowd.

Some other additional features that will be added to the Arcade include an elevator from the produce stands to the market basement, so merchants won't have to go outside of the arcade to get items from the basement. The plan also calls for covering the Arcade and installing a heating and cooling system for the merchants and customers. Merchants would also be provided with electrical and water connections.

Plans for the Market Hall include improvements to the electrical, heating and cooling systems, improvements to the basement and the merchant coolers in the basement and new elevators. The master plan also calls for converting an area on the East end of the upper mezzanine to an event space. The area currently houses unused merchant lockers. Another idea presented was having two fully operational kitchens -- an educational kitchen and merchant access to a working kitchen.

The Board of Directors of the Cleveland Public Market Corporation is also negotiating with the City of Cleveland to obtain control over the West Side Market Parking lot which the Board deems crucial to the long-term viability of the West Side Market.

Following the presentation of ideas from the master plan a small panel was asked to comment on the plan and answer questions from the audience. The panel consisted of Ruby Thomas of Ohio City Pasta, Don Whitaker of D.W. Whitaker Meats and President of the United West Side Market Tenants Association, and Cleveland Public Market Board of Trustees Members David Abbott and Ramat Wiley.

While the comments from the panel were hard for many in the audience to hear because of noise coming from the overhead duct work at the Truss event space, it was clear that Don Whitaker was hopeful that the addition of air conditioning and the proposed infrastructure improvement would make a difference for existing merchants.

The future implementation of the master plan depends heavily on the ability of the Cleveland Public Market Corporation, the nonprofit corporation being set up to manage the West Side Market, being able to raise \$41 million dollars it estimates it will cost to fully implement the master plan. While Mayor Justin Bibb's administration originally requested \$20 million for the West Side Market, Cleveland City Council reduced that amount to \$10 million. The original plan was to have a new executive director in place by June of 2023. That hasn't happened as the Cleveland Public Market Corporation Board has decided it would be better to have more commitments for funding before bringing an executive director onboard.

In addition to the cost of implementing the master plan, the West Side Market is expected to have an annual operating budget of \$2.9 million.

The Cleveland Public Market Corporation which the master plan calls upon to hire staff to manage the market is set up to have from 11-21 members on its Board of Directors. The United West Side Market Tenants Association nominates up to three members, the Mayor of Cleveland nominates up to three members and Cleveland City Council nominates up to one member. Board committees are expected to focus on facilities, merchant relations, and



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Wednesday, August 16, 2023; West Side Market at W. 25th and Lorain Avenue as viewed from the United Building. A committee has been set up to raise funds to implement plans for West Side Market's Future

community engagement.

Currently the Cleveland Public Market Corporation Board of Directors has fifteen members: David Abbott of the George Gund Foundation; Tanisha Velez of Cleveland Fresh Microgreens; Tom McNair of Ohio City Incorporated; Carrie Carpenter of Huntington National Bank; Shelly Cayette of the Cleveland Cavaliers; Amanda Dempsey – the previous West Side Market Manager; Colette Jones of Cleveland Foundation; Henry Hilow of Hilow and Spellacy; Dr. Don Malone of Cleveland Clinic's Ohio Hospitals and Family Health Center; Ward 3 City Councilmember Kerry McCormack; Randy McShepard of Rid-All Green Partnership; Tom Nagel – retired from DB Schenker; Jason Russell of Bedrock Detroit; Ramat Wiley of Adun Spice Company; and Ann Zoller of Strategy Design Partners.

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Wednesday, August 16, 2023; Service Employees International Union (SEIU) 1199 Solidarity Picket, Lutheran Hospital, 1730 W. 25th Street: Matthew Ahn, a candidate running for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, and State Board of Education Member Meryl Johnson (District 11) were among the picketers coming out in support of SEIU 1199 Lutheran Hospital caregivers. The caregivers are asking that Cleveland Clinic negotiate in good faith and give them a fair wage and better working conditions.

HOSPITAL WORKERS PREPARED TO STRIKE

continued from page one

said that the hospital administration has been trying to break the union at Lutheran Hospital for years. Noting that Lutheran Hospital is the only unionized hospital in the Cleveland Clinic system, the retired employee attributed the lower benefits and pay to an effort by Cleveland Clinic to break the union.

Several Union Members made statements concerning working condition issues that SEIU 1199 sent out to members.

Staci Richardson, a SEIU 1199 member who had worked in the Sterile Processing Department at Lutheran Hospital, said “I have dedicated years of my time, energy, and the love for what I do, WITHOUT CONDITION, to Cleveland Clinic Lutheran Hospital: for the patients that we serve! Unfortunately, the hospital has not reciprocated the same. In fact, just the opposite. I made reports and complaints to Clinic HR, against management, for discrimination and retaliation and I received nothing in response, no action taken by the hospital to stop what was happening or to protect me. I am on the union bargaining team and I know my rights, so I speak up about injustices at work. Instead of addressing the concerns I raised, they fired me last week. I’m not backing down! I’m fighting for my job, and I WILL be on the strike line with my sisters and brothers at Lutheran Hospital. The Cleveland Clinic has to do better!”

Lutheran Hospital Employee and SEIU member Caregiver Annette Foley says, “I am blessed to be able to do what I love for the patients that we serve! It’s all about making a difference in the lives of others for me. It’s different for the leadership at the Clinic though. They always want more for less and we all feel it! It is just stressful to think about going to work every day. We do our best but it’s never enough. It

takes a toll on you mentally. It’s just toxic.”

Pickers wore tee-shirts that asked the question “If caregivers can’t trust the Cleveland Clinic? Should You?” Dionne Thomas Carmichael, a member of the Services Employees International Union, but not a Lutheran Hospital employee, said she was supporting SEIU 1199 workers in their effort to let people in Cleveland know that the Lutheran Hospital workers are not satisfied with how they are being treated by Cleveland Clinic. She thought it was a travesty that employees of Lutheran Hospital were being paid less than employees of other Cleveland Clinic hospitals for doing the same work.

Among those showing solidari-

ty with the SEIU 1199 were some prominent Cleveland leaders. State School Board Member and host of the Radio Program “It’s About Justice” Meryl Johnson, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor candidate Matthew Ahn, and Reverend Emmitt T. Caviness, the President of the Board of the National Action Network Cleveland Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference joined in the picketing of Cleveland Clinic’s Lutheran Hospital.

The SEIU urges those with stories to tell about the care they received from SEIU 1199 workers at Lutheran Hospital to tell their stories by calling the Patients of Cleveland Clinic Care Hotline at 1-888-388-5612. The Patients of Cleveland Clinic Care Hotline is run by SEIU 1199.

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Area development corporations announce executive departures

Bridget Kent Márquez as interim executive director.

Executive directors at Northwest Neighborhoods Community Development Corporation (NWN), Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) and Ohio City Incorporation (OCI) are departing to other jobs in the Cleveland area.

Northwest Neighborhoods Executive Director Adam Stalder resigned from NWN on June 14th to take a new position at the Cuyahoga Land Bank as Director of Community Stabilization. NWN, which serves the Cudell, Detroit Shoreway and Edgewater neighborhoods, has named

After 11 years at TWDC, Executive Director Cory Riordan will leave TWDC to begin a new role at Cleveland Neighborhood Progress. Riordan’s resignation will be effective beginning September 8, 2023.

After 9 years as Executive Director of OCI, Tom McNair will be leaving OCI to accept a position in Mayor Justin Bibb’s Administration as Director of Economic Development for the City of Cleveland. McNair will start at his new position at Cleveland City Hall on September 25th.

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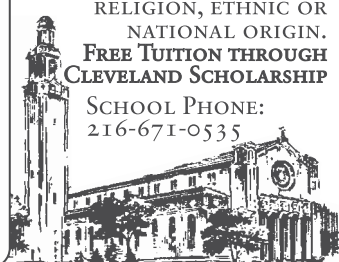
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