



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Tuesday, February 13, 2024; Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Road, Ward 7 City Council Representative Stephanie Howse-Jones interacts with residents at a meeting hosted by some City Council members to talk with residents about the City of Cleveland Budget.

Plain Press

Cleveland’s Westside Newspaper

Cleveland Owns’ incubator promotes economic democracy

by Bruce Checefsky

Economic democracy proposes a shift of ownership and decision-making from shareholders and the board of directors to public stakeholders like workers, consumers, suppliers, communities, and the broader public. Former Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot made a historic commitment to the community wealth-building strategy last year by proposing, as part of her budget message, a \$15 million community wealth-building pilot.

Working with the City of Chicago’s Office of Equity and Racial Justice,

The Democracy Collective (TDC), based in Washington, D.C. and Cleveland, advised the city on community wealth-building strategies. Current Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson has doubled down on the program since taking office in May 2023.

The Democracy Collaborative (TDC) defines community wealth building as a systemic transformation of local economies “to bring about shared prosperity, racial equity, and ecological sustainability through greater democratic ownership and participation.”

TDC has previously played a role in the Evergreen Cooperatives in Cleveland, a community-based economic revitalization program designed to build thriving businesses and vibrant local economies by creating quality jobs through a network of employee-owned enterprises in Northeast Ohio. The Evergreen Initiative proposes to reduce poverty and inequality by building community wealth, democratizing ownership, and creating local green jobs for residents of one of the high-unemployment, low-income neighborhoods.

No such program exists in the City of Cleveland, according to Jonathan Welle, Cleveland Owns Executive Director, an economic democracy incubator that builds cooperative businesses and leads campaigns for community control of resources.

“There were some smart investment moves the City of Cleveland made with the ARPA money, but as far as I know, none of it went to community wealth building,” said Welle, known most recently for leading Issue 38 People’s Budget, which would have given residents more power over the City budget. Cleveland City Council and labor unions pushed hard against Issue 38, narrowly defeating the charter amendment with 51 to 49 percent of the votes.

Cleveland Owns, incorporated as a 501(c)3 in 2019 and located at 4241

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CLEVELAND OWNS
The Cleveland Owns team at a co-op farm in Cincinnati. (L to R) Craig Ickler, Energy Democracy Organizer; Jonathan Welle, Executive Director; and Bogdan Vitoc, Co-op Organizer.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Saturday, February 17, 2024; Grand opening of Studio 525, Louis Stokes wing of the Cleveland Public Library’s Main Library, 525 Superior Avenue, 1st Floor: Marta Kilmer, age 5, receives assistance from Case Western Reserve University Computer Science graduate students Haoen Lu and Tina Xu in playing the Choo Choo Zoo video game. The CWRU grad students participated in the design of the game in a class with CWRU Professor Michael Fu. The game is designed to help children with disabilities to develop their cognitive skills and motor skills.

City Council members listen to residents’ concerns about inequities in City’s budget

By Chuck Hoven

In February, Cleveland City Council members hosted a series of meetings offering Cleveland residents an opportunity to give feedback on the City of Cleveland’s proposed budget for its next fiscal year.

Council members presented residents with a timeline which showed the Mayor’s Estimate of the budget being submitted to Cleveland City Council on February 1st. Council hearings on the budget occurring in the month of February and City Council’s adjustments to the budget made to the budget in the month of March. The timeline noted City Council must pass a budget by April 1st.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Five City Council members attended one such hearing held at Estabrook Recreation Center in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood on February 13th to dia-

logue with and listen to the concerns of a small group of residents and this reporter from the Plain Press.

City Council members participating in the session were: Ward 7 Council Member Stephanie Howse-Jones, Ward 12 Council Member Rebecca Maurer, Ward 13 Council Member Kris Harsh, Ward 14 Council Member Jasmin Santana, and Ward 15 Council Member Jenny Spencer.

Council members shared some figures from the Mayor’s Budget Estimate including pie charts with sources of estimated revenue and expenditures.

The revenue estimates predicted \$779,306,140 in total revenue in the 2024 fiscal year. The largest percentage of the revenue is expected to come from income tax, with a contribution of \$492,851,495 or 63.2% of the projected revenue. Property taxes are expected

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CWRU students’ video game helps children with disabilities

by Chuck Hoven

One of the video games featured at the grand opening of the new tech space for teens, Studio 525, is a video game called Choo Choo Zoo. The game, designed by Computer Science graduate students in Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Professor Michael Fu’s class, helps children with developmental disabilities to improve their

cognitive and motor skills.

Two graduate students, Tina Xu and Haoen Lu, attended the grand opening of Studio 525 to demonstrate how Choo Choo Zoo works. With the help of Xu and Lu, five-year-old Marta Kilmer of Lyndhurst, Ohio tried out the video game. She sat in a toy jeep equipped with a large arrow, a steering wheel, and other means to interact with zoo

animals in the video game which appear on a small screen in the front of the jeep as well as on a large screen on the wall.

Professor Fu said he is collaborating in research efforts with Professor Cole Galloway, and Dr. James Sulzer and they are seeking funding from a National Institute of

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Tuesday, February 13, 2024; Estabrook Recreation Center, 4125 Fulton Road: (L-R) Ward 13 City Council Member Kris Harsh, Ward 14 Council Member Jasmin Santana, and Ward 15 Council Member Jenny Spencer. (Also, in attendance but not in the photo, were Ward 7 City Council Member Stephanie Howse-Jones and Ward 12 Council Member Rebecca Maurer) At the meeting titled: *What’s in Your Wallet?* – Clevelanders were invited to come share their feedback and suggestions on the City’s proposed 2024 budget. The meeting was hosted by members of Cleveland City Council.

ARTS
THE CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION is accepting submissions now through Friday, April 5. The competition is open to all high school students living in the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio, which encompasses all of Cleveland and much of Cuyahoga County. Winners from each district will be honored at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., as well as in their home districts. The winning art pieces will be displayed inside the U.S. Capitol for one year for all Members, staff, and visitors to view and admire. Please visit shontelbrown.house.gov/services/art-competition for more information or to submit your artwork. If you have questions, please email OH11artcomp@mail.house.gov.
FREE CONCERT: Presented by Art Renaissance Tremont, cellist Mark Kosower will perform Sunday, March 24 at 4 pm at St. Wendelin Church (2281 Columbus Rd.) For more information, visit artconcerts.org. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.
FREE POETRY GROUP: Join Literary Cleveland and instructor Stephanie Ginese at the Cleveland Public Library South Branch (3096 Scranton Rd.) the third Saturday of each month from 10:30 am-12 pm for poetry writing and community in this free monthly writing group. Each month we will read samples of published poems for inspiration, discuss craft and form, draft our own fiction writing in response to in-class exercises, and build community among fellow writers. Join us every month or

stop by for a single session—this group is great for making progress on an ongoing project or for starting something new. This month's group is on Saturday, March 16.
JULIA DE BURGOS BOOK CLUB: Join us for our bi-monthly in-person book discussion for adults presented in partnership with Literary Cleveland and led by Nahomy Ortiz. This month we will meet Friday, March 29 at 6:30 pm to discuss *Solito* by Javier Zamora, the true story of Zamora's journey as an unaccompanied minor from El Salvador to reunite with his family in Arizona. The discussion will be held at Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center - Arts House/Artist Residence at 2804 Archwood Ave. (Park in the lot next to the white house; enter the white house through the front or back door). Questions? Contact us at info@juliadeburgos.org or 216-894-5664.
KIDS' COMIC CON: This year, Lake Erie Ink's 12th edition of its Kids' Comic Con will be hosted at the Pivot Center (2937 W 25 St.) on Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2. Attend workshops, visit the artists' alley, learn new skills, ignite your imagination, and learn more about what it takes to work in the comics industry. Check out the trading station to trade zines and art with other participants and guest artists. Cosplay is encouraged. Visit lakeerieink.org/comiccon24 for more information and to register.
ST. PAUL'S STREET STUDIO: Missing a chance to play live music or

share poetry in person? Check out the St. Paul's Street Studio and join us to share music/spoken word in a peaceful atmosphere of respect. We provide a piano, drums, acoustic guitars, and microphones...and an encouraging circle of listeners. All are welcome! The event is held at St. Paul's Community Church, 4427 Franklin Blvd from 1 pm - 2:30 pm in the sanctuary. This month's session is on Saturday, March 9. For more information, contact Ian Heisey at 216-973-1486 or heisey2140@sbccglobal.net.
WRITERS UNPLUGGED: Come hear bestselling author Lisa Unger discuss her newest book, *The New Couple in 5B*, Friday, March 8 from 7 pm to 8:30 pm at the Louis Stokes Wing of the Main Library downtown (525 Superior Ave. NE). Admission is free, but registration is required. Visit cpl.org/events/classes/upcoming-authors/writers-unplugged to register.
CAREERS
RECREATION SUMMER JOBS HIRING EVENT: The City of Cleveland will be doing open interviews to fill a variety of seasonal positions at its pools, rec centers, and camp at a hiring event on Saturday, March 16 from 12 pm to 3 pm at Michael Zone Rec Center (6301 Lorain Ave). Please bring a form of ID and your social security card or birth certificate. Questions? Contact Latashia Miller at 216-664-2325 or Lmiller3@clevelandohio.gov.
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS provided by the West Side Catholic Center offer individualized employment services and job readiness training. Classes run from four to fifteen weeks depending on the career track. We offer Culinary and Environmental Services Career tracks along with many other good job opportunities with supportive employers. The program includes a stipend allowance, free transportation and meals, a job acceptance bonus, a 90 day on the job bonus, one-on-one guidance, and computer lab assistance. The remaining start dates are February 28 and March 27. For more information, call Ellen Saracina at 216-631-4741 (ext. 143).
EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN: Cleveland-area women aged 25 and up who are currently enrolled in a four-year or graduate degree program are encouraged to apply for \$2,000 or more



in financial aid from College Club West for the 2024-25 school year, at collegeclubwest.org/scholarships. The deadline to apply is March 15. Scholarships will be awarded based on educational goals, financial need, and academic record.
ELECTION
EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING: There's still time to vote early in person at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (2925 Euclid Ave.) ahead of the March 19 primary election. The Board of Elections will be open every day for voting until Sunday, March 17. For a full list of hours, visit boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/voters/vote-early-in-person. Don't forget to bring a valid photo ID!
PRIMARY ELECTION: Ohio's primaries will be held on Tuesday, March 19. Polls will be open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm on election day. To check if you are registered to vote, find your polling location, and preview what's on your ballot, visit boe.cuyahogacounty.gov. Please remember that you must now bring a valid photo ID in order to vote.
VOTE-BY-MAIL APPLICATIONS are available at boe.cuyahogacounty.gov or by calling 216-443-8683 (VOTE). Applications must be received at the Board of Elections by Tuesday, March 12 at 8:30 pm. Once you receive your ballot in the mail, fill it out and mail it to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at 2925 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, OH 44115. Ballots must be postmarked by Monday, March 18 to count.

HEALTH
THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CLEVELAND AREA CHAPTER regularly offers a free education program, Healthy Living for Your Brain

and Body: Tips from the Latest Research, in various locations throughout the year. To find upcoming programs near you, visit alz.org/crf and search by your zip code. Those concerned about themselves, or a loved one, can contact the Alzheimer's Association Cleveland Area Chapter office at 216-342-5556 to schedule a care consultation and be connected to local resources that can help. The Alzheimer's Association's Helpline can be reached 24/7 at 800-272-3900.
HEALTH FAIR: Harbor and Bridge Community Center (4321 Bridge Ave.) will host a health fair with the help of students from Case Western on Saturday, March 9 from 9 am to 11 am. Guests can get blood pressure checks, health advice, and some free dental items as a thank you. Coffee and snacks included! For more information, contact Matt Whisenhunt at 216-417-3444 or mattw@harborandbridge.com.
MOMSFIRST: Are you pregnant? Do you live in the city of Cleveland? The MomsFirst program can help you learn how to deal with the stress that comes with being a parent; connect you to resources for housing, education, and healthcare; teach you how to keep your baby safe; and find birth control options that work for you. To enroll, visit momsfirst.org or call 216-664-4194
QUESTIONS ABOUT PROSTATE CANCER? Join us Thursday, March 28 from 4:30 pm to 6 pm in the Glick Meditation Room (1st floor) at MetroHealth Main Campus (2500 Metrohealth Dr.) to explore useful topics related to prostate cancer, discuss tips and tools on how to navigate your diagnosis and ask questions of a prostate cancer sur-

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Pot o' Gold Garden Gala

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For additional information about our services, contact WRAAA's **Aging & Disability Resource Center** at 216.621.0303

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CLEVELAND OWNS

continued from page one

Lorain Ave., supports five cooperatives working in clean energy, food access, digital access, and collective purchasing. They work with grassroots groups to deepen their capacity to organize and develop businesses.

“We are an economic democracy. We incubate projects that build democracy in our economic system, mostly by starting cooperatively owned businesses that serve their members. We also focus on solar cooperatives to promote energy democracy,” said Welle. “We also do general organizing like the People’s Budget, plus co-op circles, which bring together co-ops from around the city. We know that ownership is the currency of power in our economy today.”

Cleveland Owns’ mission is to redistribute ownership equitably by creating democratically owned and controlled institutions, Welle added. “We are working on a purchasing co-op, where nonprofits come together to buy stuff in bulk.”

Individual home ownership has not traditionally been an area of focus for the organization, but cooperative home ownership with housing co-ops potentially is. In Cleveland, 75% of white households own their home, while home ownership in the black community is more like 33%. A limited equity cooperative (LEC) is a residential development owned and managed by a democratically governed, nonprofit cooperative in which residents purchase a share in a development rather than an individual unit and commit to reselling their share at a price that maintains affordability over the long term.

In 2023, the Cleveland Co-op Fund, started by Cleveland Owns, gave a loan to Rust Belt Riders, one of Northeast Ohio’s most established worker-owned composting services, totaling \$450,000.

“We are incredibly excited about their mission,” Welle said. “That is just one of the ways we support existing co-ops, and we also support new co-ops through a program called Co-op U, a fourteen-week online incubator program.”

Co-op U provides hands-on coaching for people wanting to start a co-op. The program with Co-op Cincy and Co-op Dayton offers a replicable business model to develop a successful business plan, weekly meetings and personal mentorships, and an opportunity to access financing.

Cleveland Owns receives a mix of institutional financial support from local founders such as the George Gund Foundation, Cleveland Foundation, and Deaconess Foundation, as well as national support and grants, individual donations, and fees for service income like writing feasibility studies for a co-op.

Welle has worked with the City of Cleveland Office of Sustainability on a community-owned community solar project in the Hough neighborhood. Communities can produce electricity rather than purchase it from large utilities, which could democratize the clean energy transition.

The Hough Block Club, a community-wide initiative also known as The BC that launched in 2019, will administer the solar program and part-

ner with Cleveland Owns to build an 11-acre, ~4-megawatt ground-mount community solar project that foregrounds equity. The project will use a “partnership flip” model where the organization will split costs with a yet-to-be-named solar developer, with an option to buy them out at the end of the agreement.

Once completed, Hough residents would be eligible to connect to the solar hub via subscription using virtual net metering, which is crucial to the future of community solar in Ohio. Welle sees the Hough initiative as a template for other community-based solar operations to generate economic prosperity and promote racial equity.

“We have a compelling vision and business plan for how that project would work. We have explored a couple of avenues for funding through private grants and investment opportunities like tax credits. Residents who want to be actual owners have an opportunity to invest through low-interest loans.”

The local City government has not invested in projects that promote com-

munity wealth like in other cities across the country, including Chicago, and Cleveland remains mired in a past unwilling to change, said Welle. Recent efforts to promote cooperatives and community wealth building in major U.S. cities have sprouted up in New York City; Madison, Wisconsin; Richmond, Virginia; Denver, Colorado; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Jacksonville, Florida; and Rochester, New York.

The People’s Budget Issue 38 laid the groundwork for community participation in economic democracy and helped shape the future. Welle cites that as a positive outcome.

“More people began to understand the power of economic democracy through the People’s Budget campaign. People want more democracy and power at the local level. They want more say over things in their lives. We have the tools to make that possible if we have the political will,” he said. “Now is the time to build an office of community wealth building in Cleveland.”

Lorain Midway project should result in a safer, more vibrant street

by Abe Kurp

In September 2017, at the intersection of Fulton and Lorain, a young woman named Ashley Shaw was struck by a car while waiting at a red light on her bike. Shaw, who then worked for Ohio City Inc. and is now executive director of Midtown Cleveland Inc., told Channel 5 News in 2021 that the accident left her with a traumatic brain injury, memory loss, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

She’s not the only one – and others didn’t survive. According to Mark Oprea of *Scene*, in the last five years at least ten pedestrians have been struck and killed on the stretch of Lorain Ave. from W. 20 to W. 65 that includes that intersection.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Enter the Cleveland Midway, a planned city-wide bike-friendly project that includes a major redo of Lorain Ave., from the Hope Memorial Bridge at W. 20 to the Michael J. Zone Recreation Center at W. 65. The project has been in the making for about a decade, and plans are still being finalized, but current plans call for narrower lanes for car traffic, new pedestrian aprons, wider sidewalks, redone bus stops, tree beds, and of course, the centerpiece of the project: a two-way cycle track, separated from the roadway and running along the north side of Lorain Ave.

Add it all up and the result, City planners contend, is a safer, more vibrant street for all.

The trouble is that all this will come at the expense of parking. Planners say the project will require the removal of somewhere around 80 to 160 of the current 335 on-street parking spaces along that stretch of Lorain.

As is always the case with this kind of project, the pushback has been swift. The most vocal critics have been busi-

ness owners along Lorain, especially in the W 40s area. At a recent community meeting about the project on January 25 at Urban Community School, many were in attendance, and the question on everyone’s lips seemed to be: “But where are people going to park?”

Perhaps anticipating this response, City planners engineered a parking study of Lorain last year, finding that even at its highest occupancy, midday on Saturdays, only 47 percent of the spaces were filled. During the week, typically less than 30 percent of the spaces were filled.

Still, merchants remain worried that the loss of some on-street parking will lead to a loss of customers, especially people visiting from the suburbs and people just popping in to grab their food and go.

Business owners along Euclid Ave. voiced similar concerns in 2008 with the opening of the Healthline, the bus rapid transit line that runs down the middle of Euclid Ave – and, yes, takes away space from cars. Since then, though, the line has become an undoubted success. A 2018 study by RTA found that the \$200 million project had spurred \$9.5 billion in growth along the Euclid corridor, with new jobs, construction, and development in the areas it connects, especially Midtown, downtown and University Circle.

Nationally, cities have seen similar economic boosts when they’ve added protected bike lanes. In 2015, for example, Salt Lake City discovered that replacing on-street parking along its Broadway business district with a protected bike lane led to an 8.8% boost in sales for the merchants along the route.

More to the point, planners say the Lorain Midway will reduce points of conflict between drivers and other road users and reduce crashes along the busy and dangerous thoroughfare.

The main intended beneficiaries are bike riders, but, if all goes well, the benefits could cascade out to other vulnerable road users. The cycle track could accommodate people using those rentable e-scooters, skateboards, and electric wheelchairs. The narrower roadway could also translate to more safety for pedestrians, who will have less distance to cross the street and slower drivers to contend with, as people tend to drive slower on narrower streets. Less distance to cross is especially beneficial (and safer) for people

with limited mobility, such as older people or people with certain physical disabilities.

The most unexpected beneficiaries of the project, though, may just be drivers. A dedicated, separated space for bike riders means less conflict between drivers and riders – so no need to grit your teeth as you nervously pass someone riding in the gutter along the side of the road.

It could also mean a smoother commute. As the saying goes, “You aren’t stuck in traffic, you *are* traffic,” so even if you never ride a bike in your life, when other people choose biking or walking, you might get to work just that much faster.

Projects like the Lorain Midway seek to help more people choose those options by making them easier and safer.

In this case, it won’t come quick or cheap. Planners say they still need to raise more than half of the project’s \$30 million budget, and the project probably won’t be done until 2026 or 2027, almost a decade and a half after it was first proposed.

But for survivors like Shaw and fans of safer, more vibrant streets, it can’t come soon enough.

Pilot program aims to transform mental health crisis response in Cleveland

A new Innovative Care Response Pilot Program which aims to transform mental health crisis response in Cleveland will launch in zip codes 44102 and 44105 later this year. This innovative Care Response pilot program will have mental health professionals and peer supporters respond to individuals having a mental health or addiction crisis rather than the police. The program hopes to broaden the spectrum of crisis care with a focus on compassion and health.

The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County and the Cleveland Department of Health are asking Cleveland residents to help shape this essential program.

“In launching this groundbreaking initiative, we recognize that the heart of its success is the community’s buy-in and utilization,” said Scott Osiecki, CEO of the ADAMHS Board. “This pilot represents more than a new program; it is a vow to our community to deliver services with empathy, effectiveness, and a keen sensitivity to the

unique needs of our residents.”

Dr. David Margolius, Director of the Cleveland Department of Public Health, echoed this sentiment. “The collaboration ahead is about transforming our approach to care for individuals in crisis. We invite the community to join us, share their voices, and help evolve a mental health crisis response system that reflects the needs, values, and aspirations of Cleveland’s residents.”

The ADAMHS Board and the Cleveland Department of Health hosted a series of meetings beginning in February to get input from the public. Additional meetings are scheduled in March including a meeting at Zone Recreation Center, 6301 Lorain Avenue on Thursday, March 28th from 6-7:30 p.m.

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www.convergence-continuum.org	
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ica art conservation .. www.ica-artconservation.org ..	658-8700
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Transformer Station.. www.transformerstation.org ..	707-6755
Western Reserve Historical Society	721-5722
Windsong, Cleveland’s Feminist Chorus.....	644-8023

COMMUNITY ACTION

Action Network	www.actionnetwork.org
AIDS Task Force of Greater Cleveland.....	621-0766
All Aboard Ohio	www.allaboarдохio.org
American Civil Liberties Union (Ohio).....	614-586-1958
Big Creek Connects.....	264-9780
www.bigcreekconnects.org	
Bike Cleveland	www.bikecleveland.org
Black Lives Matter in Cuyahoga County	319-4870
Building Hope in the City	281-4673
www.buildinghopeinthecity.org	
Canalway Partners.	520-1825
www.canalwaypartners.com	
Catholic Charities ... www.ccdcle.org	334-2900
CWRU Social Justice Institute	368-7568
Center for Community Solutions.....	781-2944
Child & Family Advocates of Cuyahoga Cty	325-7747
City Club of Cleveland ... www.cityclub.org	621-0082
Cleveland Animal Protective League	771-4616
Cleveland Climate Watch	631-3337
Cleveland Community Police Commission	505-5920
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Cleveland End Poverty Now Coalition	471-8913
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www.clashcle.org	
Cleveland Lead Safe Network	833-601-5323
www.leadsafecle.org	
Cleveland Mediation Center.....	621-1919
www.clevelandmediation.org	
Cleveland Peace Action	440-703-0215
www.peaceactioncleveland.org	
Cleveland Police Foundation	623-3333
www.clevelandpolicefoundation.org	
Clevelanders for Public Transit.....	714-2164
www.CLEforTransit.org	
Cuyahoga County Jail Coalition	www.cuyahogacountyjailcoalition.com
Collaborate Cleveland.....	www.collabcle.org
Collaborative to End Human Trafficking	440-872-6500
www.collabtoendht.org	
Community Animal Retention Effort (CARE)	255-5012
Community Relations Board.....	664-3290
Council for Economic Opp in Gr. Clev	696-9077
Council on American Islamic Relations	830-2247
www.cair-ohio.com	
Court Community Service.....	771-2222
Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus	440-220-1874
www.cuycpc.org	
Cuyahoga River Area of Concern .. www.cuyahogaaoc.org	
DigitalC	www.digitalc.org
Disability Rights Ohio	800-282-9181
www.disabilityrightsohio.org	TTY 800-858-3542
Drink Local Drink Tap	440-381-6430
www.drinklocaldrinktap.org	
Empowering & Strengthening Ohio’s People.	
ESOP	373-1789
Enterprise Community Partners.....	631-0280
Environmental Health Watch.. www.ewh.org	961-4646
Fair Housing Office (City of Cleveland)	664-2018
Friends of Lake Avenue Bridge (Facebook)	
Global Cleveland	472-3282
Greater Cleveland Community Shares.....	361-9920
Greater Cleveland Congregations	440-799-5037
www.greaterclevelandcongregations.org	

	www.literacycooperative.org	
The Urban Barber Association (TUBA)		
	www.TheUrbanBarberAssociation.org	
United Way of Greater Cleveland.....		436-2100
	www.unitedwaycleveland.org	
Universal Health Care Action Network		614-505-9460
Utilities for All		651-2606
We Are the Uninsured.....		281-8945 ext. 205
West Side Family Resources Network		771-7297 Ext. 347
YWCA Greater Cleveland		881-6878
	www.ywcaofcleveland.org	

COMMUNITY CENTERS

Arrupe Neighborhood Partnership Program.....	961-1260
www.ignatius.edu	
Bridge CLE	www.bridgecle.org
Candid	www.candid.org
Catholic Charities Covenant Center	939-3700
Clark Recreation Center.....	664-4657
Cleveland Metroparks	635-3200
www.Clevelandmetroparks.com	
Cleveland Family Center for Missing Children and Adults	www.clevelandmissing.org ..
Cudell Recreation Center.....	664-4137
Cuyahoga Valley National Park	330-657-2752
www.nps.gov/cuva	
Estabrook Recreation Center	664-4149
Franklin Circle Christian Church	781-8232
www.FranklinCircleChurch.org	
Halloran Park Skating Rink	664-4187
Harbor and Bridge.....	www.harborandbridge.com ..
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT)	
Community Center of Greater Cleveland.....	651-5428
www.lgbtcleveland.org	
May Dugan Center. www.maydugancenter.org	631-5800
Merrick House ... www.merrickhouse.org	771-5077
Michael Zone Recreation Center.....	664-3373
Resource and Support Service Specialist	857-3238
Neighborhood Centers Association.....	298-4440
Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center	651-8236

Renee Jones Empowerment Center	417-0823
www.rjecempower.org	
St. Malachi Center www.malachicenter.org	771-3036
St. Paul’s Community Outreach Center	651-6250
www.stpaulscommunityucc.org/outreach-center	
Salvation Army Ohio City Corps.....	631-1515
Salvation Army West Park Corps	252-3593
Schools as Neighborhood Resources	812-8700
The Centers for Families and Children	651-2037
www.thecentersohio.org	
The Foundry Rowing Center	440-596-7069
.....	www.clevelandfoundry.org
Veterans Center - West.....	440-845-5023
West Side Catholic Center. www.wscenter.org	631-4741
West Side Community House (WSCH).....	771-7297
WSCH Family Resource Specialist	771-7297 ext. 340
WSCH Family Wrap for Success 771-7297 ext. 3	www.WSCHouse.org

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Catholic Diocese of Cleveland	696-6525
Cleveland Council on World Affairs.....	781-3730
Cleveland EcoVillage	961-4242 Ext. 227
Cleveland Neighborhood Progress.....	830-2770
Cleveland Police Foundation	623-3333
Cleveland Westside Village	714-2814
cwsvillage@gmail.com	
clevelandwestside.helpfulvillage.com	
Collective Arts Network	www.CANjournal.org
Community Shares... www.communityshares.org	361-9920
Congregation of St. Joseph	www.CSJoseph.org ..
Greater Cleveland Partnership	621-3300
Greater Cleveland Volunteers	391-9500
Ideastream Public Media, 89.7, 90.3 ,104.9 FM	578-0903
www.ideastream.org	
Jefferson-Puritas West Park CDC.....	671-2710
www.jeffersonpuritas.org	
Link-Up Bike Ministry.....	215-3327
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry .(LMM).....	696-2715
www.lutheranmetro.org	
Metro West Community Development Organization	www.metrowestcle.org ..
Neighbor Up	361-0042
Neighborhood and Community Media Association	
of Greater Cleveland	https://ncma-cle.org
North Coast District United Methodist Church.....	441-4527
Northeast Ohio Amateur Radio Society.....	www.noars.net
Northeast Ohio City Council Association. www.noccaorg.com	
Northwest Neighborhoods	962-4242
www.nwneighborhoods.org	
Ohio City Bicycle Co-op	216-830-2667
Ohio City Inc	www.ohiocity.org
Old Brooklyn Community Development Corp.....	459-1000
www.oldbrooklyn.com	
OneHope NEO	www.onehopeneo.com
PCs for People.....	930-5741
Scranton Road Ministries Com. Dev. Corp.....	861-5323
Team NEO www.northeastohioregion.com	423-6359
Tremont West Development Corporation.....	575-0920
experiencetremont.com/tremont-west	
Westown Community Development Corp.....	941-9262
www.westowncdc.org	
West Side Market Tenants Association	664-3387
WVIZ ideastream	www.wviz.org

www.stepforwardtoday.org	
Horizon Education Centers Market Square	930-5437
Old Brooklyn	584-5437
Detroit Shoreway.....	260-9777
Horizon Science Academy	432-3660
Ideastream Education	www.ideastream.org/education
Junior Achievement.....	861-8080
Kids Book Bank.....	417-1803
Levin College of Public Affairs and Education	687-2135
.....	https://levin.cusohio.edu
Lincoln West High School	383-7000
Max Hayes High School.....	383-9400
Menlo Park Academy	440-925-6365
Metro Catholic School.....	281-4044 x 227
	www.metrocatholic.org
Near West Intergenerational School	961-4308
	igschools.org/nearwest
Ohio Academy of Science	www.ohiosci.org
Ohio School Boards Association	800-589-OSBA
	www.ohioschoolboards.org
OLA/St. Joseph Center (Catholic Dioceses).....	334-2963
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School	281-7146
	www.OLMC-Cleveland.org
Pathway Caring for Children.....	440-586-8202
PBS Learning Media	www.pbselearningmedia.org
Positive Education Program.....	361-4400
PRE4CLE ... www.PRE4CLE.org	901-4257
Refuse of Cuyahoga County	http://refuseofcuyahogacounty.webstarts.com
Safe Routes to School	584-2046
St. Augustine Child Enrichment Center	939-7681
	www.staugministries.org/cec
St. Augustine Learning Center.....	781-5530
St. Ignatius High School www.ignatius.edu	651-0222
St. Ignatius of Antioch School.....	671-0535
	www.stignatiusofantioch-school.org
St. Rocco Parish School.....	961-8557
	https://saintroccoschoolcle.org
Say Yes to Education Cleveland	273-6350
	www.sayyescleveland.org
Seeds of Literacy..... www.seedsofliteracy.org	661-7950
Starting Point..... www.starting-point.org	575-0061
State Board of Career Colleges/Schools	614-466-2752
U.S. Dept of Ed Federal Student Aid	1-800-433-3243
Urban Community School.....	939-8330
	www.urbancommunityschool.org
The Centers for Family and Children	651-2037
	www.thecentersohio.org
The Welsh Academy	www.ignatius.edu/welsh-academy
West Tech Alumni Association www.westtechalumni.com	
Youth Resiliency Services (LMM).....	658-4625

EMPLOYMENT/TRAINING

AARP Foundation Senior Employment	881-1155
Advanced Technology Training Center – Tri C.....	987-3368
Community Re-Entry/Lutheran Ministry.....	696-2717
Cuyahoga Job and Family Services	987-7000
Workforce Opportunity Resource Center	987-6578
Employment Alliance	713-0734, ext. 3307
Esperanza Threads www.esperanzathreads.com ...	961-9009
Junior League of Cleveland.....	231-6300
Legal Aid’s Economic Justice Info Line	861-5899
Linking Employment Abilities & Potential.	
LEAP.....	www.leapinfo.org
Manufacturing Works .. www.mfgworksclle.org	588-1440
New Bridge	867-9775
Ohio Jobs and Family Services .. www.OhioMEANSJobs.com	
St. Vincent de Paul Job Training Program	www.svdpcle.org
Step Forward’s Employment Training Program.....	651-5188
Support Empower Engage Develop Sustain (SEEDS) .	
SEEDS Ward 14 Community Engagement.....	664-4238
Towards Employment.....	696-5750
www.towardsemployment.org	
Urban League.....	622-0999
Vocational Guidance Services.....	431-7800
Westside Catholic Center.....	631-4741 ext. 167
Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU)	566-5445
www.youcle.org	

ETHNIC GROUPS

American Indian Movement of Ohio.....	849-7746
Arab American Community Center for Economic	
& Social Services (AACCESS-Ohio).....	252-2900
Asian Services in Action	881-0330
Cleveland State University (CSU) Office of	
Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement.....	687-9330
Cuyahoga County Welcome Center	https://hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov/welcome-center
El Barrio Workforce Center	325-WORK
Esperanza.....	www.esperanzainc.org
Friendship Foundation of Amer-Vietnamese....	www.ffaavn.org
Hispanic Business Center ... www.hbcenter.org	281-4422
Hispanic Senior Center (Catholic Charities).....	939-3713
Hispanic Services Office (Catholic Charities)	696-2197
Hispanic UMADAOP	459-1222
www.humadaop.org	
Irish American Archives Society	941-5727
Lisette Quinone Ministries	254-2944
Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage	593-0575
Nepali News Network	www.nepalinewsnetwork.com
Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition	236-8027
www.neoblackhealthcoalition.org	
N.E. Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	281-4422
www.hbcenter.org	



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Jenny Spencer

Council Member, Ward 15

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Email jspencer@clevelandcitycouncil.org
City Hall, 601 Lakeside Ave., N. E., Room 220, Cleveland, OH 44114

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2024 Plain Press

Greater Cleveland Housing Justice Coalition	352-3645
Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland.....	619-8155
	www.hungernetwork.org
Inter-Religious Task Force on Central Amer	961-0003
	www.IRTFcleveland.org
ioby Cleveland	www.ioby.org
Keep Our Greenway Green	440-537-6461
Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership for Biodiversity	
	www.leaphio.org
LAND Studio	www.LAND-studio.org621-5413
Legal Aid Society of Cleveland	888-817-3777
	www.lasclv.org
League of Women Voters of Cleveland.....	694-8108
Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland	961-6968
Neighborhood Connections	361-0042
	www.neighborupcle.org
Neighborhood Leadership Institute.....	812-8700
	www.neighborhoodleadership.org
New Beginnings Ministries	916-9270
NEO CANDO	neocando.case.edu
Northeast Ohio Worker Center ..	www.neoworkercenter.org
Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality..	505-1127
	www.ohiobudgetequality.org
Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence	658-1381
Ohio Citizen Action.....	861-5200
Ohio Civil Rights Commission.....	787-3150
Ohio Climate Justice Fund ..	www.ohioclimatejusticefund.org
Ohio Men's Action Network	https://ohman-ohio.org
Ohio Organizing Collaborative	330-743-1196
Ohio Patients' Rights.....	221-2724
Open Streets Cleveland	512-0253
Organize! Ohio www.organizeohio.org	471-8913
Partnership for a Safer Cleveland.....	523-1128
People's Budget Cleveland	www.pbcl.com
Plain Press	https://plainpress.blog 621-3060
Policy Matters Ohio. www.policymattersohio.org	361-9801
Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods	
	CWRU ... https://prchn.org 368-6064
Protection & Advocacy System for Individuals with	
	Mental Illness Advisory Council
	www.disabilityrightsohio.org/paimi-advisory-council
Public Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).....	www.PAWSOHIO.org
Saint Colman's Outreach Ministry.....	651-0550
Saint Vincent de Paul Society	696-6525 x 3150
	www.svdpcle.org
The Land	www.thelandcle.org
The Literacy Cooperative	776-6180

YWCA of Greater Cleveland.....	881-6878
EDUCATION	
America SCORES	881-7988
Applewood/Children's Aid Society Campus	521-6511
Applewood Jones Campus	741-2241
ASC3 West Digital Literacy Training Center.....	421-2305
Aspire Greater Cleveland	833-277-4732
	www.aspiregreatercleveland.org
Audio Magazine Articles	888-724-6423
Breakthrough Schools.	456-2086
	www.BreakthroughSchools.org
Broadway School of Music and the Arts.....	641-0630
	www.broadwayschool.org
Case Western Reserve University www.cwru.edu	368-2000
Catholic Diocese Education Office.....	696-6525 ext. 1172
Cleveland Metropolitan School District Board	838-0030
Cleveland Central Catholic High School.....	441-4700
Cleveland Engineering Society	440-462-9382
	www.cesnet.org
Cleveland Metropolitan School District	838-0000
CMSD Volunteer Manager	838-0337
Special Education Department	838-7733
Office of Family & Community Engagement	838-3223
	www.clevelandmetroschools.org
Cleveland State University (CSU).....	687-2000
	www.csuohio.edu
Cleveland Teachers Union.....	www.ctu279.org861-7676
Cleveland Transformation Alliance	592-2303
	www.mycleschool.org
College Now Greater Cleveland	241-5587
Cuyahoga Community College ..	www.tri-c.edu ... 987-4000
TRiO Educational Opportunity Centers	987-6305
Tri-C Veterans Upward Bound.....	987-4529
Cuyahoga County	
Office of Early Childhood	www.Cuyahogakids.org
Board of Developmental Disabilities.	241-8230
	www.CuyahogaBDD.org
Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Educ Ctr.....	330-657-2909
Entrepreneurial Engagement Ohio.....	www.eeohio.org
Esperanza.....	www.esperanzainc.org651-7178
Garrett Morgan School of Science	838-3550
Gerson School	694-7200
Great Lakes Science Museum.....	694-2000
Hawken School	440-423-4446
Head Start (Step Forward).....	589-9922

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
Addiction Crisis Information & Referral Hotline ...	623-6888
Bellefaire JCB Homeless & Missing Youth 24/7 Hotline	
www.bellefairejcb.org	570-8010
Fire • Police • Medical.....	911
Frontline Service	623-6555
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline	988
	Text '4Hope' to 741741
Poison Control Center.....	1-800-222-1222
Public Utilities Emergency Numbers	
Water	664-3060
Electrical	664-3156
Sewer	664-2513
RTA Police.....	566-5163
St. Vincent Charity Psychiatry Emergency Services ..	363-2538
United Way HelpLink	211

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

ARTS & CULTURE	
Art House.....	www.arthouseinc.org398-8556
Assembly for the Arts ...	www.assemblycle.org575-0331
(changed name from Arts Cleveland? And website?)	
Bop Stop @ The Music Settlement	771-6551
Blank Canvas Theatre	440-941-0458
	www.blankcanvastheatre.com
Canvas	www.CanvasCLE.com
Cleveland Contra Dance	330-626-2129
Cleveland International Film Festival	877-304-3456
	www.clevelandfilm.org
Cleveland Museum of Art.....	421-7350
Community Arts Center (Pivot Center)	707-2483
Cleveland Museum of Natural History	231-4600
	www.CMNH.org

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Cuyahoga County Council

District 3

Martin J. Sweeney

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Fax 216-698-2040

mjsweeney@cuyahogacounty.us

Please call if I could help

Community Guide

Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center.....	651-8236
San Lorenzo Club.....	651-6540
Somali Community Center	938-6071
Spanish American Committee.....	961-2100
	www.spanishamerican.org
Ukrainian Museum-Archives.....	781-4329
United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland.....	566-9263

FOOD & HOUSEHOLD RESOURCES	
Baba's Yard	www.babasyard.org 744-6003
Cleveland Seed Bank.....	260-6850
	www.hummingbirdproject.org
Cuyahoga County Health and Human Services	881-5554
	https://hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov
Greater Cleveland Food Bank.....	738-2067
	www.GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org
Hooper Farm	www.hooperfarm.com 854-3905
Ohio Benefits: https://ssp.benefits.ohio.gov	
Ohio Direction Card Customer Service Ctr..	1-866-386-3071
Ohio State University Cuyahoga County Extension	429-8200
	https://cuyahoga.osu.edu
Pilgrim Congregational UCC www.pilgrimalive.org ..	861-7388
Redeemer Crisis Center	631-6434
	www.redeemercrisiscenter.com
St. Augustine Church.....	781-5530
	www.staugustinecleveland.org
St. Herman's House of Hospitality.....	961-3806
	www.sainthermans.com
St. Malachi Parish Back Door Ministry	418-8722
St. Malachi Parish	www.stmalachi.org
St. Vincent de Paul Society	
Brookside Hunger Center	541-1444
Community Corner Hunger Center	541-1444
St. Pat's Hunger Center	541-1444
Salvation Army on Lorain Avenue	252-3593
Twice Blessed Free Store	273-7447

GOVERNMENT	
Adult Probation – Cleveland Municipal Court.....	664-4733
City of Cleveland Division of Animal Control	664-3069
City Dogs	664-3476
Cleveland City Hall-- all City Depts	311
Cleveland Civilian Police Review Board	664-2944
Cleveland Clerk of Courts	664-4812
	https://clevelandmunicipalcourt.org
Cleveland Community Police Commission	505-5920

Centers for Families and Children.....	423-7200
Gordon Square Office	651-2037
Cleveland Air Quality Index	www.iqair.com
Cleveland Department of Public Health	664-3324
	www.clevelandhealth.org
Cleveland Emergency Medical Services	664-2598
Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center.....	231-8787
Cuyahoga County Board of Health.....	201-2060
Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission.....	698-2600
Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland.....	328-9989
Epilepsy Association	579-1330
Family Resource Network of Ohio	614-293-2134
Get Covered Ohio . getcoveredohio.org	833-628-4467
Help Foundation	432-4810
Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County.....	930-3322
Hospice of the Western Reserve.....	800-707-8921
Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition	833-601-5323
Lupus Foundation of America/Ohio	440-717-0183
Malachi House.....	www.malachihouse.org 621-8831
Metro Health Old Brooklyn Health Center.....	957-2100
Medicaid Hotline www.Medicaid.Ohio.gov .	1-800-324-8680
Medicaid Benefits https://benefits.ohio.gov ..	1-844-640-0266
Medicare	https://www.medicare.gov
MetroHealth Appointment Line.....	696-3876
Milestones Autism Resources	464-7600
Multiple Sclerosis Society – Ohio	1-800-344-4867
North American Menopause Society.....	440-442-7550
Ohio Dept. of Developmental Disabilities	800-617-6733
Ohio Relay Service (TTY/TTD).....	800-750-0750 or 711
Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program	
	www.insurance.ohio.gov 800-686-1578
Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation	614-429-1528
Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities	
	https://www.ood.ohio.gov
Paratransit Service	www.riderta.com/paratransit .
American Disabilities Act application ...	566-5124
Schedule Paratransit with ADA ID card .	621-9500
Project SAFE Neighborhoods (U.S. Attorney)	622-3600
Rose Garden Respite Center.....	671-0789
Services for Independent Living .. www.sil-oh.org ..	731-1529
The Arc of Greater Cleveland	736-2934
The Gathering Place https://touchedbycancer.org .	595-9546

HOMELESS RESOURCES	
Bellefaire JCB Homeless & Missing Youth Hotline..	570-8010
Cogswell Hall.....	961-1568

MetroHealth Behavioral Health Services	778-4428
Murtis H. Taylor Human Services System	283-4400
	www.MurtisTaylor.org
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Gr. Cleve ...	875-7776
	https://namigreatercleveland.org
National Eating Disorders Association	
	https://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org
Ohio Guidestone . https://ohioguidestone.org .	844-622-5564
Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services	
	https://mha.ohio.gov
St. Vincent Charity Outpatient Behavioral Health ...	363-2570
Signature Health	440-578-8200
Thrive Peer Recovery Ser 24 Hr. Warmline	440-886-5950

MONEY MATTERS	
Affordable Care Act www.healthcare.gov	1-800-318-2596
Better Business Bureau	https://www.bbb.org
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services...	1-800-633-4227
City of Cleveland Office of Fair Housing	664-2018
Consumer Finance Protection Bureau	
	www.consumerfinance.gov
Cuyahoga County Job & Family Services	881-5554
Do Not Call Registry.....	https://www.donotcall.gov
Earned Income Tax Credits.....	https://www.refundohio.org
.....Free tax preparation --For Appointments Call...	211
Economic Community Development Institute	912-5655
Energy Star	https://www.energystar.gov
Greater Cleveland Community Credit Union ..	216-664-2217
	greaterclevcu.com
Identification Crisis Collaborative Program	651-0550 x107
Internal Revenue Service (IRS).....	https://www.irs.gov
Medicaid Consumer Hotline (Ohio)	1-800-324-8680
Medicare fraud hotline	1-800-447-8477
Medicare	https://www.medicare.gov
Ohio Atty Gen Consumer Protection	800-282-0515
Ohio Benefits	www.benefits.ohio.gov
Ohio Consumers' Council	1-877-742-5622
OH Dept of Developmental Disabilities. https://dodd.ohio.gov	
OH Victims of Crime Program . www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov	
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.....	800-686-7826
Small Business Administration	https://www.sba.gov
Social Security Administration.....	https://www.ssa.gov
Unemployment Insurance (Ohio)	1-877-644-6562
Veterans Affairs Department	800-698-2411

PARENTING	
Bright Beginnings Parent Support Lead Program..	698-7500
	https://www.escneo.org/ParentSupportLeadProgram.aspx
Triple P-Positive Parenting Program.....	698-7500
Centers for Youth and Family Services	
.....Fathers and Families Together Office	325-9124



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, February 16, 2024; 4200 Pearl Road, Pearl Road United Methodist Church: The lawn of this church provides a rare green space on this stretch of Pearl Road.

Old Brooklyn corner slated for redevelopment has spooky history

by Lynette Filips

This month we continue to look at the history of the northwest corner of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave. which the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) is seeking to “revitalize” with a \$31 million new construction project. It is the most historic section of Cleveland’s Old Brooklyn neighborhood and has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2005. A picture of St. Luke’s United Church of Christ, one of the numerous historic commercial and institutional buildings on Pearl Rd. (and on Broadview Rd.) included in the Historic District designation, accompanies the online listing of the “South Brooklyn Commercial District”.

While OBCDC pursues funding for a plan to tear down the major portion of

this corner to erect a four-story building with commercial space on the first floor, residential space on the upper floors, and a brewery in the church proper portion of the former St. Luke’s, another group of people in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood is still hoping to “Save Our Historic District”.

This third in a series of articles will shed additional light on the history of downtown Old Brooklyn in the hope that someone in authority will realize that historic adaptive reuse of the existing buildings is superior to tearing down most of them and replacing the demo-ed area with new construction. Historic adaptive reuse would accomplish the same goals of adding new residential space, updated commercial space and new socialization space to downtown Old Brooklyn, but it would do so by

using the existing historic structures. It is the method which has been employed in downtown Cleveland to put new residential, hotel, retail and restaurant space in buildings which formerly housed department stores, banks and other businesses.

In my last two articles I wrote about (1) the legacy of three generations of the Gates family of millers in Old Brooklyn; and (2) the precursor of Pearl Road United Methodist Church which was located on the north side of the Big Creek valley.

Jeremiah, the patriarch of the Brooklyn Township Gates family, arrived in Brooklyn Township in 1816. He built the original portion of his brick home at 3506 Memphis Ave. in 1820; it is the oldest home in Old Brooklyn and is a City of Cleveland Landmark. His son

Charles’ home has been demolished but his grandson Howard’s home at 4248 W. 35th St. is still standing. Since they are residential rather than commercial buildings, they aren’t included in the National Register’s Commercial District, but they are important components of the area’s historical nature.

At approximately the same time, many other settlers with the surnames Fish and Brainard (and other names) had been settling north of the Big Creek Valley. In 1814, a group began meeting in each other’s homes for instruction in Methodism and in 1818 they organized as Brooklyn Methodist Episcopal Church. It was the first official congregation in Brooklyn Township and the first Methodist congregation in the entire Cleveland area.

My article last month ended with the Methodist settlers south of Big Creek who wanted to have a church on their side of the Valley. And so, in 1844, Brighton Methodist Episcopal Church was founded as an offshoot of Brooklyn Methodist Episcopal Church. It was the precursor of Pearl Road United Methodist Church (4200 Pearl Rd.), one of the important historic structures near the corner of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave. And, so to continue with this saga...

Needing a place to meet for worship and classes, the Methodist Episcopalists found a two-story structure in Brighton which had been erected in 1839. For one term it had housed Brighton Academy on the second floor, and the first floor was the meeting place of the Brighton Village Council. The west end housed a wagon and paint shop. The Methodist Episcopalists purchased the building in 1844 and thus began Brighton Methodist Episcopal Church. Until 1875, the same pastors served both the Brooklyn Centre and the Brighton congregations.

In addition to the Brainard and Fish families, members of the Methodist Episcopal Church included the Gates, Hinckley and Chester (as in Landchester Rd.) families. For many years the men sat on one side of the church and the women on the other. (Presumably the children were at Sunday School.)

The Brighton name was short-lived. When the name of the village became

South Brooklyn, the name of the church became South Brooklyn Methodist Episcopal Church. When the thoroughfare in front of the church became Pearl Street the name of the church became Pearl Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

A new church building was dedicated in August of 1897. It rose from the grassy area in front of today’s Pearl Road United Methodist Church. There were 90 members in the congregation at that time. The following year the congregation built a parsonage on Muriel Ave.

In 1905 the downtown portion of South Brooklyn Village was annexed to Cleveland. When World War I broke out, church membership had grown to about 900 and the congregation was debt-free.

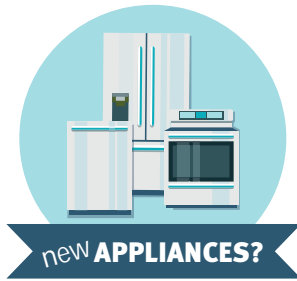
Pearl Road Methodist Episcopal Church then decided to erect a new building to house a Department of Religious Education on the lot behind the church; it opened in April of 1924. Next the worship space was remodeled, and the entire building was dedicated over the course of a week in November of 1924. But their happiness was short-lived as, in February of 1925, the new church was destroyed by fire. The building was not insured, and although the congregation wanted to rebuild it, that never happened.

In addition to a promise to continue with the Pearl Road Methodist Church story, at the end of both my January and February articles, I mentioned a very early cemetery called both “The Burying Ground” and “The Old Burying Ground” which was also located in the vicinity of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave. I asked Constance (Connie) Ewazen, the president of the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn (HSOB), what she could tell me about it, and here is what she wrote:

The Historical Society of Old Brooklyn’s research on this site began when I re-read Kathryn Gasior Wilmer’s book, “Old Brooklyn New, Book II”, that was written in the early 1980s for the Old Brooklyn Community Development

continued on page 11

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www.clepcp.org		
Cleveland Public Power ...	www.cpp.org	664-4600
City Council Offices.....		664-2840
www.clevelandcitycouncil.org		
Ward 3 Council Member Kerry McCormick.....		664-2691
Ward 11 Council Member Danny Kelly.....		664-3708
Ward 12 Council Member Rebecca Maurer		664-4233
Ward 13 Council Member Kris Harsh		664-2943
Ward 14 Council Member Jasmin Santana		664-4238
Ward 15 Council Member Jenny Spencer.....		664-4235
Ward 16 Council Member Brian Kazy		664-2942
Cleveland Lead Hazard Control.....		664-2929
Congresswoman Shontel Brown (D-11)		535-1100
https://shontelbrown.house.gov		
U.S. Senator J.D. Vance		539-7877
www.vance.senate.gov		
U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown		522-7272
www.brown.senate.gov		
Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.....		443-8683
https://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov		
Cuyahoga County Council		698-2010
District 2 Council Member Dale Miller		698-2011
District 3 Council Member Martin Sweeney		698-2230
District 7 Council Member Yvonne Conwell		698-2017
Cuyahoga County Job & Family Services..		1-844-640-6446
www.benefits.ohio.gov		
Cuyahoga County Dog Licenses:	www.cuyahogadogs.com	
Cuyahoga County Job and Family Service Centers		
Virgil Brown		987-6978
Cuyahoga County Government.....		443-7000
https://cuyahogacounty.gov		
Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Department		443-6000
Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District		443-3749
www.cuyahogarecycles.org		
Cuyahoga Valley National Park		440-717-3890
https://nps.gov/cuva		
Emergency Medical Service		911
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)		522-1400
Fire Department -Fire Public Education Unit		664-6386
Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority		566-5100
RTA Answer Line.....	www.rideRTA.com	621-9500
TDY (for hearing impaired)		781-4271
RTA Paratransit		566-5244
American Disability Act application		566-5124
National Do Not Call Registry	https://donotcall.gov	
NE Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency.....		241-2414
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District		881-8247
Ohio Dept. of Insurance	https://insurance.ohio.gov	
Ohio Governor Mike DeWine	https://governor.ohio.gov	
Ohio State Senators		
21st District: Kent Smith		614-466-4857
23rd District: Nickie J. Antonio		614-466-5123
Ohio State Representatives		
13 th District: Michael J. Skindell		614-466-5921
15th District: Richard Dell’ Aquila		614-466-3100
20 th District: Terrence Upchurch		614-466-7954
Police Department (non-emergency).....		311
Police First District.....		623-5100
First District Community Relations		664-6634
Police Second District.....		623-5200
Second District Community Relations ...		664-3293
Prosecutor’s Office (Cleveland)		664-4850
Prosecutor’s Office (Cuyahoga County).....		443-7800
Social Security Administration.....		1-800-772-1213
TTY		1-800-325-0778
United States Department of Justice		202-514-2000

HEALTH CARE

Asian Services in Action –	
International Community Health Center .	361-1223
Care Alliance.....	535-9100
Case Western Reserve University Dental Clinic	368-3200
Circle Health Services	
721-4010	
Cleveland Sight Center.....	791-8118
COVID-19 Vaccine Location Information - Ohio	
https://vaccine.coronavirus.ohio.gov	
Cuy Community College Community Health, Wellness	
and Preventive Care Center.....	987-3555
Cuy Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic....	987-4413
Grace Hospital.....	687-1500
Holy Family Home Health Care & Hospice	440-888-7722
www.holyfamilyhome.com	
Hospice of the Western Reserve	800-707-8922
Lutheran Hospital	939-8866
McCafferty Health Center.....	651-5005
MetroHealth Medical Center.. www.metrohealth.org	778-7800
Neighborhood Family Practice	281-0872
www.nfpmedcenter.org	
Planned Parenthood -Cleveland Health Center	851-1880
St. Augustine Health Campus	634-7400
St. Augustine Towers Assisted Living	
.....	www.staugministries.org
VA Medical Center	www.va.gov
Visiting Nurse Association.....	931-1400

HEALTH RESOURCES

Achievement Center for Children.....	292-9700
Affordable Care Act www.healthcare.gov ...	1-800-318-2596
Alzheimer’s Association -Cleveland - Helpline.	1-800-272-3900
American Red Cross.....	431-3010
Arthritis Foundation	800-283-7800
Better Health Partnership	250-1077
Canine Companions	www.canine.org
Catholic Charities Health and Human Services	334-2900

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Community Service Alliance	351-0655
City Mission Shelter.....	431-3510
Cuyahoga County Coordinated Intake	674-6700
Emerald Development & Economic Network (EDEN)	
www.edencle.org	961-9690
Front Steps Housing & Services St. Joseph’s Commons.	
.....	781-2250
Joseph and Mary Home ...	https://jmhome.org
.....	685-1551
Laura’s Home Women’s Crisis Center	431-3510
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry ..	www.lutheranmetro.org
2100 Lakeside Men’s Shelter	566-0047
Westhaven Youth Shelter	658-4625
Metanoia Project www.metanoiaproject.org	338-0181
Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.....	432-0540
www.neoch.org	
Providence House.....	www.provhouse.org
.....	651-5982
St. Herman’s House of Hospitality FOCUS Cleveland.	961-3806
www.sainthermans.org	
St. Malachi Center. www.malachicenter.org	771-3036
Salvation Army Greater Cleveland.....	861-8185
Harbor Light (Two Parent Families)	781-3773
Trials for Hope ...	www.Trials4Hope.org
.....	920-2205
West Side Catholic Center....	www.wsccenter.org
.....	631-4741

HOUSING PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

CHN Housing Partners	574-7100
www.chnhousingpartners.org	
Cleveland Board of Zoning Appeals	664-2580
Cleveland Department of Building & Housing	664-2282
Cleveland Energy Saver	664-3652
Cleveland Furniture Bank	342-7071
Cleveland Housing Court	664-4295
Cleveland Restoration Society.....	426-1000
Community Housing Solutions.....	651-0077
Cuyahoga County Auditor’s Office.....	443-8194
Cuyahoga Land Bank www.cuyahogalandbank.org ..	698-8853
Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA).	431-1471
CMHA Progressive Action Council	432-5536
Dept. of Aging Senior Homeowner Assistance.....	664-2833
Department of Community Development	
Housing Rehabilitation Programs.....	664-2045
Housing Development Office.....	664-2869
Fair Housing Center for Rights and Research	361-9240
Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity.....	429-1299
https://www.clevelandhabitat.org	
Home Repair Resource Center	381-6100
Neighborhood Assistance Corp. of Amer	425-602-6222
Northeast Ohio Apartment Association	241-1635
Ohio Housing Finance Agency	888-362-6432
Rebuilding Together Northeast Ohio	330-773-4100
ReStore -Habitat for Humanity	429-1299
Right to Counsel Cleveland Free Eviction Help.....	861-5835
www.FreeEvictionHelp.org	
Step Forward	www.stepforwardtoday.org
.....	696-9077
Tenant Information Line (Legal Aid)	861-5955
Western Reserve Land Conservancy	440-528-4150

LIBRARIES

Candid	https://candid.org
Cleveland Memory Project ..	https://www.clevelandmemory.org
(digital copies of newspapers from Plain Press archives)	
Cleveland Public Library Main Branch.....	623-2800
Homebound Service Department.....	623-7005
TDD-TTY.....	623-2916
www.cpl.org	
Kanopy	https://www.kanopy.com/en/cpl/
CLEVENET Library Consortium	
www.clevnet.org/cleveland.php	
Brooklyn Branch	623-6920
Carnegie West Branch.....	623-6927
Eastman Branch	623-6955
Fulton Branch.....	623-6969
Jefferson Branch.....	623-7004
Lorain Branch	623-7011
Public Administration Library	623-2919
Rockport	623-7053
South.....	623-7060
South Brooklyn	623-7067
CSU Library (Plain Press issues)	687-2479
Cuyahoga County Public Library.....	www.cuyahogalibrary.org
Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled .	623-2911
http://olbpd.cpl.org/	

MENTAL HEALTH AND HELP LINES

Alcohol, Drug Addiction Mental Health Services....	241-3400
www.admhscce.org	
Applewood Centers... www.applewoodcenters.org ..	459-9827
Applewood Carlos & Mary Jones Center.....	521-6511 x1781
Beech Brook Assertive Community Treatment.....	831-2255
Catholic Charities Outpatient Mental Health ..	1-800-860-7373
www.ccdocle.org	
Children’s Aid Society.....	521-6511
Cleveland Christian Home.. www.cchome.org	416-4277
Courage to Caregivers	536-7699
www.couragetocaregivers.org	
Cuyahoga County 24-Hour Suicide Prevention, Mental Health/	
Addiction Crisis Information & Referral Hotline	988
Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance. www.dbsalliance.org	
Emotions Anonymous	https://emotionsanonymous.org
Frontline Services – Mobile Crisis Team.....	623-6888
Future Directions COS.....	251-8265
www.futuredirections-cos.org	
Joy’s House of Love	www.joyshouseoflove.com
Magnolia Club House	721-3030
www.magnoliacubhouse.org	

Connecting for Kids	440-570-5908
https://conectingforkids.org	
Healthy Fathering Collaborative	211 or 245-7842
www.neofathering.net	
MomsFirst City of Cleveland Dept of Public Health ..	664-4194

SENIORS

AARP Foundation Cleveland	881-1155
Senior Community Service Employment Program	
A Place for Us.....	844-329-9215
Benjamin Rose Institute.....	791-8000
...Rose Centers for Aging Well -- Gunning Park	373-1917
.....James Woods – Meal Site	373-1916
Cleveland Department of Aging.....	664-2833
Cleveland State University Project 60.....	687-5411
Cleveland Westside Village.....	714-2814
https://clevelandwestside.helpfulvillage.com	
Cuyahoga Community College Program 60	987-6000
Cuyahoga County Division Senior & Adult Services	420-6700
Golden Buckeye Card (Ohio Dept of Aging)..	1-800-422-1976
Greater Cleveland Volunteers	391-9500
Hispanic Senior Center.....	939-3713
Kirby Manor Apartments.....	521-5445
Livable Cuyahoga . www.livablecuyahoga.us	263-4670
Long Term Care Ombudsman.. www.ltco.org ..	1-800-365-3112
National Caucus & Center on Black Aging	202-637-8400
Ohio Senior Health Insurance Info Prog.....	800-686-1578
Older Person Law Unit..(Legal Aid)	888-817-3777
St. Vincent Charity Geriatric Psychiatry	363-2580
Senior Citizen Resources Inc. (Old Brooklyn)	749-5367
West Side Community House Healthy Aging Center	
.....	771-7297 ext. 303
Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging.....	621-0303
PASSPORT Medicaid Waiver Program...	939-9240
..... Family Caregiver Support.....	586-3441
www.areaagingsolutions.org	

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Addiction/Mental Health Crisis Hotline:	623-6888 or 988
Alcohol Drug Addiction Mental Health Services	241-3400
www.adamhscce.org	
Alcoholics Anonymous	241-7387
Al-Anon & Alateen.....	621-1381
Catholic Charities Services- Substance Abuse Treatment	
https://www.ccodocle.org	334-2900
Community Action Against Addiction.....	881-0765
Covenant Adolescent Chemical Dependency	
Treatment and Prevention Center.....	574-9000
Cleveland Treatment Center ... Project SAFE.....	991-7233
Edna House for Women ... https://ednahouse.org	281-7751
Frontline Services Mobile Crisis Team	623-6888
Hispanic Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse	
Outreach Program (HUMADAOP).....	459-1222
Hitchcock Center for Women	421-0662
MetroHealth Project DAWN (Naloxone).....	387-6290
Narcotics Anonymous (NA).....	1-888-GET-HOPE (438-4673)
NA Western Area General Service (WAGS)	
www.wagsna.com	
Recovery Resources.....	431-4131
St. Vincent Charity Rosary Hall	363-2580
Salvation Army Alcohol Detox Unit	1-800-SA-TRUCK
Stella Maris	781-0550
www.stellamariscleveland.com	
Women’s Recovery Center ... www.womensctr.org ..	651-1450
Y-Haven Residential Treatment	
and Recovery Center.	431-2018

YOUTH

Bellefaire JCB	www.bellefairejcb.org
.....	932-2800
Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland	621-8223
Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland	883-2106
Boy Scouts of America.....	861-6060
Camp Happiness (Children w/ MR/DD)	334-2997
Centers Adolescent Residential Services	
.....Cleveland Christian Home	416-4277
Cleveland Public Library Studio 525 .	https://cpl.org/studio-525
Cuyahoga County Division of Children & Family Services	
Ohio Foster, Adoption & Kinship Care	881-5775
Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center.....	443-8400
Future Coalition	https://futurecoalition.org
Girl Scouts of North East Ohio	800-852-4474
Hispanic UMADAOP	
Project Niños & Youth In Action.....	459-1222
Junior Achievement of Greater Cleveland.....	861-8080
Keep Playing Cleveland	440-227-2598
Malachi Center.....	771-3036
Merrick House	www.merrickhouse.org
.....	771-5077
My Commitment My Community (MyCom)	399-2271
OhioGuidestone	844-622-5564
Salvation Army Ohio City Corps.....	631-1515
West Bethel Baptist Church Youth Services	281-6044
West Denison Baseball Leagues	251-5790
www.westdenisonbaseball.org	
W. 130 TriLeague	www.trileague.com
.....	476-8456
West Side Community House	
Sisterhood Program	771-7297 ext. 315
Boys Council	771-7297 ext. 346
Youth Community Diversion Program.....	664-6250
Youth for Christ (YFC) .	https://yfccleveland.org
.....	252-9881
City Life Center	
Deaf Teen Quest	
Youth Opportunities Unlimited	566-5445
www.youthopportunities.org	
Youth Pages for Cuyahoga County Teens	
www.211cleveland.org/youthpages	

BUDGET INEQUITIES

continued from page one

to contribute another \$46,102,745 or 5.9% of the estimated revenue. The remaining 30.9% of the revenue is expected to come from a variety of sources including admission tax, licenses and permits, miscellaneous, investment income, local government fund, charges for services and fines, grant revenue, other shared revenue, transfers in, and other taxes.

The expenditures in the Mayor’s Budget Estimate totaled \$778,689,000 for the entire 2024 operating budget. The total number of employees supported by the budget was listed at 4,600.

The Executive Branch accounted for \$721,348,621 of that amount representing 92.6% of the operating budget. According to information provided by the City Council members, this includes salaries and benefits for 4,113 people.

The Judicial Branch, which includes Municipal Court, the Clerk of Courts and the Housing Court has a proposed budget of \$48,273,787 or 6.2% of the operating budget. The number of employees is estimated at 426 people.

Cleveland City Council’s proposed budget was listed at \$9,066,769 or 1.2% of the operating budget. The number of employees in the legislative branch is listed at 61.

The largest part of the entire City of Cleveland proposed budget is devoted to Public Safety which amounts to \$400,719,587 or 51.5% of the total budget. The remainder of the executive branch’s proposed funding includes categories such as Public Works, Non-Departmental, General Government, Finance, Law, Public Health, Building & Housing, Human Resources, Economic Development, Community Development and Aging.

The discussion on the budget in-

cluded questions about equity and fairness in the distribution of funds and decisions made by Cleveland City Council.

A resident of Ward 1 said she did not see how residents in her neighborhood were benefiting from the City of Cleveland’s spending. Council Member Rebecca Maurer asked her what benefits would look like to her. The resident noted that other areas of the city were getting improvements they didn’t need, while her neighborhood was being neglected.

Council people talked about some other means of paying for neighborhood improvements including bonds for capital projects and revenue from casinos. Council members say that each City Council member receives about \$93,000 a year in casino revenue to distribute. This represents 15% of the casino revenue that the City of Cleveland receives. They said the City Administration receives the other 85% of the revenue. Residents asked if City Council could reverse those amounts and allocate 85% to City Council and 15% to the City Administration.

The Plain Press raised an issue concerning a broken promise made by the City of Cleveland and supported by legislation passed in 1995.

At the time, City of Cleveland leaders went down state and secured legislation from the State of Ohio to exempt the new Brown’s stadium from property taxes. They also promised that the Cleveland Municipal School System would be made whole and not lose the revenue it would have received if the stadium was required to pay property tax. They promised the Cleveland schools would receive \$2 million per year to fund extracurricular activities to make up for the stadium’s tax exemption, the remainder of the funds could go to either Brown’s stadium repairs or to the City General Fund.

The legislation City Council passed in 1995 to provide the funds increased

the admissions tax, the motor vehicle leasing tax and a parking tax. The \$2 million per year for the schools would come out of the combined revenue from these three taxes that bring in \$20 million or more a year. The promise was kept for about a decade. Then the Jackson Administration reduced the amount to \$1 million per year to give the Browns extra money for repairs of the stadium. The Comprehensive Extracurricular Activities Program of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) received a million or less for the remainder of the Jackson administration. The Bibb Administration increased the amount given to the schools to \$1.125 million in its current budget proposal. Meanwhile the Brown’s stadium is sitting on millions in unused funds set aside for repairs. Funds that should have gone to Comprehensive Extracurricular Activities Program of the CMSD.

Council members were thankful for the institutional memory of the promise made to the schools preserved and presented to them at this meeting. Council Member Stephanie Howse-Jones said she was only 14 years old in 1995. Council Member Kris Harsh said he didn’t come to Cleveland until 1998. Council Member Jenny Spencer found the proposed budget of \$1.125 million for the Comprehensive Extracurricular Activities Program in the Mayor’s Budget Estimate. Council members promised to investigate the matter.

Council Member Kris Harsh brought up the issue of which neighborhood pay more in taxes than they receive in services. He claimed that only the Downtown and University Circle neighborhoods paid more in taxes than they received in services. Harsh did not provide the source of his data. While both Downtown and University Circle are large employment centers, many of the employees of employers headquartered in those neighborhoods do not work or live there.

For example, while the payroll taxes for the City of Cleveland or the Cleveland Metropolitan School District may be paid from City Hall and the CMSD headquarters on E. 12th and Superior, the employees may work in various places throughout the city and may live in places throughout the County. The same is true of some of the entities in University Circle. For example, Cleveland Clinic owns and operates Lutheran Hospital and Fairview Hospitals on the West Side of Cleveland. Are those employees included in the numbers for the neighborhoods where they are working, or in the University Circle’s numbers? Also, none of the large government employers pay any property tax. Nor do most of the nonprofit institutions and hospitals in University Circle. Many of the new large residential apartment buildings in Downtown and University Circle also have 15-year property tax abatements.

The meeting also included a discussion of the impact of tax abatements and tax increment financing. State of Ohio enabling legislation allows City governments to engage in these practices. With some minor changes in the past year, Cleveland City Council decided to continue the tax abatement program. It is also weighing a decision to create Tax Increment Financing District that would divert non-school increases in property tax revenue to a special fund that would largely go to infrastructure that would pave the way for large developments planned by the billionaire owners of the Browns and Cavaliers on the Lakefront and Cuyahoga River.

In the discussion concern was expressed that City Council’s decisions on tax abatement have an impact on not only the City of Cleveland’s budget, but also the budgets of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Cuyahoga County, the Cleveland Public Library and the Metroparks.

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District is most severely impacted by the tax abatements. The CMSD

receives 54.51% of the property tax revenue. New construction is the only local source of revenue increase that the CMSD can benefit from to help offset inflationary costs without passing another tax levy.

While Cleveland City Council has argued in the past that housing coming off tax abatement after 15 years will produce that revenue increase, this has not happened. By the time the housing comes off abatements, Cleveland has lost so many residents and housing units in those 15 years that the increase in property tax revenue projected by the CMSD is only a half of a percent per year. Meanwhile their labor costs go up each year, and health insurance alone rises about 9% each year.

Back in the 1970s the State of Ohio passed House Bill 920 which was later enshrined in the State of Ohio Constitution. The bill will not allow residents to pay more in school taxes for operating purposes unless a tax levy is put before voters. So, when properties are reappraised, the millage is lowered on the individual property tax bills, so residents do not receive an increase in the amount they pay for schools.

For the school system to keep up with inflation it must benefit from new construction, or continuously pass property tax levies. So, every few years the school system cuts programs and lays off employees until it can pass a levy. Revenue from new construction which is supposed to help sustain the school system for longer periods without a levy, is not forthcoming because of tax abatements.

The other entities impacted by both property tax abatements and tax increment financing – both enabled by State of Ohio legislation—are the City of Cleveland (15.16% of the property taxes); Cuyahoga County (19.45% of the property taxes); Cleveland Public Library System (7.51% of the property taxes); and the Metroparks (3.27% of the property taxes).

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

vivor. Partner/spouse or adult loved one welcome to join! Parking for attendees will be validated, and snacks will be provided. Visit touchedbycancer.org to register. Questions? Contact Brittani Davis at davis@touchedbycancer.org or 216-455-1528.

QUIT SMOKING: For free help with quitting smoking, dial 211 or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (that’s 1-800-784-8669). For text-based assistance, text QUITNOW to 333888 or visit smoke-free.gov/smokefreetxt.

LIBRARIES

LEGO AIR SENSOR WORKSHOP: Join us at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (8216 Lorain Ave.) for a free workshop where we will build an air-quality sensor out of Legos on Saturday, March 9 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. For more information, contact David Taylor at 216-664-2147 or dtaylor6@clevelandohio.gov.

STREAM MOVIES FOR FREE: Using your Cleveland Public Library card, stream up to 20 movies per month on the Kanopy streaming service. The service’s catalog includes many classic films, international films, and indie darlings. Just go to kanopy.com to sign up. Select Cleveland Public Library as your library. Type in your library card number. Then type in the last four digits of the library card number when asked for a pin.

WORDS ON WHEELS: Cleveland residents can get books, movies, and more by mail. All you need is a Cleveland Public Library card. Sign up for a library card or to find out if this program is right for you, call your neighborhood Cleveland Public Library branch. For more information visit cpl.org/services/at-home.

RECREATION

FREE MONDAYS AT THE ZOO: On Mondays, the zoo is FREE 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 Cty. or Hinckley Twp. address along with a photo ID.

FREE SUNDAYS at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for all residents of Cleveland or East Cleveland. Please reserve your tickets in advance at cmnh.org/visit. Proof of residency is required upon arrival.

RESOURCES

FREE STATE IDS: Ohioans 17 and older are now eligible for a free state ID if they don’t have a valid driver’s license. To obtain a new ID, visit your local BMV and bring along documents that confirm your basic information, like name, address, date of birth and social security number. When it’s time to renew your free state ID, you can either visit the BMV or do it online. To renew your ID or to see a full list of documents you’ll need to bring, visit bmv.ohio.gov. **THE HOPE CENTER FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS** (15135 Triskett Rd.) offers a variety of resources for recent arrivals to the United States, including ESL and citizenship classes, immigration and legal services, job placement and career services, after-school tutoring, child care, and transportation assistance. Visit buildinghopeinthecity.org for more information. **LEGAL AID SOCIETY BRIEF ADVICE CLINIC:** Have a legal question? Legal Aid has answers!

Visit this Brief Advice Clinic at the Eastman Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (11602 Lorain Ave.) on Saturday, March 9 to chat with an attorney about a problem related to money, housing, family, employment or other issues. This clinic is first come, first served, no appointments needed. (Only questions on civil legal issues, not criminal problems). Please bring all important paperwork with you. Intake hour is from 10 am to 11 am. In the meantime, Legal Aid is open 24/7 online at lasocv.org, or you can call Legal Aid for help during most business hours at 888-817-3777.

ONLINE CRIME REPORTING: The Cleveland Police Department now has an online tool that allows residents to file a police report for some crimes

online. This includes property damage, misdemeanor theft, lost property, and bicycle theft. To use this tool, call 833-461-0144. This will prompt you to enter your phone number followed by the pound symbol (#). A text message with a direct link to the website will then be sent to your cell phone, allowing you to submit a report. More serious crimes, such as car accidents and crimes with a named suspect, should be reported via CPD’s non-emergency phone number, 216-621-1234.

TAXES

AARP TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE: Volunteers from AARP will be on hand to help seniors and most other individuals file federal and state tax forms for free, every Friday until April 12 at the West Park Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (3805 W 157th St). Registration required. Call 216-623-7102 to check eligibility and schedule an appointment. Visit aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide to find additional locations and to review the list of documents you will need to bring to your appointment in order to complete your tax return.

FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE is also available at various Cuyahoga EITC Coalition community locations, including the Clark Branch of Dollar Bank (3115 W. 25 St.), the Gordon Square Arcade (6516 Detroit Ave.) and The Centers’ Gordon Square location (5209 Detroit Ave). By appointment only! For additional locations or to schedule an appointment, visit refundohio.org or call 2-1-1.

TRANSPORTATION

FREE BUS PASSES: Pregnant or a new parent? RTA is now offering free weekly bus passes to pregnant mothers and to parents of children under one year old through its Baby on Board program. Call 216-658-1355 for more information and to sign up.

VOLUNTEERING

BENJAMIN ROSE INSTITUTE ON AGING is seeking volunteers to help address food insecurity and reduce social isolation in older adults. Opportunities include: Meal Delivery, either

in your own car or riding in one of our trucks; Meal Delivery Assistants, who greet drivers and help load their cars with meals; and Wellness Callers, who offer companionship to older adults. Visit our website, benrose.org, to fill out an application. For more information, contact volunteering@benrose.org or 216-373-1932.

CLEVELAND PUBLIC THEATRE is seeking volunteer ushers and assistants to help out at their upcoming shows and special events. Most performances are held at the main CPT campus (6415 Detroit Ave.), in the evening hours. When volunteering at a

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CWRU VIDEO GAME
continued from page one

Health grant to continue the work to help people with cognitive and motor disabilities which may result from a developmental disability, a traumatic brain injury, a stroke, or cerebral palsy.

Professor Fu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Engineering and Computer Science and the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at CWRU. He also serves as a Research Scientist at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center. Professor Fu serves as an Investigator at the Cleveland Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) Center. The Cleveland FES Center is a consortium of five institutional partners: the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, MetroHealth Medical Center, CWRU, University Hospitals and Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute.

Professor Fu says Professor Galloway did research at the University of Delaware to develop cars for children with disabilities that operate with buttons. The program Professor Galloway founded is called "Go Baby Go." According to its website it is "a program that provides modified,

ride-on cars to young children with disabilities so they can move around independently." Professor Fu says Galloway is now in Cleveland working remotely for Baylor University.

The other collaborator in the research, Dr. James Sulzer, is Staff Scientist at the MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute and an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Sulzer also works as an investigator with the Advanced Platform Technology Center at the Louis Stokes Cleveland Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Professor Fu noted that Dr. Sulzer has experience he learned as a caretaker for one of his children who suffered a traumatic brain injury and applies it to his research. Dr. Sulzer's lab, the Rehabilitation with Insight from Robotics and Engineering (Rewire) Lab, works collaboratively with Professor Fu and Professor Galloway.

Members of the CWRU computer class also volunteer with a group called RePlay for Kids whose mission is to "increase the availability of toys and assistive devices for children with disabilities." The RePlay for Kids website says, "We repair, adapt and distribute toys and assistive devices free of charge."



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, February 17, 2024; Louis Stokes wing of the Cleveland Public Library's Main Library, 525 Superior Avenue, 1st Floor: Grand opening of Studio 525, the Cleveland Public Library's cutting-edge tech space for teens. Teens enjoy a video game in which pair of teens compete on a virtual basketball court.

Professor Fu says the invitation to bring the Choo Choo Zoo video game to the Studio 525 Grand Opening, came from Tristan Wheeler, a Games Culture Advocate and Creative Technology Engineer at the Cleveland Public Library, who served as a judge for the various video games created by students in Professor Fu's graduate Computer Class.

CORNER'S HISTORY
continued from page 8

Corporation. The Burying Ground was located to the vicinity of today's St. Luke's United Church of Christ; Kathryn Wilmer actually referred to it as an Indian Burial Ground.

A few months after I read this, a gentleman came to visit the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn's Museum and mentioned that his great-grandfather told stories of a cemetery being on the corner of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave.

Shortly thereafter, I found a legal document in the HSOB files in which an agreement was made with the trustees of the German Congregational Church that they were responsible for disinterring and reintering the bodies in the graves in The Burying Ground.

Brookmere Cemetery was established in 1835, which is just before this agreement was made, but poor record keeping at the time does not make it clear whose remains, if any, were moved there.

I then contacted William G. Krejci, author of "Buried beneath Cleveland; Lost Cemeteries of Cuyahoga County", who then conducted his own research. He not only verified that there was a

cemetery on that corner, but also discovered its exact dimensions.

During this process, the HSOB learned that we would have to borrow or rent a "ground penetrating radar machine" to determine if any bodies were left behind.

In the meantime, the house which still stands behind St. Luke's United Church of Christ -- which HSOB believes was built for Phebe Gates, widow of Jeremiah Gates -- was experiencing paranormal activity. This caused the person residing there to hire local paranormal investigator Mary Ann Winkowski to help the earthbound spirits there to "crossover" to the next life. In addition, Mary Ann verified that there was a cemetery on the corner.

The HSOB also contacted the Archangel Paranormal Society in North Royalton to determine if the paranormal activity was gone. They found none.

There is still more to share about the Old Burying Ground, so next month, before moving on to the congregation which was the precursor of St. Luke's United Church of Christ, I will write about the rest of the information regarding the Burying Ground.

Library hosts grand opening of cutting-edge tech space for teens

On February 17th, Cleveland Public Library held a grand opening for Studio 525, which it describes as "a vibrant, cutting-edge tech space for teens on the first floor of the Cleveland Public Library's Louis Stokes Wing, blending the latest technology in a dynamic interactive environment."

The cold and snowy weather outside did not deter teens and families with younger children from visiting and exploring Studio 525 at its grand opening which offered guests music played by a DJ, free food, refreshments, as well as demonstrations of new technology, interactive sessions, and gaming.

The Cleveland Public Library (CPL) says, "The Studio 525 experience is centered around STREAM programming, which integrates Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Math, delving into robotics, gaming, artificial intelligence (AI), art, virtual reality (VR), or crafts."

According to information provided by the CPL, teens visiting Studio 525 can: "EXPLORE: Explore the latest in technology, including robotics, gaming, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality. CREATE: Unleash artistic talents with a range of creative activities and workshops. INNOVATE: Dive into hands-on experiments and activities that nurture a love for science and engineering. MEETUP: Hang out with friends in a safe and welcoming space designed specifically for teens."

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Tues., March 19
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Hollywood vs. Faith



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www.frankrunyeon.com

Entrepreneurship may be obtainable with help from Legal Aid

by Tonya Sams

Many people dream of owning a business but are unable to get it off the ground because of several barriers. The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland may be able to help with its Legal Center for Entrepreneurs with Low-Income.

The Center was started in 2019 in the hopes of creating an avenue out of poverty for those with low-income. The Center focuses on addressing the issues that make it difficult to achieve entrepreneurship, including providing legal check-ups and legal services to income-eligible business owners; partnering with business development incubators to connect entrepreneurs with mentoring and other supports; and providing education on common legal issues for entrepreneurs and self-employed people

“Entrepreneurship and self-employment provide powerful pathways out of poverty. Not just for the business owner, but for their communities too. Small businesses are more likely to use local vendors and contractors and reinvest in their communities,” said Catherine

Donnelly, a Senior Attorney in the Community Engagement group at Legal Aid. “A successful small business can therefore have a ripple effect into their communities. Unfortunately, for those with low income, starting a business poses many challenges.”

One of the first cases that The Center handled was one involving a single mother who wanted to expand her business.

“I worked with the business owner to create standard agreements for both the business’s customers and for independent contractors taking on deliveries and projects,” Catherine recalls. “The business was able to expand during the pandemic and provide work for others in the community, while giving the business owner the flexibility she needed to be with her kids.”

Those who are interested can apply for help 24/7 by going to lasclev.org/apply-for-free-legal-aid/. If the application is accepted, the applicant will be interviewed by Legal Aid Staff to learn more about the business and to determine if they are ready to receive legal services.

If it is determined that the business may need additional help, Legal Aid has a number of resources, including referring entrepreneurs to business development partners. These partners will help mentor the entrepreneur and help them develop a business plan. Legal Aid may also offer discreet legal representation for those being sued in court.

Legal Aid can also offer brief advice by phone, virtually or in person at our Brief Advice Clinics. Brief Advice Clinics allows individuals and families an opportunity to sit with attorneys and volunteers to obtain legal advice, including advice about entrepreneurship. These clinics are held in libraries, community centers, and other places in the community. To find out if a Brief Clinic will be in your neighborhood, go to lasclev.org, click “Events,” then click “Clinics.”

For more information on The Legal Center for Entrepreneurs with Low-Income go to lasclev.org/get-help/community-initiatives/lowincomeentrepreneurs/. *Tonya Sams is a Development & Communications Manager at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland*

Pilgrim Church welcomes new pastor

The Church Council of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ at 2592 W. 14th Street announced in early February that the church is welcoming a new pastor, the Reverend George R. Graham.

In the announcement, the Church Council says, “Rev. Graham brings his passion for those marginalized by society, whether by race, gender, class, sexual orientation, or life experience to Pilgrim Church, an urban church in the Tremont neighborhood long known for its social justice and openness.”

Originally from the Cleveland area, Rev. Graham is a graduate of Hiram College with majors in Religion and German. He has a master’s degree from Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee. After completing graduate school, Graham served as editor of *Alive Now* magazine published by The Upper Room.

In 2000, Graham and his spouse returned to Cleveland to be closer to family. He worked for the United Church

of Christ National offices as Editorial Director of the *Pilgrim Press*, and then as Associate for Leadership Gifts. He was ordained into Christian ministry in the United Church of Christ in 2003.

From 2007 to 2014 Graham served as the Director of Development and External Relations for Adoption Network Cleveland. From 2014-2018 he served as Development Officer at Seidman Cancer Center of University Hospitals.

Returning to a faith-based setting, Rev. Graham became Vice President with the Council for Health and Human Services Ministries of the United Church of Christ in 2018 working to support direct service ministries through the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery.

Graham is currently working toward completion of a Doctor of Ministry degree from Eden Seminary.

The Church Council of Pilgrim Church says, “Rev. Graham and the people of Pilgrim Church look forward to working with the community in new ways into the future.”

CHAOS AT CAC MEETING continued from page 5

to the community at the December CAC board meeting on behalf of herself and director Jill Paulsen for the distrust.)

In response, Mendez quoted from the Robert Rules of Order, saying the purpose of minutes was to record actions, not what anyone said in the meeting. A disagreement broke out between Sherman and Mendez, talking over each other and making it nearly impossible

to hear what either board member was saying. It ended when Mendez asked the board if there were any other questions. A motion to approve the minutes came next: Mendez, Michele Scott Taylor, Daniel Blakemore, and Karolyn Isenhardt approved; Sherman opposed.

Editor’s Note: This article first appeared in the online publication *CoolCleveland*. To read the rest of this article, visit <https://plainpress.blog>.

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

Good Friday
3:00 p.m. Passion (English)
6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross (English)

Holy Saturday
Food Blessings: 11:00 am, 12 noon, 1:00 pm
Easter Vigil: 7:00 pm

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

St Patrick, Bridge
Easter Services

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

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EASTER SERVICES

Holy Thursday – March 28
7:00 PM – Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
after Mass until 11:00 PM

Good Friday – March 29
12:00 Noon - Solemn Stations of the Cross
3:00 PM - Commemoration of the Lord’s
Passion with Communion

Holy Saturday – March 30
8:30PM Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday – March 31
10:00 AM Mass
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Good Friday German - 3:00 pm
English - 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday German - 9:00 am
English - 10:30 am

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LENT & HOLY WEEK 2024
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Apollos Fire Baroque Orchestra performing March 21st @ 7:30pm
HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday: March 24th
Saturday @ 4pm
Sunday @ 7:30am, 9:30am(Procession begins 9:15am) & 12noon (Latin novus ordo)
*confessions available before the 4pm and 12noon Masses

Holy Thursday: March 28th
Mass of the Lord’s Last Supper & Washing of the Feet @ 7:30pm
*adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist in the daily Mass chapel until 11pm
*parish led holy hour 9pm – 10pm
*confessions available 6:45pm – 7:15pm

Good Friday: March 29th
Church opens at 10am *confessions available 10am – 11am / 2pm – 3pm
Stations of the Cross @12pm
Solemn celebration of the Lord’s Passion & Death @3:00pm
Procession thru the streets 6:30pm, followed with devotions to the Sorrowful Mother and veneration of the True Cross

Holy Saturday: March 30th
*confessions available 11am – 12:30pm (Chapel) and 3pm – 4pm (Church)
*blessing of Easter foods @ 12:30pm (Chapel)
Easter Vigil Mass @ 7:30pm

Easter Sunday: March 31st
7:30am, 9:30am & 12noon(Latin novus ordo)

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HOLY WEEK SACRED TRIDUUM

Palm Sunday -
Vigil Mass Saturday, March 23
at 5 pm
Sunday, March 24
at 9 am & 11 am

Holy Thursday - March 28
9 am-Morning Prayer,
10 am-School Prayer Service,
6 pm-Simple Soup Dinner,
8 pm-Mass of the Lord's
Supper

Good Friday - March 29
9 am-Morning Prayer,
3 pm-Celebration of the Lord's
Passion

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

Easter Sunday - March 31
at 9 am & 11 am

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES
March 28-31, 2024

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