



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Sunday, March 3, 2024; Friends of Cudell Commons Park rally and candlelight vigil, Cudell Commons Park just east of Cudell Recreation Center at Detroit Avenue and West Boulevard: Nikki Hudson, a member of Friends of Cudell Commons Park, speaks of plans to continue advocacy to save the park from becoming a school construction site. See related article below.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

Residents seek info on local crimes at Second District Police meeting

by Bruce Checefsky

Johnny Hamm, Captain of Patrol, Second District Department of Public Safety, City of Cleveland, told residents of Ward 14 during a meeting at Bridge CLE that the crime rate in their neighborhood had significantly decreased in recent months.

Hamm said city-wide homicides are down 48.28% from 2023, and in the Second District, they were down

77.78%. He reminded residents that even though the number is significant, in 2023, there were multiple fatalities—four murders in one incident—which is uncommon in the city; homicides are down 50% compared to 2022.

Martin Muniz, 41, was charged with aggravated murder when he fatally shot four people and injured an 8-year-old girl at a home in Brooklyn Center

in January 2023. The victims were all family members. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

Muniz also admitted to killing Jaime Molina, 45, in North Camden in October of 2013.

“We have only a slight increase in rape, up by 5% across the city, followed by burglary at 1.63%,” Hamm said, noting that the local media, including newspaper and television reporting, is responsible for painting a picture of the high crime rate in the city, adding that the crime is not as bad as it looks in the media.

“We are doing very good,” he said.

Cleveland residents continue to experience a higher homicide rate compared to the national average, according to the Cleveland Department of Public Health, with homicides more likely to impact residents who are black and between 18 and 44 years of age. Firearms contributed to the majority of deaths, followed by stabbing, and suffocation.

The 2023 City of Cleveland Annual Report, Department of Public Safety, showed the use of force incidents, where a necessary course of action for an officer is to restore safety in a community when other practices are ineffective, increased city-wide from 195 to 279 incidents between 2021 and 2023, or by almost 70%. District 2 had the second-largest increase.

“You should never be afraid to call the police,” said Hamm. “If it is some-

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PHOTO BY BRUCE CHECEFSKY
Tuesday, March 12, 2024; The Second District Policing Committee Meeting, Bridge CLE, 3389 Fulton Road: Johnny Hamm, Captain of Patrol, Second District Department of Safety, City of Cleveland, shares policing data with residents in attendance at the meeting.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Tuesday, March 19, 2024; Cleveland Municipal School District Board Business Meeting, Waverly School: Bob Watson of Friends of Cudell Commons Park urges the Board of Education to “Save Cudell Park”. His sign contains a picture of Frank Cudell who deeded the land to the City of Cleveland with the understanding it would remain a park forever. The City swapped the park for school system properties and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District plans to build a new Marion Seltzer School on land where the park currently sits.

Ronayne's nominations to CAC Board draw criticism

by Bruce Checefsky

Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne nominated Leonard DiCosimo and Gina Vernaci and reappointed Karolyn Isenhardt to serve on the five-member board of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (CAC) for the term 4/01/2024 through 3/31/2027. The Cuyahoga County Council will confirm his nominations before the next CAC meeting in April.

“These new leaders have a passion for the arts and a strong commitment to enriching the community, which perfectly aligns with the mission of Cuyahoga Arts & Culture,” said Ronayne in a press release. “They possess the essential qualities necessary for cultivating a dynamic cultural landscape throughout our region.”

The list of applicants, who applied

to serve on the CAC board of directors, was published in the Collective Arts Network (CAN) Journal in January. When asked, most applicants said they never received an interview or were never contacted about their application.

“I never received any response,” said artist Robert Wright. “It is a farce to request applications. I thought I would at least get a response saying, ‘Thanks, but no thanks.’”

“I was not interviewed. I am not even sure they contacted me about my application at all,” said artist Michael Loderstedt, Professor Emeritus of Kent State University who also served as interim director of the School of Art. “I’m not sure if I know anything about the new candidates. I imagine they are not artists.”

John Farina, a collector of regional

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Friends of Cudell Park bring their concerns to the Board of Education

by Chuck Hoven

In the month of March, the Friends of Cudell Commons Park continued their effort to preserve the neighborhood's public park and keep it from being destroyed to make way for a new Marion C. Seltzer School building.

Cudell Commons Park sits just east of Cudell Recreation Center at West Boulevard and Detroit Avenue and just north of Marion C. Seltzer

School at 1468 W. 98th Street. Friends of Cudell Commons Park have made it clear to the City of Cleveland and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District that Architect Frank Cudell left the property to the City of Cleveland with the stipulation that it remain a park forever.

After learning on March 1st that Judge Ashley Kilbane lifted the temporary restraining order that had prevented the Cleveland Metropol-

itan School District (CMSD) from beginning construction of the new school on the park, the group held a rally and candlelight vigil at the park on March 3rd.

On March 19th, members of Friends of Cudell Commons Park walked from the park to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Board of Education meeting held at Waverly School at 1805 W. 57th

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Sunday, March 17, 2024; St. Colman Church, 2057 W. 65th Street: Fife players from the West Side Irish American Club emerge from the church after mass, ready to head downtown for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNECTING FOR KIDS
Connecting for Kids named Amy McElwain as its 2024 Educator of the Year for going “above and beyond as an educator for students with disabilities, including planning camping trips and leadership training for students.” McElwain is a resident of Cleveland and Director of Operations and School Administration for The Bridge Avenue School, 3389 Fulton Road.

ARTS
CALL FOR ARTISTS: In honor of the total solar eclipse on April 8, Summit Artspace is hosting the exhibition *In the Shadow: Artwork from the Total Solar Eclipse*. Beginning April 5, artists can submit artwork in all media directly inspired by the total solar eclipse or any artwork inspired by celestial bodies and events. The exhibition will run from May 24 to June 15 at the Welcome Gallery and Hallways of the Summit Artspace. Artists who live, work, or attend school in Summit and contiguous counties (Cuyahoga, Geauga, Medina, Portage, Stark, or Wayne County) are eligible. It is free to apply, and the submission deadline is Friday, May

3. Visit summitartspace.org for more information.
MEET THE AUTHOR: Explore Cleveland’s spooky past with local historian and author of *Lost Ghost Stories of Cleveland*, William Krejci, as we investigate our city’s ghostly legends and urban lore, downtown at the Main Library of the Cleveland Public Library (325 Superior Ave.) on Saturday, April 6 at 12 pm. Book signing to follow.
POETRY READINGS: In honor of National Poetry Month, this April the Ohio Center for the Book is hosting two poetry readings featuring Ohio poets at the main branch of the Cleveland Public Library (325 Superior Ave). Lindsay Turner and Noah Falck will share a

selection of their works on Saturday, April 20, followed by Stephanie Ginese and Taylor Byas on Saturday, April 27. Both events will be from 4 pm to 5 pm in the Literature Department on the second floor of the downtown library.
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, April 27. For more information, contact Ian Heisey at 216-973-1486 or heisey2140@sbccglobal.net.
SUMMER OF SISTERHOOD, sponsored by the West Side Community House (9300 Lorain Ave.), offers a safe space for girls ages 10 to 18 years old to explore their creativity and express themselves through art, including singing, dancing, acting, creative writing, and fashion design. The program runs Monday through Friday from 12 pm to 5 pm, from June 3 to August 2. For more information, contact Kelli Price at kprice@wschouse.org or 216-771-7297 ex 315. Or visit wschouse.org/summer-of-sisterhood-application-2024 to apply.

CAREERS
FREE JOB TRAINING: If you are a SNAP benefit recipient, you are eligible to receive free education and job training. Contact the Workforce Opportunity Resource Center at Cuyahoga Job and Family Services for more information: 216-987-6578.
JOB CORPS offers free, hands-on training, campus living, meals, supplies, and a supportive community to 16- to 24-year-olds looking to jumpstart a career. Visit jobcorps.gov or call 800-733-JOBS (5627) for more information.
OHIO MEANS JOBS offers career coaching, help with applying for jobs, computer skills training, help with creating resumes and more. The job center at 1910 Carnegie Ave. is open Monday thru Friday from 8 am-4:30 pm. Call 216-777-8200 or visit omjcc.us for more information.
THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, sponsored by



Youth Opportunities Unlimited, helps students in 8th thru 12th grade find a summer job so they can learn and earn some money! Earn \$13.50 an hour for up to 25 hours per week. Applications due by May 1. Visit www.youcle.org/syep for more information or to apply.

COMMUNITY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC SENIOR CITIZENS CAUCUS will hold their monthly meeting on April 6 at 12:30 p.m. at 3615 Superior Avenue. State Representative Sean P. Brennan will speak on Environmental Issues and give an update on the Statehouse. Brennan is the sponsor of a bill to repeal HB6. Parking available on Superior or on lot off E. 36th. Wheelchair accessible. Questions call Co-Chair Pam Mason at 216-268-9658.
GET GRAPHIC! COMICS DISCUSSION: Join us on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at Bookhouse Brewing (1526 W 25 St.) for this discussion group focused on comics and graphic novels. On Thursday, April 4, we will discuss *One! Hundred! Demons!* by Lynda Barry. On Thursday, May 2 we will discuss *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel.
QUEER PARENT SUPPORT GROUP: Sponsored by the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, Building A Village is a support group for queer parents with children 10 and under. The group is an opportunity for parents to build social connections and give and receive support while their children participate in age-appropriate social programming. The group meets every fourth Saturday of the month from 10:30 am - 12 pm at the LGBT Center (6705 Detroit Ave.). This month’s meeting will be Saturday, April 27.
TREMONT THINK AND DRINK: Join us for an engaging book discussion while enjoying your favorite beverage at Lincoln Park Pub (2609 W 14 St) Monday, April 15 at 7 pm. This month, we will be discussing *Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee* by Casey Cep.
WOMEN’S GROUP: the women’s outreach center at Franklin Circle Church (1688 Fulton Rd.) offers a variety of activities, including art therapy, poetry/book discussion, yoga therapy, crochet and knitting, and field trips. The group is held Wednesdays from 2 pm-4 pm. Please enter at the side door, on Fulton Rd.

list of activities, dates and times, visit greatscience.com.
TOTAL ON THE OVAL: The Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the University Circle community are hosting a family-friendly community watch party for the eclipse at Wade Oval on Monday, April 8. Enjoy live music, hands-on activities, and more as we gear up for the event of a lifetime. The museum will be open from 10am–2pm with special programs and activities. After 2 pm, the party moves outside as we use ISO-compliant eclipse glasses to safely watch the Total Solar Eclipse. The entire Total on the Oval event runs from 10 am–4:30 pm.

ENVIRONMENT
EARTH DAY CLEAN UP: In honor of Earth Day, the Brooklyn Centre Collective will host a clean up of the Shalom and Tranquility Garden (3789 West 39th St) from 9 am-12 pm on Saturday, April 20. Open to the public. Lunch is always served.
ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES is a free after-school field science experience for middle and high school students run by Case Western Reserve University’s Leonard Gelfand STEM Center (10900 Euclid Ave). Self-motivated participants will engage in real science with the guidance of experts, collecting and analyzing environmental data in the Lake Erie watershed. Participants will be selected in a competitive application and interview process. Completed applications are due June 30. For more information, visit gelfand.case.edu or contact Kathryn Kwiatkowski: Kmk21@case.edu, 216-368-5075.
FREE TREE PLANTINGS: Residents of the Old Brooklyn neighborhood are eligible to have a tree planted in their lawns at no charge, thanks to the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation. Each tree will be professionally and responsibly planted by a planting team throughout 2024. Visit oldbrooklyn.com/tree or contact Hope at HopeF@oldbrooklyn.com or 216-459-1000 x206 to learn more.

FESTIVALS
DYNGUS DAY: Packed with authentic ethnic food, music, beer, and dancing, Dyngus Day is a city-wide celebration of Polish culture and traditions on Monday, April 1 from 10 am to 8 pm, centered around the Gordon Square Arts District. This year, the event will return to being an outdoor event, closing off several blocks of Detroit Ave.
THE NCAA WOMEN’S FINAL FOUR will take place at Rocket Mortgage Field House from Friday, April 5 to Sunday, April 7. While it is a ticketed event, there will also be a variety of related free events, including live music, opportunities to meet players and staff, and giveaways. For a full list of events, visit clevelandncaawff.com.

HEALTH
FREE SMOKE ALARMS are available to Cleveland residents thru Operation Save-A-Life, a program of the American Red Cross and Cleveland Fire Department. The smoke alarms are installed by Cleveland firefighters at no cost to the resident. To apply, call the 24-hour hotline at 216-361-5535. Please note that the application and installation process may take up to 90 days.
HELP ME GROW, an initiative of the Ohio Department of Health, offers free home visits to pregnant mothers and parents of young children. Our caring

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

Cudell family descendent urges Mayor Bibb to honor donor’s vision for Cudell Commons, keep green space forever

To the editor:
Open letter to Mayor Justin Bibb,
My name is Gail Lundberg. I am a direct descendent of the Cudell family. Please take the time to hear my message re: Cudell Commons.

LETTER
Frank Cudell was a leading architect in the late 19th century. He devoted his life to the building of housing and manufacturing facilities in the city of Cleveland. He was passionate about his work and his city, so much so that he gave land to the city, with certain conditions

attached. The 1906 deed, filed with the city, clearly states that this property, Cudell Commons, shall remain a GREEN SPACE FOREVER!
I consider this property to be my land as well. With all due respect, by ignoring his legacy and his vision for a better future for the residents of the city he loved is criminal. The park’s neighbors have cared for and valued this land. The students will most certainly suffer. The park provides an environment for learning... art, music, creative writing, science and so much more.

By taking that away, you fail the youth who are the future of your city. You teach them that one’s wishes can be ignored, and that their future rests in the hands of those that have turned their backs on the past.
The residents, city and school district representatives must meet to come together on this pressing issue. You, as mayor, have the power to make that happen.
Please do the right thing!
Gail Lundberg

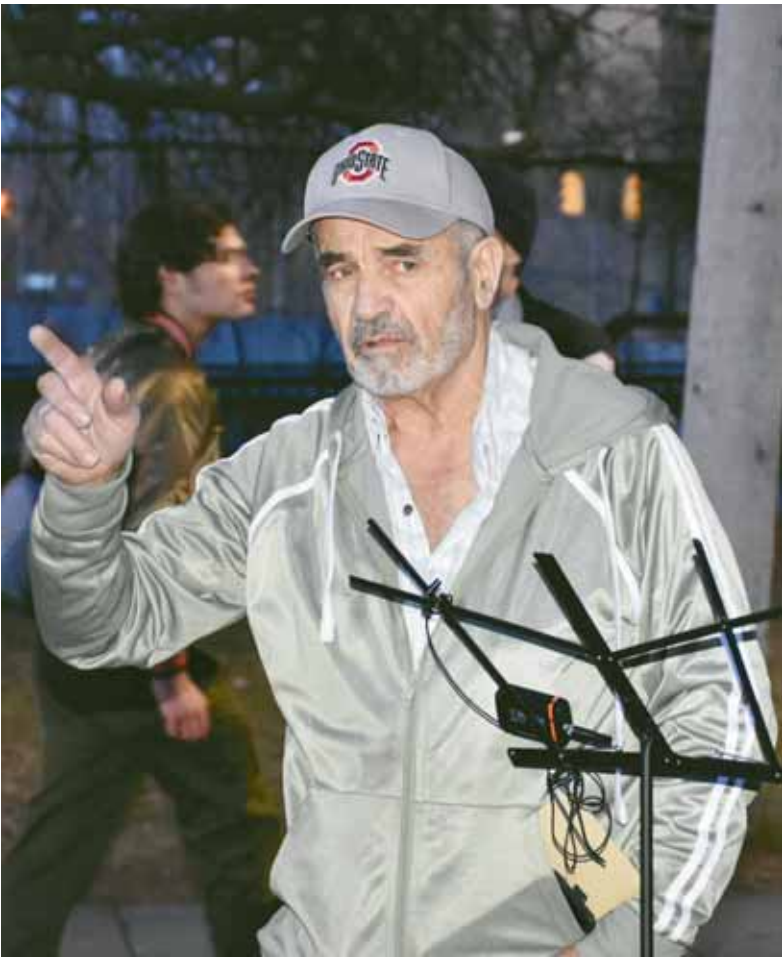


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Sunday, March 3, 2024; Friends of Cudell Commons Park rally and candlelight vigil, Cudell Commons Park just east of Cudell Recreation Center at Detroit Avenue and West Boulevard: Faouzi Baddour, a member of Friends of Cudell Commons Park, calls for an effort to get the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to work together with residents for a solution that is best for children, so the children can enjoy the park as well as a refurbished school.

Old Brooklyn residents’ research sheds new light on the history of a cherished corner slated for redevelopment

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 fourth 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 adaptive reuse of the existing buildings is superior to tearing down most of them and replacing the demo-ed area with new construction. 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 three articles I wrote about (1) the legacy of three generations of the Gates family of millers in Old Brooklyn; (2) the precursor of Pearl Road United Methodist Church which was located on the north side of the Big Creek valley; and (3) Brighton Methodist Episcopal Church, the initial name of the first Methodist Church south of the Big Creek valley, and the (Old) Burying/Burial Ground which was located just south of the Methodists’ property.
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 classes 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.

The Methodist settlers south of Big Creek wanted a church on their side of the Valley and in 1844 they purchased an existing building in the community and founded Brighton Methodist Episcopal Church. Their surnames included Brainard, Fish, Gates, Hinckley and Chester. The Methodist Episcopalals dedicated a new church building in the grassy area (in front of today’s Pearl Road United Methodist Church) in August of 1897. That space was remodeled in 1924, soon after they built a Department of Religious Education behind it. Everything was dedicated in November of 1924 but in February of 1925, the church was destroyed by fire. It was never rebuilt.
A very early cemetery called the (Old) Burying/Burial Ground was also located at the corner of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave. It was referred to as an Indian Burial Ground in Kathryn Gasior Wilmer’s book, *Old Brooklyn New, Book II*, written in

the early 1980s for the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation. (Perhaps the cemetery originally was an Indian Burial Ground, but we do not currently have any official documentation about that.)
In April of 2022 Historical Society of Old Brooklyn president Constance (Connie) Ewazen had the good sense to contact William G. “Bill” Krejci, author of (among six additional local history, legends, and lore non-fiction books and three mystery novels) *Buried beneath Cleveland; Lost Cemeteries of Cuyahoga County*. He has subsequently been researching this former burial ground for another book he’s working on. William Krejci is an Old Brooklyn resident and because of his interest in old cemeteries and in saving this historic area of Old Brooklyn from redevelopment, he generously agreed to share his research with me for this series of articles.
Because of his skill at finding primary source documents and converting old surveying terminology to modern measurements, William Krejci has been able to discover exactly where the Old Burying Ground was located and that it was .65 acre in size. The eastern boundary of the Burying Ground measured “1 chain and 84 links” which, when converted, equals 121 feet. It commenced “in the center of ‘the Turnpike’”, which was one of Pearl Rd.’s earliest names. The southern boundary of the Burying Ground ran 190 feet along “the road leading to Gates Mills”, which is today’s Memphis Ave. The western boundary of the Burying Ground was a straight line of 215 feet running through today’s separation between the two-story Greenline Building and the one-story commercial building next to it.

The north boundary of the Burying Ground ran along today’s side wall of the Educational Wing Annex on St. Luke’s United Church of Christ. It was 168 feet in length and “terminated at the place of beginning in the middle of the Turnpike.”
The Old Burying Ground was the first public cemetery in Brighton. We do not know the date of its first burial, but we do know that it closed in 1836 when Brookmere Cemetery was established pretty much ‘around the corner’. The deceased in the Old Burying Ground were supposed to be exhumed and reburied in Brookmere Cemetery and based on the headstones, a few of them were.
We do have the names of some of the reinterred, but first, here is

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plainpress@gmail.com
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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, March 19, 2024; Fairview Gardens, 3207 Franklin Boulevard: Ohio City Incorporated (OCI) is taking steps to reduce the property tax bill at Fairview Gardens and is committed to keeping the apartments affordable for senior citizens.

FRIENDS OF CUDELL

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Street. The group protested outside prior to the meeting, and then went inside where members of the Friends of Cudell Commons Park planned to participate in the public comment portion of the Board of Education meeting.

Early in the meeting, Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer Dr. Warren Morgan acknowledged the presence of community members from the Cudell neighborhood and said he was looking forward to listening to the community and hearing about a path forward concerning the future of Marion Seltzer School and the park.

During the public comment period, Samaria Rice, the mother of Tamir Rice, spoke to the Board of Education in solidarity with the Cudell community. She expressed concern that the CMSD had not been in contact with her about the memorial for her son in the park when planning the new school. She urged the CEO and the Board of Education to work together with her and the community on plans for the future of Marian C. Seltzer School.

Friends of Cudell Commons Park member Jamie Lee Brazier, who says she has lived across the street from the park and Marion C. Seltzer School for 22 years, said:

I've been the eyes that watch over the park when there is danger. I'm the first one to call them. I want you to know, I and my neighbors are not against building a new school. We were told there would be a refurbished school over ten years ago. Then everything went silent. Then about three years ago, Patti Choby (CMSD consultant and founder of the Cobalt Group) and her group said they engaged with us to show us a plan for the new school which wipes out most of the park, at least 22%.

She noted that Friends of Cudell Commons Park proved in court that the CMSD plan would wipe out at least 22% and would mean the loss of 40 legacy trees close to 100 years old.

Brazier said that instead of talking

with neighbors, CMSD decided to go to court which cost the City of Cleveland and the CMSD \$486,000 in lawyers' fees. She also described the land swap between the City of Cleveland and CMSD that occurred during the COVID pandemic which the community was not informed about. She said, that in a hush-hush process, the City of Cleveland swapped Cudell Park, gifted to the City by Frank Cudell to be a park forever, for some CMSD former school sites. Instead of refurbishing the existing school on its footprint, Brazier said, "They are just wiping out the park, setting a school in the middle and putting in some saplings." Brazier noted that all the new schools have saplings that are dying.

Friends of Cudell Commons Park member Brent Eysenbach addressing the Board of Education and Dr. Warren Morgan said, "Dr. Morgan I'm happy to hear you are ready to come and meaningfully talk and listen with the community."

Eysenbach went on to say, "Over the past several months I have been privileged to receive quite an education from CMSD during my process of my researching the history of the land swap for Cudell Park and the proposed Marion Seltzer School planning."

He said the many truths he learned are:

The Friends of Cudell Park want the new school. We also want to preserve the park that is there. Marion Seltzer School and the Cudell Park have co-existed in the same space for 52 years. There is no reason a new school and a preserved park cannot co-exist for our future.

I learned that CMSD's partner in this project, The City of Cleveland, didn't follow its own internal protocols when exchanging this land.

I learned CMSD and the City of Cleveland prioritized commercial development of the old Watterson Lake site rather than prioritizing the children having a swing space.

I learned that the City of Cleveland did zero public outreach when it disposed of this surplus property. (Surplus property is the City of Cleveland's words— not mine.)

Ohio City Inc. committed to affordable housing at Fairview Gardens

Some concern has been expressed in the Ohio City neighborhood about the prospects of keeping housing for senior citizens at Fairview Gardens affordable long term. A neighborhood resident contacted the *Plain Press* concerned that high property tax liability for the property could result in rent increases that would make the apartments in the building at 3207 Franklin Boulevard unaffordable for senior citizens that live there.

Fairview Gardens apartments were built about 25 years ago with the support of Ohio City Incorporated and the Cuyahoga County government. The apartments were created to fulfill a vision of providing a safe, clean, affordable place where seniors could age in place in their neighborhood when sought to downsize or their own homes became unaffordable due to increasing property taxes and other expenses. The building features forty two and three-bedroom apartments, community space, and ample parking for residents and their guests.

"We are committed to maintaining affordable housing at Fairview Gardens," says Ohio City Incorporated (OCI) Executive Director Chris Schmitt.

Schmitt explained that Ohio City Incorporated became owners of the 40-unit apartment building at 3207 Franklin Boulevard in 2018 after the 15-year tax abatement on the property had expired. He said that unfortunately funds for affordable housing diverted to address the pandemic shortly after that and were not available to help with expenses for Fairview Gardens.

With the end of the tax abatement, the tax liability on the property is substantial. Cuyahoga County listed taxes owed for 2023 at \$178,392.23. Payments made by Ohio City Incorporated on this debt were listed at \$41,796.29, leaving a current tax liability of \$136,595.94.

Schmitt says OCI is looking at any possible ways it can maintain affordable housing long term at Fairview Gardens. Schmitt says one step OCI has taken is working with the Cuyahoga County Land Bank to transfer ownership of the land, OCI was able to substantially reduce the future tax liability on the land by doing this. Unfortunately, they were unable to reduce the amount of property taxes already owed, Schmitt said.

A long-term hope for additional funds for affordable housing was raised by OCI's recent acquisition of City Goods.

Ohio City Incorporated recently began providing operating support and funds to stabilize City Goods, a collection of small businesses on W. 28th between Church and Detroit Avenue. The press release announcing the conversion of City Goods into a nonprofit subsidiary of OCI says "any profits not reinvested into City Goods space or vendors will be used to support Ohio City Inc's mission-critical programs including affordable housing, Near West Recreation, and community engagement."

Asked if some of this money could be used in the future to help maintain affordable housing at Fairview Gardens, Schmitt says OCI will have to operate City Goods for a year to see how much revenue would be available to support its mission critical programs such as affordable housing. He said the long-term goal is to be able to put about \$50,000 of the revenue from the project back into City Goods each year and have another \$50,000 available to support OCI's mission critical programs such as affordable housing.

What you should know about credit scores and bankruptcy

by Tonya Sams

Most consumers know that credit scores and bankruptcies can impact their financial well-being but don't understand how. Credit scores can determine whether someone can get a loan and if their interest rates will be low or exponentially high. There are things that consumers should be aware of to keep their finances stable.

One area that causes confusion for consumers is how to dispute discrepancies on their credit report.

"You can write a letter to the three credit bureaus – Equifax, Experian and TransUnion- that includes documentation to show the bureaus that their reports are incorrect," said Matt Alden, a Senior Attorney in the Economic Justice Group at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. "The credit bureaus would then have 30 days to investigate the inquiry and write a response to the consumer stating that they will delete, keep, or change the error on the report. If the credit bureaus will not change the incorrect information, the consumer can hire an attorney and respond to the bureaus according to the Fair Credit

Reporting Act."

Credit pulls can also impact your credit score. Hard pulls are made when you want to borrow money from a lender for car and home loans or when applying for new credit cards. Too many hard pulls can decrease your credit score. Soft pulls are made when a company pulls your credit to verify your name, address, work history, payment history, if you filed for bankruptcy and more. Some soft pulls are made without the consumer's permission. An example of this is when you receive mail from auto and home insurance, credit card and loan companies. These companies have already pulled your credit to determine that you pre-qualify for their offers. Soft pulls don't affect your credit score.

Another area that consumers struggle with is bankruptcy.

"You should file for bankruptcy if your wages are about to be garnished, you're facing repossession or foreclosure, or you can no longer afford to make the payment," said Alden. "You should also file if you have more than \$10,000 of unsecured debt that you

can't realistically pay off, facing an IRS collection or if the Department of Education is coming after you for student loans."

One myth about bankruptcies is that it will ruin someone's credit forever.

"Bankruptcy does not kill credit because your credit is already tanked. Not making the payments is not going to make your situation any worse," Alden said. "Most people still have an income, and they can get secured credit cards. Most secured credit cards require at least \$300 on them and must be paid in full. You can use it to buy groceries, gas, and car repairs. They can help to reestablish credit."

If you have brief questions about money issues including debt and bankruptcies call the Legal Aid Economic Justice Info Line at 216-861-5899. Need further assistance? Legal Aid may be able to help! To apply for assistance, call 888-817-3777, or complete an online intake 24/7 at lasclev.org.

Tonya Sams is a Development & Communications Manager at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

I learned the land swap occurred during March of 2021, think back – it was in the middle of COVID when families were fighting to survive before a vaccine was even available to us.

I learned that CMSD last came to the community in March of 2022, and they presented a plan that was compact, preserved the green space and it also followed the city ordinance which allowed for that land swap, the playfield and sharing parking with the Cudell Recreation Center

I learned that CMSD's consultant, the Cobalt Group, during the summer of 2022, switched plans on the community. They made an oversized school and an oversized parking lot. They got rid of the replacement playfield, and they did not share parking as per City ordinance.

Friends of Cudell Commons Park member Faouzi Baddour was next up to speak to the Board of Education and CEO Dr. Warren Morgan. Baddour, a resident of the Cudell neighborhood for over 45 years, said that on May 23, 1981, his family moved to a house on W. 99th Street only 500 feet from Cudell park. He said at the time, his twins were 23

months old. He said you could see the swing set at Cudell Park from his house and noted the many "firsts" for his children that occurred at Cudell Park – first ride on a swing set, first baseball, first softball, and first swimming. "And guess what?" he continued, "Their first school was Marion C. Seltzer. So, to me, Marion C. Seltzer is in our heart and our soul, the same as the Cudell Park."

Baddour recalled that in 2014, there was a meeting at Marion Seltzer school and the subject was renovating the existing school. They asked me my opinion about the safety of the school. I suggested the entrance be from the park side rather than W. 98th. He then said that communication about CMSD's plans for the school ceased. "I didn't hear anything until July 1, 2023. That's when I heard there was a land swap" Baddour says that is when the community learned that the plans had gone from "renovating the old building, to expansion outside the building, to more expansion outside the building, then to the whole yard to Detroit."

Baddour said the proposed plan would cut off the community's park so people could not walk through it on their way to and from the rapid station or Edgewater Park. Speaking about his passion for both the school and the park, Baddour said:

Marion C. Seltzer and the park, they are twins to me. They are in my soul and in my heart. My kids, they started school at Marion C. Seltzer, they represented Cudell in championships in Indiana, golden gloves, basketball, stuff like that. So, Dr. Morgan, I am asking, let's build a bridge between us. We don't want the wall that the Cobalt Group tried to build between us. We want the school. We love the school. We want Marion C. Seltzer to be the best school and we will give anything we need to give. But we need you to stand with us to save the park and save the school – both.

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Documentary to air on disappearance of Beverly Potts

Beverly Potts was a 10-year-old girl who went missing from Halloran Park on West 117 Street, back in 1951, never to be seen again. Her parents allowed her to attend a visiting talent show called “Show Wagon”, at the neighborhood park. The event was sponsored by the city’s newspaper, *The Cleveland Press*, and traveled around to different areas showcasing local talent on a portable stage. The case stands alone because despite being one of the largest police investigations in Cleveland history, nothing has ever been discovered as far as what

happened to the little girl.

Over the years, clues about what may have happened to the child would be brought to light, but they would eventually lead nowhere. Cleveland boy scouts along with scouts from Fairview Park were recruited to conduct searches in the cities of Parma and Brookpark.

The case was well known to Clevelanders back then, with parents reminding their children not to talk to strangers or they will end up like Beverly. Every now and then when

a child goes missing, Beverly Potts’ case will usually be mentioned in the newspapers.

A local production company, Shocker Enterprises, (ShockerEnterprises.com) has produced a documentary about this unsolved mystery. The documentary will air on Spectrum, Channel 1025, Mondays at 9PM, and Cox Cable, Channel 45, Wednesdays at 8PM, during the month of April. For further information you can Email: Kevin@shockerenterprises.com or Call 440-888-8327.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CLEVELAND PRESS ARCHIVES
Beverly Potts went missing in 1951 at Halloran Park on W. 117th after walking to the park to attend a visiting talent show called Show Wagon.

City of Cleveland breaks promise to Cleveland students

by Chuck Hoven

In a March 11, 2024 article in *Signal Cleveland* titled “Cash-strapped Cleveland schools miss out on millions from tax abatements”, reporter Nick Castele notes that over the past five years “Cleveland schools lost out on a total of \$201.8 million in abated taxes, or an average of \$28.8 million a year.” The article also provides information on how much in property tax would go to the Cleveland Schools if Rocket Mortgage Field House, Progressive Field, and the Cleveland Browns Stadium were not exempt from paying property.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The *Signal Cleveland* article notes that the schools’ portion of the two Gateway stadiums would be \$6.5 million this year. The article also notes that if the Browns’ Stadium were paying property taxes on its current value of \$271.3 million, it would cost the City of Cleveland almost \$9.5 million this year. “Of that, \$5.5 million would go from the City’s General Fund to CMSD”, says the article in *Signal Cleveland*.

The amount of the payment owed for the Browns’ Stadium is significant, because in 1995 when the new stadium was being built and the tax exemption for the stadium was granted by the State of Ohio,

public promises were made that the Cleveland Metropolitan School District would be made whole. It was promised that the school system would not lose any revenue it would have received if the stadium was required to pay property taxes.

Yearly cost of Brown’s Stadium Tax Exemption
“Of that, \$5.5 million would go from the City’s General Fund to CMSD”
---- Signal Cleveland - 3/11/2024

To raise the funds to fulfill this promise made to the Cleveland schools Mayor Michael White and Councilman Jay Westbrook sponsored legislation (1025-A-95) that called for three taxes to generate revenue that could be used for “recreational, cultural and extracurricular programs in the Cleveland Public Schools, a portion of the costs of renovating, improving and maintaining the municipal stadium and other municipal services.”

The three taxes were designated to cover the costs outlined in the

legislation: a parking tax, a motor vehicle leasing tax, and an admissions tax.

While these taxes generate more than enough money to meet the promise made to the Cleveland Public Schools, the promise has not been kept.

The Cleveland Metropolitan School System has a program called the Comprehensive Extracurricular Activities Program (CEAP) which was set up to use the funds provided by the City of Cleveland because of the 1025-A-95 Ordinance. In the early years of the program that amount was about \$2 million per year. In around 2010, Mayor Frank Jackson lowered the amount to \$1 million, and it remained at \$1 million or less for the remainder of his tenure in office. Meanwhile, the amount given to the Browns’ stadium each year for repairs was substantially more. Under Mayor Justin Bibb’s administration the amount given to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District from the funds was increased slightly to \$1.125 million. The amount given the current budget for the Browns’ stadium repairs was \$15 million.

The sad truth is that the Cleveland Metropolitan School District’s Comprehensive Extracurricular Activities

Program has been short changed for years. A promise to make the school system whole for the property tax exemption given to the stadium has been broken.

In Roldo Bartimole’s recent book, *Power, Who Governs Cleveland*, he reprints an article from 2013 that indicates the property tax on the Browns’ stadium would have been \$8 million in 2013, about half of which would have gone to the Cleveland schools. This indicates that from 2013 on, the City of Cleve-

land should have been sending at least \$4 million a year to the CMSD to fund the Comprehensive Extracurricular Activities Program, when it was only sending about \$1 million a year. Now, with *Signal Cleveland*’s publication of the current amount due, we have another price point for the ever-increasing schools’ portion of property taxes that would have been charged to the stadium if it were not tax exempt -- \$5.5 million

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Tuesday, March 19, 2024; Social Security Office, 7517 Lorain Avenue: Residents are alarmed about the revelation that this office plans to move eastward on Lorain Avenue to W. 44th and Lorain above the Sherwin Williams Paint Store. While the current location has plenty of parking for both staff and clients, that is not true of the proposed location.

CAC NOMINATIONS
continued from page one

art and co-owner with Adam Tully of Maria Neil Art Project in the Waterloo Arts District and an arts advocate with a political background, was not surprised.

“I was confident that Carolyn would be reappointed. I am sure they did not even bother reviewing other applications,” said Farina. “Gina was probably on a short list they had already decided upon. The application process was just for show.”

Kisha Nicole Foster and Darcie Polo applied, but neither received any information about their applications.

“I thought they wanted real, on-the-ground artists, but they do not want people like us,” said Foster, recipient of the 2019 Cleveland Arts Prize for Emerging Artist in Literature. “They want people to make them look good, not working artists. That is sad.”

Vernaci will replace Nancy Mendez, who will step down as the board chair

after the April 17 CAC Board meeting. DiCosimo will replace board member Charna Sherman.

“We express our sincere appreciation to the departing members of the Cuyahoga Arts & Culture Board, Charna Sherman, and departing Board Chair Nancy Mendez,” said Ronayne in his press release. “They have brought unwavering commitment, innovation, and a forward-thinking approach to the board.”

Mendez is stepping down amid controversy during the past year for reallocating more than \$400,000 from individual artist grants, plus an additional \$100,000, according to outgoing board member Sherman, and folding the money into the CAC general fund in 2018 and 2019. In a public meeting last December, Mendez apologized to the community on behalf of herself and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture Executive Director Jill Paulsen for confusion about the purpose and challenges of CAC and later admitted that Paulsen and the

board had deliberately not paid grants to individual artists. The total amount withheld from individual artists is over \$1.2 million.

Paulsen maintains no wrongdoing in diverting individual artist grants to the general fund and has not directly addressed a scathing report issued by ISO Arts Consulting, hired by the Assembly for the Arts. The report, funded, in part, by the Gund Foundation, found deep distrust, overriding interpretations of CAC programmatic and funding choices, and damaged community relations through deception, lying, and manipulation.

In a press release by CAC, Mendez said that she was proud of what the agency accomplished in recent years and urged the arts community to “use their passion to bring people together and help CAC continue its important work.”

Ronayne said Mendez will serve the county in another capacity that he will announce later but did not offer any details.

CORNER’S HISTORY
continued from page 3

Halsted and their wives to Charles Swords on February 24, 1847; •The Old Burying Ground Lot was transferred from Charles Swords to the First Congregational Church Society of Brooklyn, Ohio in 1847; • The property was transferred from the Trustees of the First Congregational Society of Brooklyn to Benjamin Foltz in April of 1849; •The property was transferred from Benjamin Foltz to the Trustees of the United German Protestant Evangelical Society of South Brooklyn in October of 1849; •The property was transferred from the United German Protestant Evangelical Society (formerly the United German Protestant Evangelical Society of South Brooklyn) to St. Luke’s Evangelical Church, the new name of the same entity, in February of 1925; • St. Luke’s United Church of Christ (formerly St. Luke’s Evangelical Church) transferred their

In announcing his two nominations and reappointment, the county executive failed to mention that neither Vernaci nor Isenhart have much or any practical experience as artists. The Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3381, Arts and Cultural Affairs, approved by voters in 2004 and renewed in 2015, as the basis for creating CAC, states that at least two members of the board of trustees “shall be persons who devote a major portion of their time to practicing, performing, or teaching any of the arts.”

DiCosimo, Executive Secretary of the North Shore AFL-CIO Federation of Labor and President of the Cleveland Federation of Musicians, is a working musician who has performed as an associate artist for the Cleveland Opera on Tour, as a chorister for the Cleveland Opera, the Pittsburgh Opera, and the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh.

According to ProPublica, Vernaci, former president and CEO of the Playhouse Square Foundation, was paid the equivalent of \$891,858 in the fiscal year ending June 2022, at the end of her 39-year career with the organization. Playhouse Square received the largest CAC grant at \$1.2 million, or just under 9% of the total

property to the Western Reserve Association of the United Church of Christ in May of 2013.

After the establishment of Brookmere Cemetery, could any of the people interred in the Old Burying Ground have been left behind at the time of the transfer of bodies to Brookmere? A ‘ground penetrating radar machine’ could determine that for sure, but William Krejci has some very definite ideas about that. It is based on records he has from Brookmere Cemetery and includes the people who were properly exhumed and moved to Brookmere as well as some whom he thinks weren’t. Among the latter group is a veteran of the Revolutionary War whose burial location was, until now, a complete mystery.

I will eventually be moving on to the congregation which was the precursor of St. Luke’s UCC, but before doing so, I will be sharing the rest of the information I have about the Old Burying Ground from William Krejci.

amount for 2023.

Isenhart is the executive director of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party and volunteers as the board chair and president of the Lakewood Arts Festival. She is also an associate auctioneer for Rachel Davis Fine Arts.

Liz Maugans, an artist and community activist working for CAC reform, said the candidates Ronayne nominated support his political career over meaningful, constructive improvement at the public agency and show a lack of commitment to the artist community.

“Chris Ronayne, a seasoned politician, leveraged his career first, which is reflected in his recommendations for the CAC board,” said Maugans. “Gina Vernaci is a retired administrator, not an artist. Carolyn Isenhart’s primary job is president of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party, always a convenient relationship for a politician.”

“Ronayne did not follow the revised code when he appointed Daniel Blackmore and reappointed Michele Scott Taylor last year,” she added. “I am not surprised he would do it now, and I remain disappointed in him.”

Article courtesy of CoolCleveland

SECOND DISTRICT
continued from page one

thing that causes you concern, call us. Let us look at the situation and decide how fast we need to get there. You might not realize it, but that suspi-

cious person that just cut through your driveway is wanted for a homicide two streets over.”

One of the residents at the meeting complained about calling police dispatch and never getting a response. Hamm explained that when a per-

son calls 911 or 216-621-1234, the non-emergency number, the same operator answers both calls. Another resident, Jessie, said they can never get a response from the non-emergency number.

“I will address that,” Hamm told him. “Get in touch with me when that happens.”

Marie Williams, who lives on Nat-chez Ave., between State Road and W. 20th Street, said her neighbors repeatedly park on their front lawn, with two cars blocking the sidewalk and in the grass.

As a homeowner, Williams is worried the value of her property will decrease, and should she ever decide to sell her home, she will never realize her full financial potential. The Sidewalk and Setback ordinance states, ‘No person shall stand or park a vehicle between the sidewalk and setback line in a residential area except upon a driveway.’

Williams was aware of the law, she said, and when she called the non-emergency number, she was told by the operator on the other end of the phone that since the property belonged to them, they could park anywhere they wanted to.

“Officer Martinez, who answered the call, told me that,” Williams explained. “I was writing it down because I was getting ready to call my councilperson. She talked to her supervisor and called me back a few days later to tell me that there was an ordinance, and the police cited them. My question is: Why did it take a year? Do the officers even know

the ordinances?”

Commander Tom Stacho, who accompanied Hamm to the meeting, told Williams that no one knows all the ordinances, not even him, or Captain Hamm.

“The book is this thick,” he said, holding his hands apart by about twelve inches. “But they have time to research and ask someone in that situation. I do not ask my officers to know every ordinance. I do not; the chief of police does not.”

Williams persisted. “I had the ordinance and told her about it. I called for a year and a half, maybe more.”

Stacho reminded her that at any time during a call to the police, people can ask for a supervisor. “Our job is to educate our police officers,” he said.

“She is educated now,” laughed Williams.

Carmen, a resident seated in the back of the room, suggested police cars should have bulletproof doors to use as a shield and add binoculars to aid in the pursuit of criminals. He thought police should have crossbows available that could be useful because “they are silent and deadly and minimize damage.”

“High-power rifles should be available from high towers. I keep thinking about Vegas, where that guy killed 68 people,” he said, adding, “That would also be good for zombies or Armageddon.”

Stacho assured Carmen that the Cleveland Police have high-powered rifles available with officers specialized in their use, and should the need

arise, will use them.

“We have a dash camera installed in our cars that reads license plates, and is designed to pick up detail from a distance,” said Hamm. “We have not activated all of them yet, but they even identify the state where the plates are from and run a background check on them.”

Region 2 General Felony Unit Supervisor Erin Stone reported on several cases making their way through the criminal court system, including an attempted carjacking on the 1900 block of W. 50th Street, where an 82-year-old woman pulled into her driveway, and a young male wearing a ski mask confronted her, demanding her keys.

“This woman should have been a lawyer because even though she handed over her keys, she somehow negotiated them back,” said Stone. “I have to meet her. The car thief went back after his friends encouraged him to try again. She screamed, and they ran away.”

Stone said a car was stolen at W. 54th Street and Bridge Ave. after a DoorDash driver left their car running with the keys in while they delivered food up to the door.

“I am not trying to blame the victim here, but if you are going to run into a gas station for a pack of smokes or something to drink, do not leave your car unattended and running,” Stone advised. “You think it will not happen to you because you are gone in only thirty seconds; I have done it once, and fortunately, my car was still there.”



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Work to begin soon on affordable senior apartments at Saint Michael School site

On March 14th, 2024, Cleveland City Councilwoman Jasmin Santana and CHN Housing Partners (CHN) announced the \$23 million redevelopment of the historic Saint Michael School is now fully funded, and the renovation will begin soon.

The “Arch at Saint Michael,” will be a 46-apartment unit development for low-income seniors. It is a green adaptive reuse of the iconic St. Michael School on Scranton Road and adjacent convent around the corner on Prame Avenue.

“The Arch at Saint Michael is a remarkable development that both creates safe and affordable housing for our communities’ residents to age in place as well as preserves an architectural landmark of our neighborhood,” said Ward 14 Councilwoman Jasmin Santana, who represents Clark-Fulton and part of Tremont. “I am proud to help make this development a reality, and this past year Council made affordable housing a priority in receiving revenue recovery funds.”

City Council approved \$2.9 million in support for the project, which was needed to close the funding gap the project faced. Other funders of The Arch at Saint Michael include Cuyahoga County, HUD 202 Capital

Advance and Project Rental Assistance, 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits, as well as federal and state historic preservation tax credits.

“Developments like The Arch at Saint Michael are game changers for Cleveland seniors and for the Cleveland community,” said Councilman Anthony T. Hairston, who chairs the Development, Planning and Sustainability Committee. “This development cares for our seniors as well as our history in Cleveland, the way it should be.”

The Arch at Saint Michael will allow seniors who earn 31% to 50% of the area median income to age within their own community while preserving a cornerstone of the Tremont- Clark-Fulton neighborhood for over 100 years.

“We are grateful to the City of Cleveland, particularly Councilwoman Santana and Councilman Hairston, for awarding the development the final funds needed to make The Arch at Saint Michael possible,” said Kevin Nowak, president and CEO of CHN Housing Partners. “The Arch at Saint Michael allows lifelong residents to remain in their community while aging safely and with dignity.”

Construction at The Arch at Saint Michael is expected to commence at



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, March 19, 2024; Cleveland City Councilwoman Jasmin Santana and CHN Housing Partners (CHN) announced the \$23 million redevelopment of the historic Saint Michael School at 3146 Scranton Road is now fully funded. Plans call for rehabilitation of the building into a 46-unit apartment building called The Arch at St. Michael’s which will provide housing for low-income senior citizens.

the beginning of the second quarter of 2024 and be completed in 2025. The Arch at 3146 Scranton will be located across Scranton from the new home of the Hispanic Senior Center at 3115 Scranton Road.

Hear some neighborhood news? Contact the Plain Press at: plainpress@gmail.com

ADAMHS Board and Brave Technology Co-Op launch Cuyahoga County Overdose Prevention Network (COPN) App

Utilizing technology to help prevent overdoses and save lives

As part of a State Opioid Response grant to increase harm reduction efforts in Cuyahoga County and reduce overdose fatalities, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County partnered with Brave Technology Co-Op to create a localized overdose prevention app.

The Cuyahoga County Overdose Prevention App (COPN) is designed to help prevent overdose by allowing individuals to create a personal rescue plan and connect with a person who can respond or dispatch help if an overdose is detected. The COPN app operates on a simple yet powerful principle: to provide a lifeline for individuals using drugs alone. Users can discreetly con-

nect with a network of support, initiating a call or alert through the app before using substances. The app allows users to create a rescue plan, including their location, which remains confidential unless emergency intervention is required. If a user becomes unresponsive, the app facilitates a connection to community and emergency responders, ensuring that potentially fatal overdoses can be quickly reversed, and more lives can be saved.

“The ADAMHS Board does not condone illicit drug use, but we want people using substances to have a chance to get treatment and live in recovery, that is why we continue to increase harm reduction efforts. The COPN app is another tool in the toolbox to help reduce

overdose,” said Scott Osiecki, CEO of the ADAMHS Board. “By encouraging people to utilize this overdose prevention app, we are increasing access to care right where the person is, when they need support.”

The Critical Role of Overdose Detection and Timely Response

According to a report* from the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner’s Office, approximately 75% of individuals who suffer a fatal overdose are using alone, without someone nearby to administer naloxone or call for emergency medical care.

“In the wake of a relentless overdose crisis, exacerbated by the emergence of potent substances like fentanyl analogues and benzodiazepines, the

need for rapid overdose detection and response has never been more urgent, said Oona Krieg, Chief Operating Officer at [Brave Technology Co-Op](#). “Overdose fatalities are largely preventable with timely intervention, making the seconds after an overdose critical. The COPN app is designed to address this by ensuring quick, effective, and compassionate support is accessible to those in high-risk situations, bridging the crucial gap between the occurrence of an overdose and the arrival of life-saving assistance.”

The COPN app is just one of many other harm reduction efforts in Cuyahoga County supported by the ADAMHS Board, such as overdose

sensors and buttons, harm reduction supply vending machines, public access naloxone cabinets, and community-wide distribution of naloxone and fentanyl test strips. These efforts combined with the care and support of agencies that provide harm reduction services and treatment are designed to meet people where they are without judgement.

Download the COPN app on the [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#).

Anyone looking to connect with treatment or support can dial 988, 24-hours per day.

Learn more about ADAMHS Board led Harm Reduction efforts at www.adamhsc.org/harmreduction.

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

and professional visitors can help you plan a healthy pregnancy, share tips to help keep your child healthy and safe, answer your questions, and help you find resources that meet your needs. To learn more or to sign up for this voluntary program, visit helpmegrow.org/HomeVisiting.

THE MINORITY MEN’S HEALTH FAIR, sponsored by MetroHealth, will offer free health screenings, wellness sessions, guest speakers, and a job fair on Saturday, April 27 at the Tri-C Metro Campus (2900 Community College Ave.) from 11 am to 4 pm. It’s your chance – no matter your race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation – to make a commitment to better health. For more information, including registration, call 216-957-3862.

OPIOID CRISIS GRANT PROPOSALS: The OneOhio Recovery Foundation, a charitable organization charged with distributing a portion of Ohio’s opioid settlement funds, is now accepting grant applications from Ohio-based organizations, including non-profits, for-profits, and government entities, who are on the frontlines of Ohio’s opioid battle. Organizations working to advance substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts are encouraged to apply. Applications are due by Friday, May 3. Visit OneOhio-Foundation.com/grants to learn more.

HOMELESS WESTSIDE HOMELESS CONGRESS: The Homeless Congress, sponsored by the Northeast Ohio

Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH), is made up of unhoused/homeless residents that come together to solve local problems in the homeless community. Please join us the second Tuesday of every month at noon at St. Paul’s Community Church (4427 Franklin Blvd.) This month’s meeting is on Tuesday, April 9. A limited amount of bus passes will be given out to participants at the end of the meeting. Questions? Call NEOCH at 216-432-0504 or email josiah@neoch.org.

LIBRARIES YOUNG SCHOLARS’ ACADEMY is a kindergarten readiness program for children ages 4-6 (entering kindergarten Fall 2024) and their parent(s) or other adult family member. The lessons are based on the Ohio Department of Education Learning Standards and are engaging for scholars while providing parents with researched-based tips that support learning opportunities at home. The sessions will take place in person for 10 consecutive weeks on Wednesdays from 4:30 pm-5:30 pm at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (8216 Lorain Ave.), starting April 24. To register, visit tinyurl.com/mvj4mcnm. Questions? Call 216-623-7114.

0 TO 3: READ TO ME! Literacy begins at birth and every parent can learn and use simple, researched-based techniques to build language and literacy skills right from the start. Check out the Cleveland Public Library’s new collection of programs designed especially for children from birth to age 3 (36 months) and parents or other adult family members. Cpl.org/readtome.

Questions? Call 216-623-7114. This program is made possible with a grant from the Bruening Foundation.

CELEBRATE EID at the Cleveland Public Library on Saturday, April 13, Noon to 2 p.m., Eastman Branch, 11602 Lorain Avenue: Food. Entertainment. Activities and more. To register visit: CPL.org/EID.

STRESSED? If you are having trouble juggling the challenges in your life, Sahaja Meditation can help you manage stress, master your emotions and find solutions to your problems. Cleveland Public Library, Fulton Branch, 3545 Fulton Road, Saturdays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Free of charge.

PAINT AWAY!! Life has you down? Stressed out? Something giving you some anxiety? Need a break? Come paint away whatever life is throwing at you. Supplies provided while they last. April 24 and May 22nd at 4:30 p.m. at Fulton Branch Library, 3545 Fulton Road. 216-623-6969.

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.

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Cleveland City Council passes resolution on March 25th calling for cease fire in Gaza

After months of protests and public commenters at Cleveland City Council meetings asking Cleveland City Council to call for a cease fire in Gaza, Cleveland City Council passed a ceasefire resolution at its March 25th 2024 meeting.

Following the meeting, Cleveland City Council Chief of Communications Joan Mazzolini released the following description of the resolution passed by Cleveland City Council:

Ceasefire Resolution: *With the United Nations adoption of a ceasefire resolution in Gaza, Cleveland City Council passed a resolution sponsored by all Council members stating "this Council condemns the attacks in Israel on October 7th that lead to the loss of Israeli and American lives and the taking of hundreds of hostages," and "this Council and Clevelanders of all faiths and backgrounds have expressed profound concern for the innocent civilians suffering and are alarmed by the loss of tens of thousands of innocent Palestinian and American lives due to the war in Gaza; further this Council calls for international aid to go immediately and directly to the people of Gaza." Finally, the resolution states that, "Council supports all efforts to resolve the tragic conflict in Gaza and further supports the Resolution adopted by the UN Security Council that calls for a halt to the fighting in Gaza and for the release of all hostages taken captive on October 7th." Res. No. 366-2024*

BROKEN PROMISES

continued from page 5

for the 2023 schools' portion of the property taxes.

Some City Council members protested vehemently when the Cleveland Metropolitan School District broke a promise to students on how the dollars from the MacKenzie Scott \$20 million dollar grant to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District would be spent. The broken promise by the City of Cleveland to fund extracurricular activities in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District now amounts to over \$4 million a year. Over the last decade the amount the schools have been shortchanged by the City of Cleveland amounts to over \$30 million. Where is the outrage from Cleveland City Council?

The broken promise by the City of Cleveland to fund extracurricular activities in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District now amounts to over \$4 million a year. Over the last decade the amount the schools have been shortchanged by the City of Cleveland amounts to over \$30 million. Where is the outrage from Cleveland City Council?

Cleveland City Council just passed another budget for the City of Cleveland and again gave the Cleveland Browns' stadium \$15 million and shortchanged the Cleveland school students again with only \$1.125 million for the Comprehensive Extracurricular Activities Program.

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plainpress.blog](https://plainpress.blog)

Steps need to be taken so this doesn't happen again with next year's budget. Students that participate in the CEAP program have better school attendance than their peers, this results in improved academic performance and higher graduation rates. The after-school programs also enable working parents to be assured their children will have a safe place to stay while they are at work. The absence of the after-school programs often results in working parents seeking a school that has after-school programs. This means Cleveland school lose students and the state funding that comes with each student.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Sunday, March 17, 2024; St. Colman Church, 2057 W. 65th Street: Girls from the West Side Irish American Club emerge from the church after mass, ready to go downtown to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Area churches: Ask about the Plain Press' special advertising rate for churches and nonprofit organizations

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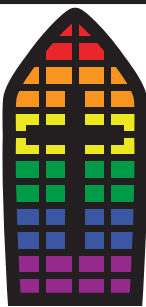
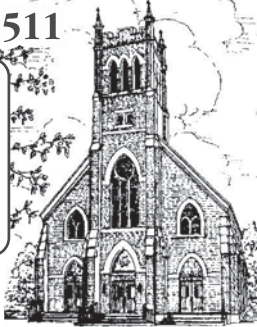
SUNDAY SERVICES:

German service..... 9:00 am

English service.....10:30 am

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MASS

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4:15 PM (Interpreted for the Deaf)

Sunday:
8:30 AM (Interpreted for the Deaf)
11:00 AM (Fully Signed for the Deaf)

CONFESSIONS

Saturday:
3:30 - 4:00 PM

Loving God, for all who feel on the margins, but who are at the center of your heart, we ask you to open our hearts. Help us to become a church and a nation where

**ALL LIVES HAVE DIGNITY, ALL PEOPLE ARE LOVED
AND ALL ARE WELCOME.**

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MTWF: 9AM

SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL: 5:00PM

SUNDAY: 9AM AND 11AM

Eucharistic Adoration:

SATURDAYS: 3:30-4:30PM

1ST FRIDAYS: 7PM

Confession:

SATURDAYS: 3:30-4:30PM

SUNDAYS: 10AM-10:45AM

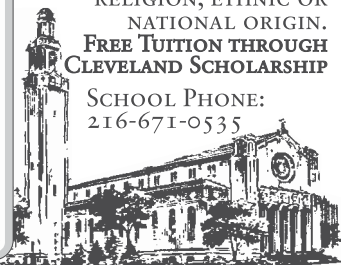
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