

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Tuesday, June 18, 2024; Randy Cunningham's home in the West Boulevard neighborhood: Storyteller and activist Randy Cunningham holds a copy of his new book, *Where We Live: Environmental Activists' Fight to Save Their Communities*. See related story on page 6

Plain Press

Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

Author speaks of impact of development on homelessness

by Chuck Hoven
Daniel Kerr, associate professor of history at American University and author of *Derelict Paradise: Homelessness and Urban Development in Cleveland, Ohio*, gave the keynote address at the Northeast Ohio Co-

alition for the Homeless (NEOCH) Housing Justice Summit on June 8th. He also was interviewed by Axios reporter Sam Allard the day before that at the City Club of Cleveland. At the NEOCH Housing Justice Summit, Kerr spoke of thinking

about history as a process of building our communities. He said it was critical "to discuss history to learn about how to change things today." At both venues, Kerr spoke about how development plans promoted by Cleveland's elite have eliminated low-income neighborhoods, shanty towns, encampments, rooming houses, and other dwellings that once served as affordable places for Clevelanders to live. Kerr discovered through his interactions and interviews with homeless Clevelanders and his research into Cleveland's past that homelessness is not due to illness or personal failings of the homeless themselves, but rather to social policies and development plans that have eliminated places where low-income people can afford to live. This continues today, he said noting the removal of a trailer park at Euclid Beach to make way for park expansion. Kerr spoke of historical patterns in Cleveland that continue today. Development and plans of the elite wipe out low-income living quarters while the business elite fund charitable organizations that cordon off the continued on page 6



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Saturday, June 8, 2024; Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless Housing Justice Summit, 3631 Perkins Avenue: Daniel Kerr, author of *Derelict Paradise: Homelessness and Urban Development in Cleveland, Ohio*, delivers the keynote address.

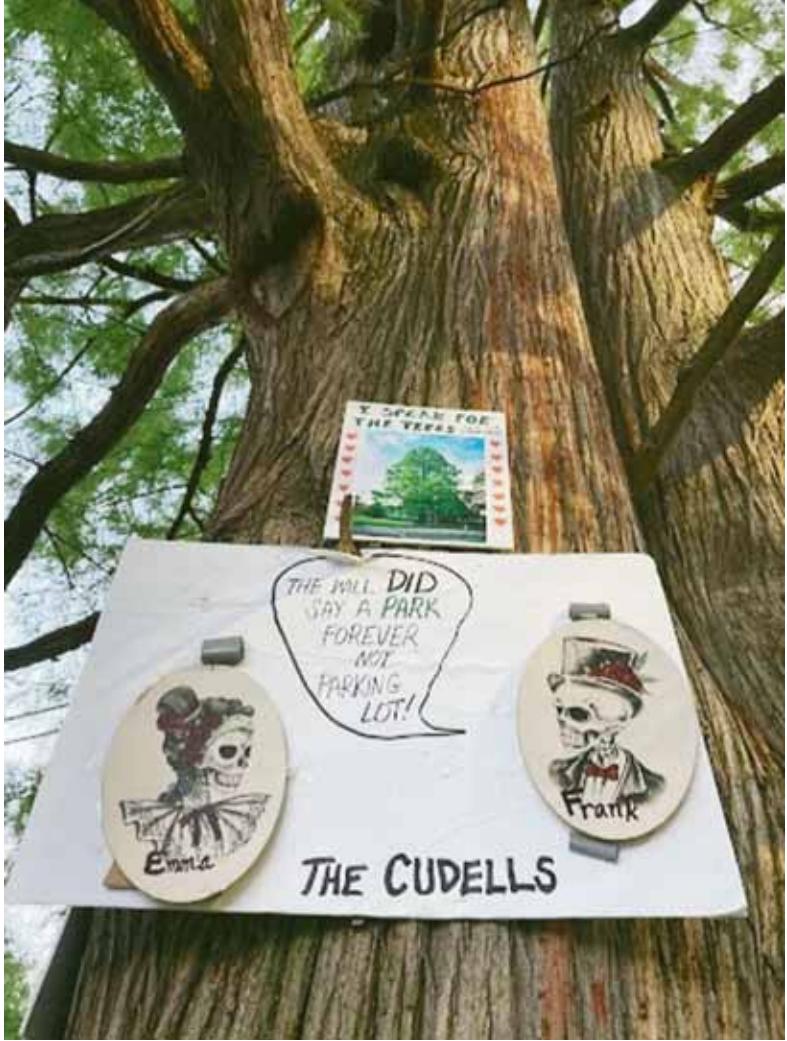


PHOTO COURTESY OF NIKKI HUDSON AND SAVE CUDELL PARK
Cudell Commons Park and the surrounding neighborhood take the name of Frank E. Cudell, a German-American architect whose locally significant designs include the Tiedemann House or "Franklin Castle" and the Perry-Payne building on West Superior Avenue.

A look at the history of some of St. Luke's neighbors

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. 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 seventh 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. This month I'll begin discussing some of St. Luke's immediate neighbors, beginning with a frame Victorian-era home at 3444 Memphis Ave.

which was reportedly built in 1885. Memphis Ave. was originally called Mill St. when the Gates family owned that expanse of property in Brooklyn Township. But the name had changed to Linndale Ave. -- because it was the route taken to the Village of Linndale -- when one of the best-known of South Brooklyn's early doctors became the owner of today's 3444 Memphis Ave. His name was Washington Emil Linden and he lived from 1858 to 1943. Dr. Linden had earned a Ph.G. (Graduate of Pharmacy) degree from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1881. He also studied medicine in Switzerland and Germany and graduated from Western Reserve University in 1883. A "family" physician, Dr. Linden delivered babies (most often at home), set broken bones, and tended to the sick. Treating victims of typhoid fever -- which was unknowingly being transmitted when people drank Lake Erie water containing typhoid bacilli -- was one of Dr. Linden's special talents. He administered cool baths to lower the victims' temperatures. Dr. Linden also had a cure for children with fevers; he prescribed a chocolate syrup called cocoa-quinine. To establish a good rapport with the youngsters he sat them on his knee while he was examining them. continued on page 8

Cudell Park out of peril? Residents to monitor paused Marion Seltzer Elementary School rebuild as CMSD considers levy

by Collin Cunningham, *The Land*
A nearly two-year construction proposal saga culminated in agreement at the end of May when the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) announced a pause on plans to build a new school adjacent to the Marion C. Seltzer Elementary ahead of an anticipated November levy vote. CMSD's previous plans would have absorbed a portion of Cudell Commons Park and walled off the Tamir Rice Butterfly Memorial

during school hours. The contentious debate surrounding the future of the Marion C. Seltzer Elementary School and the adjacent Cudell Commons Park on Cleveland's west side has relaxed to a stymied standstill. City and CMSD officials announced plans on May 30 to put a stay on construction efforts for a new school, somewhat alleviating neighbors' worries about the potential loss of the park as the district prepares

to put a tax levy on the November ballot. At stake for Cudell neighbors is the preservation of the 11-acre public park, which has been unofficially stewarded at the hands of those who live nearby while under CMSD maintenance after its board approved a land transfer agreement in 2021. The district of over 36,000 students, meanwhile, has been considering placing an 8.6-mill operating levy continued on page 5



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Thursday, June 6, 2024; St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral, 733 Starkweather Avenue: Work is underway to repair the cathedral damaged by fire on May 28th. The fire, reportedly caused by welders working on the copper dome, caused a million dollars damage according to a report by *News 5 Cleveland*.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Monday, June 17, 2024; Cleveland City Hall, E. 6th and Lakeside Avenue: Cleveland City Hall was closed to the public due to a cyber-attack on June 9th. City Hall reopened to the public at noon on Thursday, June 20th.

ARTS

CLARK-FULTON ART SURVEY: In partnership with Future Graphics Ink, Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center, and Young Latino Network, we are seeking community input about a new art exhibition that will highlight the Clark-Fulton neighborhood and will be featured in the Cleveland Foundation Headquarters. To take the survey, visit tinyurl.com/Clark-Fulton-Art.

DRAWING WORKSHOP FOR TEENS: Join artist Julissa Bruno at the Julio De Burgos Cultural Arts Center (2800 Archwood Ave.) for this free drawing workshop for teenagers entitled “Que Lindos Recuerdos” on Friday, July 19 from 6 pm to 8 pm. The workshop will focus on drawing and sharing stories of our collective Latino heritage, as drawing is a way of remembering. All artworks completed at the workshop will later be featured at an exhibition at Case’s Sears [think]box this fall. Register at juliadeburgos.org/calendar. Questions? Call 216-894-5664 or email

info@juliadeburgos.org.

FREE OPEN STUDIO: Make and paint summer dioramas with teaching artist Joyce Marrow Jones Saturday, July 20 from 1 pm to 3 pm at Art House Inc. (3119 Denison Ave). All supplies included! Visit arthouseinc.org for more information.

THE SATELLITE FUND: Administered by SPACES and supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Satellite Fund is an opportunity for Cuyahoga County visual artists/collectives, curators, and cultural producers to create a public visual art project in Cuyahoga County. In addition to financial support (\$12,000 awarded to 5 visual artists/collectives) SPACES will provide grant recipients access to on-site art production facilities, mentorship, network opportunities, and a SPACES ArtsPass membership. Apply now at thesatellitefund.org.

WRITE NOW FREE FICTION GROUP: Join Literary Cleveland and instructor Alex Ashbrook at the Cleveland Public Library Lorain Branch (8216 Lorain Ave.) from 10:30 am to

noon, the fourth Saturday of each month for fiction writing and community in this free monthly writing group for adults. Each month we will read samples of published stories and novels 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 session will be on Saturday, July 27.

ASSISTANCE

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY: On July 27, 10am-12pm, Story Church (9900 Madison Ave) will have a FREE backpack giveaway for students in grades K-12.

DRIVE THRU FOOD DISTRIBUTION, sponsored by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, will take place at the Thomas McCafferty Clinic (4242 Lorain Ave.) the third Wednesday of each month until November, beginning at 10:30 am. The next three events will be July 17, August 21, and September 18. Please clear your trunk before arriving. We cannot enter anyone’s vehicle to load food. You must pre-register at freshtrak.com.

SATURDAY SUMMER LUNCH FOR KIDS: Bethany Presbyterian Church (6415 West Clinton Ave) is sponsoring a FREE Saturday Summer Lunch program, June 15-August 3, for ages 5-12. Each week the program will include different arts and crafts activities. Pre-registration is encouraged by email, at bethanymealsprogram@gmail.com, or by calling Rev. Robin Schreiber at 216-651-2693. Please include the number of children, their ages, and contact info for their caregiver.

COMMUNITY CRIME STOPPERS of Cuyahoga County offers rewards of up to \$5,00 for tips about crimes that lead to an arrest. Tipsters remain anonymous. Call in a tip at 216-252-7463. Send a web tip to 25crime.com.

EXTERIOR PAINT PROGRAM: The City of Cleveland is once again accepting applications for its Exterior Paint Program, which gives residents vouchers to purchase paint and supplies to repaint their homes. Applicants do not need to own their homes to be eligible. To learn more, call the City’s Division of Neighborhood Services at 216-664-2045.

NEW CLEVELAND FLAG: Got an idea for a new Cleveland flag? A volunteer group of Clevelanders is looking for



city flag designs. You can submit yours at cleflag.org.

SEWER DISTRICT SATURDAY OFFICE HOURS: The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District office, at 3900 Euclid Ave., will now be open the first Saturday of each month from 8 am to 11 am. Customers can take advantage of the new hours to make a payment, get help with their account, and apply for cost-saving options. For more information, visit neorsd.org or call 216-881-8247.

SPEED TABLES INSTALLATION: This summer, the City of Cleveland will install the first 100 speed tables of its citywide traffic calming program. Speed tables are vertical bumps in the road that cause drivers to slow down to drive over them. Speed tables are flat on the top and are not as abrupt as speed bumps, which are narrower and rounded. To view an interactive map of current and planned speed table locations, or to request a speed table for your neighborhood, visit <https://tinyurl.com/23jtt9wu>.

DONATIONS

MALACHI HOUSE, which serves persons who are terminally ill without regard to gender, race, religion, or national origin and without cost to the resident or family, is seeking donations of various food items and household goods to help support their mission. At this time, they are especially in need of soda (no diet please) and 13-gallon kitchen trash bags. For a full list of needed supplies, visit malachihouse.org. Donations can be dropped off at Malachi House (2810 Clinton Ave.) during regular business hours. Questions? Email ywilliams@malachihouse.org or call 216-621-8831.

RED CROSS BLOOD AND PLATELET DONATIONS: By scheduling and keeping appointments in July, donors can help provide for those in immediate need of lifesaving care. To schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

ST. THEO’S RESTORATION FUND: After a fire damaged the historic St. Theodosius Cathedral in

Tremont in late May, the church is seeking donations to help pay for repairs. You can donate online at sttheodosius.org or in person at Lucky’s Cafe (777 Starkweather Ave).

EVENTS

CITY STAGES is a free outdoor concert series hosted by the Cleveland Museum of Art outside its Transformer Station (1490 W 29th St.) in the Hingetown area of Ohio City. This year, the concerts will take place on three Wednesdays in July, starting at 7:30 pm : July 10 featuring Pahua, July 17 featuring Wesli, and July 31 featuring Bia Ferreira.

CLEVELAND READS BLOCK PARTY: The Carnegie West branch (1900 Fulton Rd) of Cleveland Public Library invites you to its free Cleveland READS Block Party (featuring food, games and music) on Thursday, July 11 from 4 pm to 7 pm. The event will take place outside at Frank Novak Park, which is right next to the Carnegie West library.

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS: The annual Independence Day fireworks event, “Light Up the Lake”, returns to Downtown Cleveland Thursday, July 4. Fireworks will be launched by a professional crew from the Port of Cleveland beginning at sundown (around 9 pm) and will last 20 minutes. Some viewing location ideas include Settlers Landing, Flats East Bank, Superior Viaduct, Voinovich Bicentennial Park, Kirtland Park, Gordon Park, Edgewater Park, and Whiskey Island.

GARDEN WALK CLEVELAND offers free, self-guided tours of gardens, urban farms, vineyards, orchards, and more in various Cleveland neighborhoods. Tour at your own pace in each of the annually designated Cleveland neighborhoods. This year’s event will be on Saturday, July 13 and Sunday, July 14, from 10 am to 5 pm each day. The Saturday neighborhoods will be: Fairfax, Glenville, Ohio City, Old Brooklyn, Tremont, and West Park. The Sunday neighborhoods will be: Broadway Slavic Village, Clifton-Baltic, Collinwood, Detroit Shoreway, and Little Italy. For more information, visit gardenwalkcleveland.org.

METROPARKS SUMMER CONCERTS: Cleveland Metroparks has announced its FREE Summer Concert Series taking place at six waterfront parks, including these dates at Edgewater Beach: Thursday, June 27, 4-8pm (featuring reggae group Shakeground); Thursday, July 25, 4-8pm (featuring reggae band Carlos Jones & the PLUS Band); and Thursday, August 15, 4-8pm (featuring Oldskool, which plays high-energy party music). Visit

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APPLICATIONS FOR COHORT XVII ARE DUE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14TH.

Nightmare journey through Cleveland’s “world class” healthcare system

by Bruce Checefsky

I never wanted to write this story. I never imagined that I would have to.

In February, I got a call from my wife, Tina Cassara, as I was pulling up to the house. She fell down the stairs and was crying. I told her not to move and rushed in to find her sitting on the floor at the bottom of the stairs to our third floor. We live above a retail store in Tremont and have been there for over thirty years. Tears rolled down her face, and as I moved closer, she was holding her arm in what looked like a twisted, broken elbow. I wrapped a scarf around her neck and made a sling to support the weight of her arm, then moved her to the couch.

When she lay down, I felt a large bump on her head. She complained about a headache. I called EMS. An ambulance arrived a few minutes later and assessed the situation. I watched as one paramedic tended to my wife’s injury, and the other looked around the room suspiciously as if to determine whether she had been pushed down the stairs. I get it. They were doing their job, but the thought of it made my stomach turn. I asked if she could be taken to the Cleveland Clinic, where most of her doctors work, and they said flatly that she was going to Metro Hospital because the Clinic “did not like to take head trauma patients.”

The words “head trauma” made my legs shake. I knew her fall was serious, but I was not prepared for just how serious it would turn out. She was rushed to Metro Hospital, where they did a series of head scans and wrapped her elbow in a cast. A few hours later, a doctor came to our room to say she had a brain bleed, and that they would monitor her for the next 48 hours. The brain bleed turned out to not need surgery, they told me, because the bruise would eventually stop bleeding and the body would absorb the blood that had built up inside her head. She stayed in the ICU for four days, in the general hospital for a day or two, then transferred to a rehabilitation center down the street. Ten days later, fully recovered, according to her doctors, she returned home.

Less than a week later, my wife complained about a headache. I took her immediately to the Metro ER. She walked in on her own. That was the last time she ever stood up. Within three hours, neurosurgeons were performing surgery to stop a second brain bleed, far more serious this time and located in the parietal lobe, where the original bleed was near the front lobe. When she came out of surgery, she was

bound to a hospital bed in five-point constraints, which means her hands and legs were strapped to the bed along with her midsection. She was out of it, but conscious. For the next three weeks, while in the ICU, she struggled to get free from the constraints, her eyes closed most of the time, wailing and crying. Nurses kept sedating her, telling me that she was suffering from delirium, and eventually would get better. “Delirium is a syndrome, not a disease,” they told me.

At the end of three weeks, ICU doctors had done all they could, I was told, and she was moved into the general hospital on the same floor but in a different hospital wing. She remained in five-point constraints for the next four weeks, with little to no improvement. Almost two months after her initial fall and ER visit, the nursing staff said they were discharging her. “Where do you want us to send her?”

I was shocked. She was in no condition to come home, she was on a feeding tube with intravenous fluids, and strapped to the bed. After more than a dozen phone calls to friends and family, my doctors, and hers, I was trying to understand what was happening. She was transferred to a long-term acute care hospital (LTACH) in Cleveland. A day after she got there, her doctor told me that she had been heavily sedated, and he felt their facility had been tricked into believing my wife needed fewer restraints, a requirement for any LTACH that patients have no more than two constraints. She was placed in a room with four other patients, with one nurse and an aide, and monitored 24/7.

Keep in mind, I had visited my wife every day since her interment in the hospital, sometimes twice a day, to advocate for her care, which required my full attention. Our hospital system requires constant patient advocacy, without which patients are subjected to mistreatment and abuse. While at the LTACH, I received a phone call one evening saying that my wife had fallen out of bed. The nurse said she did not hit anything, and there were no injuries. I asked if she needed medical attention, and I was told no, “She is doing fine. Nothing happened.” When I got there the next morning, my wife had bruises on her lips and chin. I asked the nurse what had happened and where the bruises came from, and she leaned in, looked squarely at my wife’s face, and said, “I don’t see any bruises.”

I made every effort to move her out of the LTACH, and when I finally got her into a skilled nursing facility a week later, most would not take her because she was still on a feeding tube and needed round-the-clock attention to keep her from pulling out the tube in her stomach or falling out of bed.

My wife told me that she had been physically abused and assaulted while at the LTACH. At this point, she would drift in and out of tiny one-word or two-word conversations. “They hit me in the face,” she said when I asked about the bruises. She said she was physically abused at least four or five times more, maybe as many as ten.

I filed a police report the same night, called an attorney, and reported the abuse to the Ohio Department of Health. I had photographs of her bruises, taken two days later. When I showed the police, they were visibly upset. “No one should get hit like that,” said the officer taking my report. He vowed to investigate the following morning, which he did by gathering more information about the facility, staff, and director. I told him what I knew. The investigation is ongoing.

My wife was in hospice at a longer-term nursing care facility in Parma. They called to tell me she was being discharged. I repeat, my wife was in hospice, and they wanted to discharge her. I was floored again and asked why. They could not provide enough nursing support for her one-to-one care, they claimed, even though she was accepted under those conditions. They felt she would be more comfortable someplace else. It seems this decision was based on money as her Medicare coverage was coming to an end. I told them that I would privately pay, even though we cannot afford to do it, but I would cash in whatever 401k retirement we had to help my wife. Everything up to this point was driven by money, and the first question asked as I barreled down this horrific road was, “How are you going to pay for it?” Always asked by a midlevel administrator, dispassionately and unemotionally, they never look into my eyes.

Luckily, I was told by an insider at the skilled nursing facility that



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE CHECEFSKY
Tina Cassara, former chair of the Cleveland Institute of Arts Sculpture + Expanded Media Department and faculty for almost forty-years, has conducted extensive research into women’s labor in the American textile industry.

she could not be discharged unless I approved and selected the place where she would be taken. He suggested telling them to invoke the 30-day notice required by a faculty to transfer or discharge her, a legal requirement that states, before proposing a transfer or discharge, a facility must identify and try to meet the resident’s individual medical, nursing, and psychosocial needs. I was never given a clear reason why she should be transferred. She did not survive thirty days. Tina died on June 17. The outpouring from the arts community has been overwhelming. I

am so grateful to be part of it. I am heartbroken and devastated by her death, and I am mad as hell. I have no more fight in me. Our healthcare system is shameful. What I have seen in the long-term care facilities and nursing homes will make anyone cry, and I did, and I will continue to cry for my wife, whom I loved with all my heart.

Editor’s Note: This story first appeared in CoolCleveland. Donations are also being accepted for her care and expenses, organized by Jessica Pinsky, at GoFundMeTinaCassara.

City Council increases amount allowed for campaign donations LEGISLATION SPURS RESPONSE FROM A BETTER CLEVELAND FOR ALL

At its June 3, 2024 meeting, Cleveland City Council passed campaign finance legislation (Ordinance No. 615-2024) that increased the amount of donations an individual can make to a City Council candidate from \$1,500 per calendar year to \$3,000 in a calendar year. The legislation also increased the amount of money a City Council candidate can accept from a political action committee from \$3,000 per calendar year to \$6,000 per calendar year. The legislation was sponsored by City Council President Blaine Griffin and Ward 5 City Council Representative Richard Starr.

The legislation passed by a vote

of 14-3 with Ward 12 City Council Member Rebecca Maurer, Ward 15 City Council Member Jenny Spencer and Ward 17 City Council Member Charles Slife voting against the legislation.

In response to the City Council legislation a group called A Better Cleveland for All issued a press release saying it is “a grassroots alternative to the influence of wealthy corporate interests.” A Better Cleveland for All says it is a Political Action Committee (PAC) that aims to help

progressive candidates run for Cleveland City Council seats.

A Better Cleveland for All listed its donation guidelines saying: “We don’t accept donations from corporations or corporate PACs. We don’t accept donations from business owners who have an obvious stake in city policy or contracts. We don’t accept donations over \$1,000 per year.”

The Steering Committee for A Better Cleveland for All lists the following members: David Beach, Bishop Chui, Nora Kelley, Deb Kline, Patrick Murray, and Rosemary Palmer.

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

June 19, 2024; African American Art History Walk, Western Reserve Historical Society Cleveland History Center, E. 108th Street between East Boulevard and Magnolia Drive: Mural art portrait of Dr. Harrison Leslie Adams Jr. by artist Jerome T. White.

Plain Press:
Visit us online at
<https://plainpress.blog>

Mural unveiled as first iteration of an African American History Walk

On June 6, 2024, the Cleveland History Center at the Western Reserve Historical Society unveiled a mural on the side of its building on E. 108th between East Boulevard and Magnolia Drive. The mural, created by Cleveland based artist Jerome T. White, depicts portraits of seven individuals who have made significant contributions to African American history and culture, national African American oral history projects, and library archives.

The unveiling of the mural, the first iteration of an African American Art History Walk, was held during Parade the Circle and featured a live jazz performance by the J.T. Lynch Ensemble. The outdoor mural is available for viewing by the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The mural was made possible with support from the Western Reserve Historical Society, The HistoryMakers, #VoicesOfCLE Public Art Project, and Cleveland City Council.

A portrait of Cleveland pianist/educator/composer/music minister Dr. H. Leslie Adams Jr., who died on May 24, 2024, at the age of 91, is among the portraits in the mural. Works she composed were performed by the Cleveland Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, and National Symphony in Iceland. Dr. Adams was a graduate of Glenville High School and Oberlin College and a proud longtime resident of Cleveland's

Glenville neighborhood.

Also featured in the mural are portraits of: A. Grace Lee Mims, a soprano singer, radio personality and educator, who for 43 years served as radio host and producer on WCLV, Cleveland's classical radio station; Julian M. Earls, a physicist, administrator and executive at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Glenn Research Center; Cleveland architect, entrepreneur, and U.S. Army veteran Robert T. Madison whose work included contributions to the creation of the Rock-N-Roll Hall of Fame and the downtown Cleveland Public Library; Zelma Watson George, an actor, administrator and activist who performed at Karamu House and off Broadway and who as an activist directed government organizations and

served as an alternate delegate to the United Nations; Donald White, a cellist, educator, and U.S. Navy veteran who in 1957 became the first African American member of the Cleveland orchestra where he played his instrument in performances for 38 years; and Dolores White, a pianist, composer and educator whose compositions were performed by notable symphonies including the Cleveland Orchestra and who as an educator promoted Afro-Cuban music and dance and African American art.

Jerome T. White, the artist who painted the mural, is a graduate of a masters' degree program in art at Case Western Reserve University, painter, illustrator, and educator who teaches at Cleveland Heights/University Heights High School.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

June 19, 2024; African American Art History Walk, Western Reserve Historical Society Cleveland History Center, E. 108th Street between East Boulevard and Magnolia Drive: Mural art portrait of Dolores White by artist Jerome T. White.

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CUDELL PARK

continued from page one

on the Nov. 5, 2024, ballot.

Prior to the May 30 joint announcement that included CMSD CEO Dr. Warren Morgan, as well as Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb and Ward 15 Councilmember Jenny Spencer, neighbor-members of Friends of Cudell Commons Park (FCCP) were preparing to climb trees and tether themselves to trunks to protect the greenspace. Now, park proponents expect to conduct most of their action in meeting and board rooms, but they remain unsure of what will happen in the future when so much has already come to pass with the city and school district.

“Not only do they neglect us, but we are the ones who protect this park,” Jamie Brazier, whose house gazes directly lengthwise along the park’s western side, explained during a walk around the site. During her 22-year Cudell tenure, Brazier said she and other neighbors have stewarded the park by calling the police for suspicious activity and gathering loose trash. “We pay them with our tax dollars to take care of things, they don’t, we pick up all the pieces.”

“We will continue to engage with our families, educators, community members, and other stakeholders to thoughtfully consider our next steps,” Dr. Morgan is quoted in the joint statement. “Our goal remains the same: to provide our scholars with the learning environment they deserve.”

Next steps and past promises

Years of community and political pressure rescinded in 2023 in a lawsuit initiated by former Cleveland Mayor Dennis Kucinich that led to two temporary restraining orders that halted construction. As CMSD ponders building options for the PreK-8 facility, potential FCCP protests and tree-climbings are now in limbo.

“It brought us from a point of fighting them in literally two or three

days,” Juan C. Collado Diaz, collaborator with FCCP and the Save Cudell Park initiative via Sensible Movement Coalition, explained in the wake of Dr. Morgan’s May 30 decision. “We’ve been battling this for almost... what? Two years now? We’ve been fighting for them not to build a school for a while. And now we’re on the same page.”

The eight core FCCP members who filed a lawsuit in November of 2022 are now awaiting CMSD meeting agendas before assembling a list of steps they wish to take following the Nov. 5, 2024 election, after which FCCP members expect CMSD to debut re-envisioned building proposals.

At that point, activists and district officials will have to untangle a legacy of issues stretching back to a district community open house and school development proposal from 2014. Tracking the action since then requires patience and an understanding of interlocking issues that date to the dawn of the 20th century, but Councilmember Spencer offers a truncated version: “In March 2021, Cleveland City Council voted in favor of a land swap – Ordinance 75-2021 – to allow CMSD to build a new school north of the current Marion C. Seltzer School. The land swap also reflected... that there would not be a ‘swing site’ for Seltzer but rather that a new school would be built north of the existing Seltzer.” Such a site would have required the school district to prepare an unused facility to house classes for the roughly 400 kindergartners through eighth graders who attend the Seltzer school.

Plans in 2021 would have briefly shifted students to the former Waterson- Lake elementary school building at the intersection of West 74th Street and Detroit Avenue after the CMSD transferred that land to the City of Cleveland. However, as Elizabeth Emery reported for The Land in June, the city decided to pursue a proposal request process with an out-of-town developer in August of 2022 that will instead result in 136 mixed-income rental units.

“However, the land swap happened during the pandemic; that vote by Council was taken via Zoom,” Spencer continued. “The longer I worked on this matter, the more clearly I came to believe that the public had not been informed about the land swap.”

Public pressure

Aiding Diaz and the plaintiffs in the fight to preserve the park is a strong coalition of fellow FCCP members that includes neighbors of note, those with historic ties to the Cudell neighborhood and other stakeholders who intend to make their wants heard to the city. “We want (CMSD) to give the park back... to the city so it can remain a park forever,” Samaria Rice said when charting the movement’s upcoming steps after she delivered public comment at Cleveland City Council’s June 3 meeting.

Rice’s concerns surround her own traumatic memories at the park, literally etched into the ground when she built the Tamir Rice Butterfly Memorial in 2022, eight years after burying her son who was fatally shot by a Cleveland police officer in 2014. While Rice has since moved out of Cudell, her goal remains in lockstep with the area activists: holding up construction on a rebuild of the aging school building until the district presents more favorable plans.

Rice has developed her own emotionally charged bully pulpit and strong public speaking voice, tools possession an invigorating electricity of character accrued through years of public speaking and status as a community activist after Tamir’s death.

That force was on full display as she addressed city council members at the June 3 session: “Keep in mind that the election is coming up, and I don’t want to show you all the power that I have. I’m making sure the president, city, council and ward leaders know that I am very stressed out and I don’t want to have to be in



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, June 19, 2024; African American Art History Walk, Western Reserve Historical Society Cleveland History Center, E. 108th Street between East Boulevard and Magnolia Drive: Mural art portrait of Zelma Watson George by artist Jerome T. White.

the streets fighting you all.”

The pressure wasn’t entirely social, however; as laid out in a detailed timeline on SCP’s website, the district would have initiated construction efforts in 2023 were it not for a temporary restraining order that kept building at bay through October. Around that time, The Land reported that Judge Nancy Russo granted the TRO to preserve a two-century-old bald cypress tree in the park after hearing testimony that it would oppose plans to revitalize Cleveland’s tree canopy.

Post-ballot promises

After being approved by CMSD’s board of education at a June 11 work session, the 8.6-mill, 10-year “resolution of necessity,” as pitched to the board at a May 21 meeting, would tax everyone living in the district’s footprint \$301 per every \$100,000 of owned property annually.

It would replace a previous 15-mill levy that just over 61% of voters within the district approved at a cost of \$175 for \$100,000 in property in 2020.

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

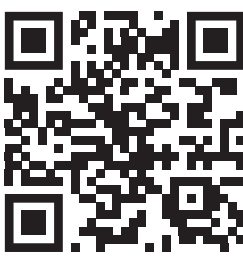
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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, June 19, 2024; Clark School construction site, Clark Avenue between W. 54th and W. 56th: While construction of the new Clark School is well underway, a City of Cleveland park, planned for the space between the school and Clark Recreation Center at 5706 Clark Avenue, has received a setback. City of Cleveland spokesperson Marie Zickefoose said the City of Cleveland had to give back the National Park Service grant of \$661,724 it had received for the park because they couldn't gain control of one parcel planned to be part of the project. She said, "The owner of this parcel had consented to sell to City in advance of our grant application, but then changed their stance after we applied." Zickefoose said the City of Cleveland reapplied for the grant with a new design for the park that excludes the unavailable parcel.

HOMELESSNESS

continued from page one

homeless into shelters, and then promoting the idea that homelessness was a result of personal failure.

Kerr, who grew up in Cleveland Heights, spent some time in New York City where he became involved with the squatters' movement. The squatters' movement in the 1980s and 1990s in New York City involved squatters taking over and occupying empty City owned buildings. The participants promoted a culture of art, music and fun and used various tactics to avoid eviction. With an invitation from the Cleveland Tenant's Organization and the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, Kerr participated in a workshop

in Cleveland in the 1990s on how to do squatting. In 1995 he started a chapter of Food Not Bombs in Cleveland, and the group began to bring food to Public Square to share with people.

While sharing food at Public Square, Kerr began to interview people, asking them to share their experiences with homelessness. He soon began to bring a video camera and a recorder to do the interviews. Kerr said he began to show the videos on Public Square so those being interviewed were not just telling their stories to him, but also to their peers who gathered at the Square.

When asking the homeless individuals what they thought were causes of homelessness, Kerr said their responses concerned changes that had occurred in Cleveland, not the failings of individuals. The

Cleveland storyteller Randy Cunningham publishes another must read book for community activists

by Chuck Hoven

Community Activist and Storyteller Randy Cunningham has published a second book titled *Where We Live: Environmental Activists Fight to Save Their Communities*. The book features stories gathered by interviewing people who often have been thrust into becoming activists because the communities where they live are subjected to an environmental catastrophe.

Cunningham interviewed people in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, and Missouri who shared their struggles to address the ravages of environmental disasters perpetuated by arrogant uncaring industries upon communities in rural settings, small towns and big cities.

The stories are lessons in how people, through community activism and democratic action, have addressed existential threats to the communities in which they live. Cunningham says a lesson he hopes the book imparts is "the most important thing about activism is that it is absolutely essential to democracy." He notes that people who have spent their lives silent, find a voice when their community is threatened.

The stories told in the book involve heartbreaking tales of destruction wrought by industry on communities throughout the Midwest, and government regulators

that are unresponsive until pushed by communities that have rallied to address the tragic circumstances with which they have been forced to live.

The stories include the fight against pollution by a lead smelting plant in a Missouri town just south of where Cunningham grew up in Crystal City, Missouri. Cunningham says he remembers people that worked in the lead smelting plant that were given the day off work and said it was because "I got leaded." That meant that the lead levels in their blood were too high, so they were instructed to take time off until the levels dropped.

Cleveland area based stories of environmental struggles are also featured in the book including efforts by Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing to make rental housing in Cleveland safer for children, a successful effort that stopped the City of Cleveland from creating a garbage burning plant at its Ridge Road Transfer Station, an effort in East Cleveland to clean up a toxic dump on Noble Road, an effort by residents in Geauga County to protect their park system, a battle in Moreland Hills by residents who wanted to put solar panels on their house, and a group in Broadview Heights called Mothers Against Drilling In Our Neighborhood that

aimed at banning gas injection wells in Broadview Heights and the transportation of injection well waste through the city.

Other stories involve residents dealing with the impact on their communities from coal mining companies doing mountain top clearing, oil and gas companies engaged in fracking, clear cutting of forests, and challenging the practice of prescribed burns in the Shawnee State Forest..

The stories gathered by Cunningham tell of the courage of people taking action to try to get their government to address environmental abuse that threatens or has already devastated the community where they live. Cunningham says, "I don't think there is any hope for the environment without democracy."

Cunningham says he began interviewing people for *Where We Live* in 2008 and spent 15 years working on it. Cunningham sees this book as an extension of the first book he wrote, *Democratizing Cleveland: Community Organizing in Cleveland 1975 -1985*. He hopes the book will be read by those in the activist community, especially those in the environmental activist community. The descriptions of the tactics used by the environmental activists in the book will be useful to organizers no matter what issues they are working on.

discussion centered around topics such as the transformation of the downtown business district which led to the loss of rooming houses; transition of neighborhoods which included arson, demolition and gentrification on the Near West Side; rise of the criminal justice system and its impact on people's lives and their ability to get jobs and housing; and the day labor industry which charged various fees to workers so they ended up with very little in income after a day's work.

Kerr said Urban Renewal in Cleveland was used in the 1950s to implement the 1949 General Plan for Cleveland which largely targeted African American neighborhoods. Initially, neighborhoods were torn down and replacement housing was built. Later urban renewal was used to clear the way for developments like Cleveland State University and Cleveland Clinic. In 1974 the Com-

munity Development Block Grant (CDBG) was passed. The federal CDBG money could be used to demolish housing and put the vacant lot into a land bank where it could be held until it could be developed. Kerr said in some ways this was worse than Urban Renewal because there was no requirement to rehouse people.

In sharing food and talking with homeless people, Kerr said the discussion centered around the poor quality of homeless shelters and exploitation of the homeless by the day labor industry.

In the 1990s, Kerr said Mayor Michael White started to arrest people who were homeless to remove them from the streets during the holiday season when people were coming downtown to see the holiday lights. An encampment was created at Public Square in response, with signs urging the City to not arrest

homeless people and calling upon the City to respect the rights of people to exist outside if they didn't have a place to live.

Other concerns included the poor quality of shelters run by the Salvation Army and the fact that the homeless wanted to run the shelters themselves. They shared stories of the degrading conditions in the shelters and referred to the shelters as an extension of the prison system. Kerr said concerns about the poor treatment of people in the shelters led to discussion of what the issues were and then to organizing efforts to make changes. While the goal of the homeless running the shelters themselves did not happen, they were able to change the administration of the shelters from Salvation Army to Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry.

They also talked about the ex-

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Many Ohioans still need to renew their Medicaid benefits

The termination of Covid-19’s pandemic Continuous Coverage of Medicaid benefits ended at the end of March, 2023. This resulted in over 9 million Americans being disenrolled from Medicaid programs and benefits including 813k Ohioans. Although the ‘unwinding’ is technically over, there are many Ohioans who still need to renew their Medicaid benefits so that they do not lose this important benefit. As of May 24, 2024, there are 813.8K Ohioans who remain disenrolled and need to renew their Medicaid benefits.

To renew benefits, it is important for Ohioans to do the following: • keep your contact information up to date with the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS); • promptly respond to all requests for information immediately; • promptly complete and submit your renewal packet either in-person or online. Renewal packets are sent approximately 30 days before the renewal is due. You must complete, sign, and return the renewal packet by the specified due date, even if there are no changes.

To submit your renewal packet in-person, visit the Virgil Brown building located at 1641 Payne Ave, Cleveland, OH 44114. To submit your renewal packet online, please visit the Ohio Benefits Self-Service Portal (SSP) account, at ssp.benefits.ohio.gov. Questions? Please call 1-844-640-6446. Help is available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Editor’s Note:** This article was prepared by a team at NOBLE (Northeast Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality)

HOMELESSNESS

continued from page 6

ploitation that happened at the day labor agencies where many of the homeless worked. Kerr said at the time many of the day labor jobs were as punch press operators. Day laborers shared stories of fees charged for transportation to the job site and other costs paid by workers. When calculating travel time and the various fees charged to day laborers, Kerr said the discussion group figured that the amount workers received for working at a punch press for a day was about \$2 per hour. The day laborers began to organize in hopes of getting living wages and benefits. They were up against employers who wanted cheap labor and didn’t want organized workers. The organizing effort led to the City of Cleveland working with the United Labor Agency to create a hiring hall for day laborers. The community hiring hall lasted only a short time. The Frank Jackson administration ended up contracting it out to a private corporation due to a bid that was \$1 less than the City’s projected cost.

At the NEOCH Housing Justice Summit Kerr shared some of his experience in New York City and his involvement in the squatters’ movement. He said Cleveland is full of properties that could be reclaimed. He said, first and foremost “don’t assume the property is empty – there may be people living there.” Next, he said it is important for squatters to take steps to alleviate tensions with homeowners and renters that are adjacent to the property they are squatting on. For example, in New York City, squatters created a neighborhood bike shop where they repaired bikes for neighborhood children. He advised squatters “to treat one another with respect and build relationships with neighbors.” Kerr spoke of some of the Not In My Backyard attitudes that resulted from efforts to create space for the homeless or low-income individuals. He recalled the opposition in Tremont to the creation of a Women’s shelter at St. Augustine Church to replace a downtown shelter that was in terrible condition. He said that at one meeting someone from Civilization coffee shop said they did not want drug addicts and prostitutes in the neighborhood. Someone in

the audience said there were drug sales happening at Civilization and further said, “I know that because I was buying drugs there.” In another case, people complained that the low-cost housing at the Jay Hotel would bring undesirable people to the neighborhood. Advocates for the low-cost housing noted that City Council members held fundraisers across W. 25th Street at the MODA night club which was a known drug dealing location. They also noted that people who work in the sex trade worked in downtown hotels, not at the Jay Hotel. Kerr said people who own homes are going to continue to fight tooth and nail to protect their property values. He urged the homeless and their advocates to continue to speak out about their experiences. Kerr commented on the new legislation passed by Cleveland City Council that increased the amount that an individual can contribute to a City Council campaign from \$1,500 a year to \$3,000 per year. He noted that the median family income in Cleveland is about \$30,000, meaning that have the population of Cleveland makes less than \$30,000

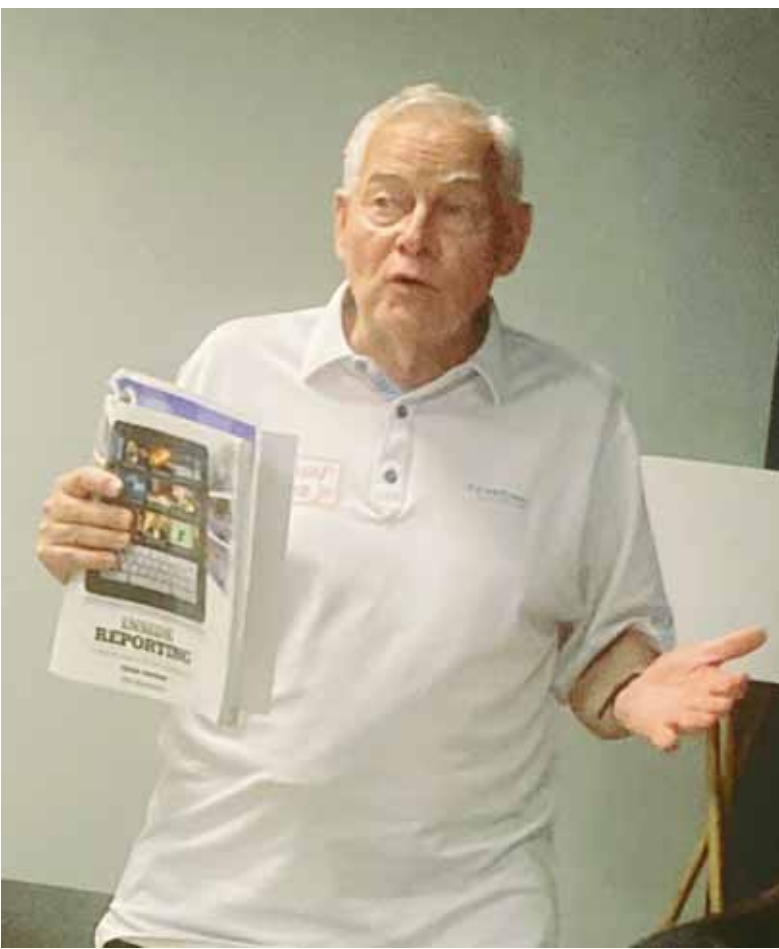


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN Tuesday, June 18, 2024; Mixer celebrating graduation of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) Community Journalism certificate participants, Signal Cleveland office, 3200 Euclid Avenue: Tri-C Journalism Professor John Kerezy explains to community journalism certificate participants how, with what they have learned in the certificate program, they can take a test and earn four credits towards an associate degree in Journalism at Tri-C. The certificate program was produced with support from Tri-C, The New School Journalism + Design Lab, and Signal Cleveland in collaboration with community media outlets.

a year. Few people can afford to donate \$3,000 to a Council campaign and garner the attention that major campaign contributors receive. Kerr urged people from different groups to come together and not look

down at other groups or become divided by concerns of other needy people competing for jobs. Instead, he said, “we need to move past that, recognizing who are the real people we need to address.”

COMMUNITY BOARD

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clevelandmetroparks.com for more info. **TASTE OF TREMONT**, an annual street festival that showcases the best of Tremont’s food, art and entertainment, returns to take over historic Professor Ave. on Sunday, July 21 from noon to 8 pm. As the neighborhood is home to some of the most talented chefs in the region, we invite you to join us and enjoy a day filled with exquisite cuisines, live music and shopping. Questions? Email juliedahlhausen@tremontwest.org or call 216-575-0920 x 108.

RECREATION
AQUARIUM FREE ADMISSION: Greater Cleveland Aquarium (2000 Sycamore St.) will offer free admission (and validated parking) for military personnel and first responders during Fourth of July weekend, from Thursday, July 4 to Sunday, July 8. Eligible guests must present a relevant ID to verify eligibility. Offer is only available in-person. Visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com to learn more.
CYCLE CANALWAY: Get out on your bike this summer with Cycle Canalway and our Sunday Social Rides! On the third Sunday of each month, June through September, we’ll be offering free guided bike rides. Our next ride will be Sunday, July 21, from 10 am-12 pm. This ride will begin at Canal Basin Park (989 West St.) and will explore the trails connecting to Redline Greenway and will be about 7 miles roundtrip. Bicycles should be in good working order. Helmets are required. Visit canalway-partners.com/events to sign up.
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 ID or a current utility bill with your Cuyahoga Cty. or Hinckley Twp. address along with a photo ID.
FREE SUMMER GYM MEMBERSHIP FOR TEENS: Teens ages 14-19 can work out for free this summer by signing up for a High School Summer Pass at any Planet Fitness location,

including the Ohio City location, (3333 Lorain Ave). Sign up in person or online at planetfitness.com/summerpass. Teens under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when signing up.
GREAT LAKES SCIENCE CENTER FREE DAYS: Thanks to a grant from the Mandel Supporting Foundation, the Great Lakes Science Center (601 Erieside Ave.) will offer free general admission for guests of all ages on select days this year. The first four dates, subject to change, will be Sunday, June 23; Monday, July 15; Sunday, August 4; and Sunday, August 18. Four additional free dates will be announced later this summer. General admission at the Science Center includes the NASA Glenn Visitor Center, the Polymer Funhouse (for those 7 and younger), special programming, and hundreds of hands-on and interactive science exhibits.

TAKE A HIKE: Join us for one of our free in-person walking tours of various Cleveland neighborhoods and historic landmarks. For July, our tours include: the Veterans Memorial Bridge on Sunday, July 14 at 1 pm and 2 pm; Ohio City every Wednesday at 6 pm (meet at Lekko Coffee, 2529 Detroit Ave.); Public Square + Malls every Thursday at 6 pm (meet at Rebol, on the southwest corner of Public Square); and Canal Basin + Towpath every Saturday at 10 am (meet at Flat Iron Cafe, 1114 Center St). Space is limited and pre-registration is recommended. For the bridge tours, advance registration is *required*. Learn more at takeahikecle.com.
SUMMER PROGRAMS
CONNECTING FOR KIDS WORKSHOP – SUMMER SURVIVAL: Do you want strategies to motivate your child towards positive behavior? Has

the lack of routine over the summer created chaos in your home? Join us Thursday, July 18 at 6:30 pm at the main branch of the Lakewood Public Library (15425 Detroit Ave.), when Ochanya McRoberts-Wells, M. Ed. will lead a discussion guided by your questions on summer behavior survival. Submit your questions before or during the session and learn how to use the tools in our Behavior Toolkit to help your child. Each attendee will receive a free Behavior Toolkit. The content of this program is geared toward caregivers of children 18 months to 6 years old with or without development concerns. Register online at connectingforkids.org/workshops. Childcare is available for this event, registration is required.
FREE SUMMER ART CAMPS at Art House Inc. (3119 Denison Ave) for youth and families. July 8-11: Creative Kids: Felting & Collage with Rahamel Lockett (morning) and Hybrid Watercolor Landscape Painting with Chi-Irena Wong (afternoon). July 22-25: Garden pARTy with Meri Ruble (morning) and Hybrid Eco Fashion Design with Chi-Irena Wong (afternoon). Register now at arthouseinc.org.

THE METANOIA SUMMER PROJECT will run through Wednesday, July 31. This summer, we will be operating out of St. Paul Community Church (4427 Franklin Blvd.) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm. We will be offering our guests educational resources, naran training, mindfulness practices, art therapy, and other exciting activities. Visit metanoiaproject.org for more information. Please note that the Summer Program will NOT be operating on July 16, 17, or 18.
VOLUNTEERING
ST. AUGUSTINE HEALTH MINISTRIES is seeking volunteers for its community garden (first Saturday of each month). You’ll be helping senior residents at 7801 Detroit Ave to enjoy their outdoor space. If interested, please contact Caroline DiFabio at cdifabio@st-aug.org or 216-939-7601.



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Panel discussion tackles economic impact of public financing of sports facilities

by Chuck Hoven

A panel discussion on the economic impact of public financing of sports facilities was held on June 20th at the downtown Cleveland Public Library. Ward 16 City Council Representative Brian Kazy moderated the discussion. The panel included two economists Brad Humphreys of West Virginia University and Victor Matheson of the College of the Holy Cross. Ken Silliman, a top staff member in both Mayor Michael White administration and Mayor Frank Jackson administrations and the former chair of the Gateway Economic Development Corporation, was also on the panel. Silliman argued that the current Browns stadium is in “pretty good shape.” He said there was a major overhaul in 2014. Also, unlike when the Brown’s threatened to leave the city in 1995, the owners of the team are not cash poor and there is no competing city seeking to take the team out of state.

NEWS ANALYSIS

In the discussion it was noted that the Haslams purchased the Browns for \$1 billion dollars in 2012 and the team is now worth \$4.5 billion. The capital gains alone would pay for any new stadium. Yet word is that the Haslams would like the public to pay for half of either a \$1.2 billion major renovation of the current stadium or a \$2.4 billion new domed facility in Brook Park.

The economists noted that stadiums don’t generate enough public tax revenue to make up for the public subsidies they are requesting.

Panel members also warned of tactics of league owners. The pattern is for league owners to try to create internal

or external credible threats. One panelist said that, if the team owners say another city is offering a home for the team, ask them to name the city and how much of a stadium subsidy they are offering.

Victor Matheson said the ideal way to pay for a stadium would be for the users of the venue to pay for it. Estimates cited at the discussion indicate that about 70% of fans that attend downtown sporting events come from outside of Cuyahoga County. Matheson also noted that taxpayers don’t like to give money to billionaires. He said even in Kansas City where the Chiefs have won the last two Super Bowls, the voters have rejected public subsidy for a stadium.

Brad Humphreys talked about who controls the narrative concerning the building of a new stadium. He said that local media often push a narrative that is in favor of the team owners and public subsidies. He noted the *Plain Dealer* has a sports page and the TV stations don’t want to lose access to the teams that are a major part of their news coverage.

Silliman suggested that the focus should be on Congressional action to limit the monopolistic behavior of sports leagues that allow them to pit city against city.

Kazy noted that instead of pitting Cleveland against Baltimore, this time around the owners are pitting Cleveland against Brook Park. Silliman said that if the Browns moved to Brook Park, they would be abandoning a perfectly functioning stadium and leaving the City of Cleveland to pay for the cost of demolishing it.

While the narrative being pushed by the team owners in the media is a choice between a substantially renovated stadium downtown or a new domed stadium in Brook Park, Silliman offers a third option – keeping and maintaining



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, June 19, 2024; Cleveland Stadium, W. 3rd and Alfred Lerner Way: At a June 20th Panel Discussion, moderated by Ward 16 Cleveland City Council Representative Brian Kazy, speaker Ken Silliman, who represented the City of Cleveland in previous negotiations on stadium funding said, citing an Osborne Engineering Company study, “the stadium is in pretty good shape.” He said there is no need to spend massive amounts of public money on substantially rehabbing the current stadium or building a new stadium.

the current stadium.

A statement by the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus, People’s Budget Cleveland and Cleveland Jobs with Justice that was handed out to those attending the meeting said that “sports facilities are poor public investments.” It noted they “don’t create new economic activity, just reallocate existing

spending for entertainment, don’t boost overall employment and don’t increase local tax revenue.”

Responding to an audience member’s mention of the stadium tax exemptions for Gateway and the Browns Stadium, Silliman said that while it would have been nice to have property tax revenue for the school system, there was a critical shortage in funding for Gateway and the property tax exemption passed by the state legislature helped make the project work.

Silliman also responded to inquiry about the three taxes (parking, admissions, and motor vehicle leasing taxes) passed in 1995 by Cleveland City Council to provide money for both extracurricular activities for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and annual allocations to the Browns stadium for repairs,

improvements, and maintenance. While White promised \$2 million per year to the schools for extracurricular activities, the Jackson administration reduced that to \$1 million a year in 2011. Silliman said that in 2011 the City of Cleveland was dealing with the budget shortfalls due to a recession in 2011, and the State of Ohio was cutting the local government fund, so the funds were needed to shore up the budget.

In both instances cited by Silliman, the Cleveland school children took the budgetary hit rather than the billionaire owners of the Cleveland Browns. Cleveland City Council has done nothing to restore the funding to the extracurricular programs, and the Browns continue to get about \$15 million a year from the same three taxes for maintenance, improvements, and repairs to the existing stadium.

ST. LUKE’S NEIGHBORS
contiued from page one

Dr. Linden had a room in his home at which he saw patients and he made house calls with his horse and buggy. But his official medical offices were conveniently located above Fernau Bader’s former drug store on the second floor of the former Odd Fellows building on the southwest corner of Pearl Rd. and “Short” Broadview Rd.

In addition to a doctor’s office, the Linden home had a living room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor and three bedrooms on the second floor. The stone-walled basement was accessed by a trap door in the back of the house. The carriage house was at the rear of the property.

Doctor Linden and his wife Carrie raised two sons, Arthur, and John Edgar, in their Linndale Ave/Memphis Ave. home, and John Edgar, born in 1888, frequently accompanied his father on the horse and buggy medical runs. John attended the Cleveland College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ohio Wes-

leyan University’s Medical Department and graduated in 1911. After serving as a Navy doctor during World War I, Doctor John Linden returned to South Brooklyn to set up his medical practice. His office was located in the medical building above Albert Hagedorn’s former drug store on the southeast corner of Pearl Rd. and Broadview Rd. A surgeon, Doctor John Linden was on the staff of Lakewood Hospital, Lutheran Hospital and St. John’s Hospital. Maps at the Cuyahoga County Archives also list Dr. John Linden as being one of the previous owners of 3444 Memphis Ave. and another source lists his home as being at 2063 Broadview Rd.

The house about which I have been writing has been in the hands of the Loizos family since approximately 1968 when Emmanuel Loizos, the owner of the former Glenn Restaurant and the storefronts on the south side of Memphis Ave. west of Pearl Rd. purchased it with the thought of tearing it down and turning it into a parking lot.

He got the idea because that is what Pearl Road United Methodist Church had done with a third Victorian-era home which was located directly to the east of 3444 Memphis Ave. – they tore the house down to expand their parking lot. After Emmanuel purchased the property, he realized that the lot was too narrow for a parking lot.

The house was not in the best condition, but shortly thereafter Emmanuel’s son Michael assumed the ownership of the home and took on the responsibility of restoring it to its former charm.

Michael was still working on the house when he married Sophia Rokakis in 1970 and continued working on it over the years to bring the house to its current lovely condition. Sophia has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and has used that knowledge to tastefully furnish this vintage Old Brooklyn residence. The flower gardens in the front yard further add to its charm.

Previous articles in this series can be read online at www.plainpress.blog.

Free soil tests for lead at Kentucky Garden on July 27, 2024

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) will offer free soil tests to identify lead hazards on July 27 from 10AM-1PM at the Kentucky Garden at W. 38th and Franklin, adjoining Fairview Park in Cleveland’s Ohio City neighborhood.

Residents from Ohio City and surrounding neighborhoods are encouraged to bring soil samples from yards, gardens, recreation areas, or vacant lots to be tested on site at no cost. Testing will be done on a first come, first serve basis. Households can bring up to 5 samples. Testing takes about 5 minutes. EPA staff will include information on how to improve garden or play area safety. Results are confidential.

Members of the Kentucky Garden and the Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing (CLASH) are co-sponsoring this event for the US EPA Region 5 staff. CLASH will offer free copies of lead safety information.

Here’s how to prepare a sample for testing.

Step 1: Identify an area of interest (garden, play area, nearby vacant lots) for your soil sample.

Step 2: Collect Soil - For a large area, collect soil from 5-10 random spots in that area and combine in a clean container. For a small area, collect soil from 3 random spots. For a garden site, collect soil from the surface down to 6-8 inches deep. For a play area, Collect soil from the surface down to 1-2 inches deep

Step 3: Mix soil well in clean container.

Step 4: Remove pebbles, rocks, and roots, and let the sample dry in the air.

Do not use a flame, oven or hairdryer to dry the soil!

Step 5: Transfer 1 - 2 cups of the mixed soil into a clean one-quart Ziplock bag. Label each bag with the source of the soil: location and type of area.

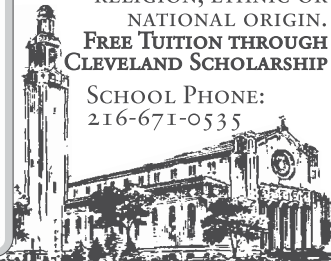
Instructions on how to prepare a sample for testing and more information on soil lead hazards can be found at the CLASH website <http://clashcle.org> Just click on the SoilSHOP link on the homepage.

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1ST FRIDAYS: 7PM
Confession:
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Sunday:
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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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