



PHOTO BY MARYANN ROSENBERG
Thursday July 25, 2024; Herman Park, 6198 Herman Avenue: Actress Gabrielle Muleba performs in Cleveland Public Theatre's Student Theatre Enrichment Program performance of Carved, an adaptation of Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio.

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Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

Tristan Rader (D) and Robert Dintaman (R) compete for Ohio House of Representatives District 13 in the November general election

by Bruce Checefsky

Tristan Rader (D) and Robert Dintaman (R) are candidates for Ohio House of Representatives District 13 and will appear on the ballot in the general election on November 5, 2024. Both men are from Lakewood and bring expertise and an understanding of the issues. They share a concern about the

future of Ohio and seek to champion policies that support economic growth, enhance public education, and ensure the well-being of all residents.

The Ohio House of Representatives District 13, represented by Michael Skindell (D), is the lower house of the Ohio General Assembly, the state legislature of the U.S. State of Ohio, and

represents citizens based on district populations. There are 99 Ohio House Districts. The Ohio Senate represents citizens in larger district, each made up of three Ohio House Districts. There are 33 Ohio Senate Districts.

As of the 2020 Census, Ohio State Representatives represented an average of 119,281 people. Members of the Ohio House of Representatives serve two-year terms and are limited to serving four successive terms of two years. The Ohio House members earn \$71,099 a year for what is legally a part-time job. Many legislators are paid more because of salary supplements for chairing committees. Members of the Ohio Senate serve four-year terms and are limited to two consecutive four-year terms.

Skindell announced his retirement last December, clearing an unopposed path for Rader, who advanced from the Democratic primary on March 19, 2024. Dintaman also ran unopposed.

Tristan Rader

Rader, a graduate of Kent State University and Cleveland State University and Ohio Program Director for the non-profit Solar United Neighbors, serves on multiple boards and as an elected member of the Lakewood City Council. He expressed concern about the direction Ohio is heading in an interview with the Plain Press, pointing

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PHOTO BY MARYANN ROSENBERG
Thursday July 25, 2024; Herman Park, 6198 Herman Avenue: (L-R) Actors Shaneya Berkley, William Willis and Eva Vergez perform in Cleveland Public Theatre's Student Theatre Enrichment Program performance of Carved, an adaptation of Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio.

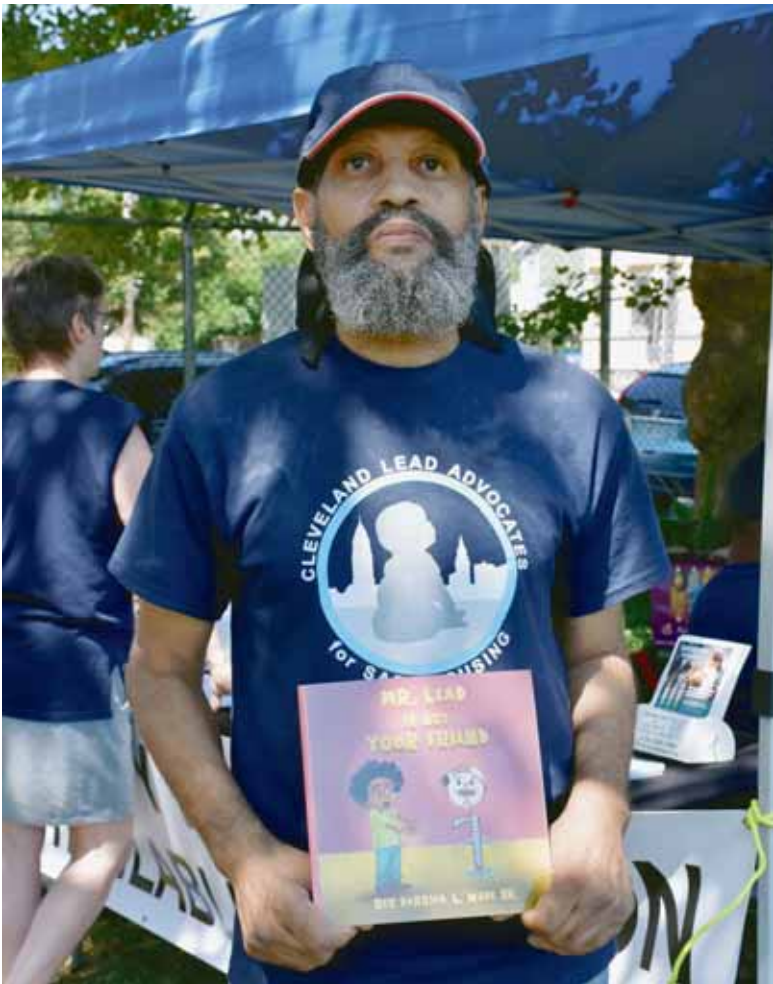


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, July 27, 2024; Soil Shop Comes to Cleveland, Kentucky Gardens, W. 38th and Franklin: Rev. Darrick L. Wade Sr. holds up a copy of his book, "Mr. Lead is not your friend." Wade is a member of Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing and wrote the book to warn parents and children of the dangers of lead poisoning.

Resident uses photography for social action

Longtime Cuyahoga County resident and psychiatrist, Dr. Joan Lederer, has embraced photography not merely as an artistic pursuit but as a powerful tool for community engagement and social change. Her photographic endeavors serve as an extension of her longstanding dedication to social action. Recently, Dr. Lederer curated a gallery presentation highlighting her interactions with a family of asylum seekers from Africa, underscoring her commitment to documenting and advocating for marginalized voices.

Currently, Dr. Lederer's focus lies on The Old Angle Boxing Gym, situated in Cleveland's near west side and owned by Gary Horvath, a celebrated local boxer mentored by the renowned Jimmy Bivins. With a storied career that includes multiple Golden Glove titles and inductions into three halls of fame, Horvath embodies the rich boxing legacy of Cleveland. At 77 years old, he remains deeply rooted in the community where he was born and raised.

The gym, managed by Sonny Gonzalez, provides a welcoming space for a diverse community spanning generations and nationalities, fostering camaraderie and discipline among its members. Miguel, Sonny's son and a product of the gym's coaching, achieved Olympic status as an alternate in the Beijing Games, further solidifying the gym's impact on aspiring athletes.

Reflecting on her journey, Dr. Lederer remarks, "After years in community psychiatry, The Old Angle has become my sanctuary—a place where individuals from all walks of life support each other through shared dedication." Despite her initial reservations about the sport, Dr. Lederer has found herself captivated by the gym's ethos and its ability to foster growth among its participants.

Dr. Lederer recently traveled to Orlando, Florida, to document the professional boxing debut of a promising young woman from The Old Angle, a testament to her

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Lead advocates offer free screenings for lead at Kentucky Gardens

Members of Kentucky Gardens and Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing (CLASH) co-sponsored bringing a United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Soil Screening, Health, Outreach and Partnership (soilSHOP) event to Kentucky Gardens on July 27th. SoilSHOP is a federal program which provides free screening of soil gathered from gardens or outdoor play areas to identify lead hazards. The program is run by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and

members of the EPA Region 5 Chicago Office came to Cleveland for the event.

At the event held at Kentucky Gardens at W. 38th and Franklin, Near West Side residents were given the opportunity to bring soil samples from their gardens or child play areas to have the samples screened for lead content. The screening itself took about five minutes.

Prior to the SoilSHOP event, CLASH provided a link to SoilSHOP information on its website on how to prepare soil samples for the screening, residents

were asked to follow the following steps:

"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

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PHOTO BY JOAN LEDERER
February 5, 2024; Old Angle Boxing Gym, Trinity Church Hall Basement, 2051 W. 30th Street: Watching and assessing a sparring bout are: (L-R) Juan Bargas, Mohammad Abdel-Nabi, Alyssia Lopez, Miguel "Silky Smooth" Gonzalez, and Sonny Gonzalez (manager of the gym).



PHOTO BY BRUCE CHECEFSKY

August 9, 2024; ‘Descendants’ exhibition at Kaiser Gallery at 2418 Professor Avenue in Tremont: (L to R) Kaiser Gallery owner Tanya Kaiser and artists Connie Pieper, Judi Krew, and Christopher Boring. ‘Descendants’ explore local artists as they reflect on personal narratives, family stories, cultural roots, and personal journeys. ‘Descendants’ will be on view at Kaiser Gallery until September 7, 2024.



ADVOCACY
DRIVE TO JUSTICE SUMMIT: On September 28th, 2024 from 10-3 pm on Tri-C’s Metro Campus join Policy Matters Ohio, the Fines and Fees Justice Center, Neighborhood Connections and Towards Employment in mobilizing directly impacted Ohioans to advocate for a comprehensive that truly helps decriminalize poverty.

ARTS
HINGETOWN JAZZ FESTIVAL: Enjoy a full day of free live music at various venues around the Hingetown area of Ohio City (near W. 29 St. and Detroit Ave.) Saturday, August 31. Local musical acts will perform throughout the day, from 2:30 pm to 9:30 pm, at the following venues: Jukebox (1404 W. 29 St.), the Transformer Station (1460 W. 29 St.), and Bop Stop (2920 Detroit Ave.). The event is free and family

friendly. For more information, including an event schedule and full lineup, visit local4musicfund.org.

MUSIC AT MAIN: Enjoy free live music Saturday, September 7 at 2 pm at the main branch of the Cleveland Public Library (325 Superior Ave), in the third floor lobby or outside at the Eastman Reading Garden (depending on the weather). This month’s concert will feature Tweed, an Irish band weaving together traditional and contemporary music from Ireland, Scotland, and England.

MUSIC NEAR THE MARKET: Come enjoy free live music and our magnificent Beckerath pipe organ every Wednesday of the year at 12:15 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church (2031 W. 30 St). This month will feature Florence Mustric performing “Mendelssohn sonatas” on September 4 and 11, and Robert Myers performing “Minor delights” on September 18 and 25. For more information or to receive program notices, please contact Robert Myers at 216-283-1700.

PLAYHOUSE SQUARE POP-UP MUSIC: Listen to local, live music at Playhouse Square Plaza (on the corner of Huron and Euclid) with mellow classic rock from The Bridge Live! on Thursday, September 12, and alternative folk duo The Baker’s Basement on Thursday, September 26. Both events run from 4 pm to 7 pm.

STORY WARS is a free monthly storytelling event at Jukebox (1404 W. 29 St) that was created to spur people into creativity. At the start of each round, a prompt is drawn blind from our big-jar-of-prompts and then read aloud. Anyone who would like to create their story has 5 minutes to write, choreograph a dance, compose a song—however you want to express yourself. After the 5 minutes is up, creators go around and read/perform their story for the audience. After the stories are finished, everyone (audience included) casts their votes! This month’s event will be Thursday, September 19 from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm. You don’t need to be a writer to enjoy the night. Come hang out, listen to the stories and cast your votes. Everyone is welcome. Visit storywarscle.com for more information.

ST. PAUL’S STREET STUDIO, 1-2 p.m. on September 28th at St. Paul’s Community Church, 4427 Franklin. Join in to share music, poetry/spoken word in a peaceful atmosphere of respect. You are welcome to add your voice or simply listen and provide support. Piano, mics, drums, and acoustic guitars provided along with an encouraging circle to listen. For more information contact Ian Heisey at heisey2140@sbcglobal.net or at 216-9731486.

CLEVELAND CITY SERVICES: WHAT IS 311? 311 is an easy-to-remember telephone number that connects you with highly trained Citizen Support Specialists who are ready to help you with requests for non-emergency City services and information. i.e. streetlamp outages, backed up storm sewers.

COMMUNITY FREE AQUARIUM TICKETS: During the month of September, Greater Cleveland Aquarium (Flats West Bank, 2000 Sycamore St) is offering free admission to all classroom educators, from Pre-K thru college. In addition to free admission and parking (with

validation), classroom educators who visit between September 1 – 30, 2024, 10am – 5pm, are also eligible for 10% off any level Annual Pass and will be entered for a chance to win a \$100 Staples gift card to help with student or office supplies. Questions? Call 216-862-8803 or visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com.
POLICE COMMISSION SEEKING APPLICANTS: The City of Cleveland is now seeking applications for the Community Police Commission (CPC) for seven commissioners to join the CPC in December. Eligible applicants must be City of Cleveland residents. Those who are interested have until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 6 to apply. Visit tinyurl.com/5374vz5y to get started.

TAKE A HIKE: Enjoy free, self-guided walking tours of various historic Cleveland neighborhoods on select days, now thru September 30. Locations include: Tremont every Tuesday at 6 pm (meet at Sideyard Park, 1370 Abbey Ave.), the Erie Street Cemetery every Sunday at 10 am (meet at the cemetery, 2301 E. 9th St.), the Veterans Memorial Bride the second Sunday of every month at 1 pm and again at 2 pm (meet at Luna Bakery, 1468 W. 9th St.), and the Warehouse District every Wednesday at 6 pm (meet at Constantino’s Market, 1278 W 9th St). For more information, including additional locations and dates, visit takeahikecle.com.

WARD 14 COMMUNITY MEETING with Metro North Block Club on Tuesday, September 24 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Hispanic Ministry, 3114 Scranton Avenue. For more information contact Adam Gifford at Agifford@metrowestcle.org.

YWCA AWARD NOMINATIONS: We are now accepting nominations for YWCA Greater Cleveland’s 2025 Women of Achievement Award honorees! This prestigious award honors extraordinary women and their accomplishments in their careers, community service, leadership, mentoring, and dedication to YWCA’s mission. Nominations are open through Friday, September 13. To nominate someone, visit ywcaofcleveland.org/women-of-achievement.

OHIO CITY ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD ELECTIONS: September 4 -deadline for membership in order to be eligible to vote at annual meeting on any necessary business; September 14 – applications for election due to Governance Committee; September 22 – deadline for membership in order to vote at Annual Election; and September 24 – Annual Meeting of Members 5:30 p.m. at Bob Stop. For information on how to sign up as a member of Ohio City Incorporated visit: <https://www.ohiocity.org/membership>

CUYAHOGA COUNTY SIGN UP FOR READY NOTIFY, Cuyahoga County’s emergency notification system, at <https://cuyahogacounty.gov/ready/readynotify/readynotify> to stay prepared and notified of emergencies. The ReadyNotify system provides notifications for emergency events, weather alerts, and other information. Additional information and tips about staying safe in emergencies can be found at Ready.gov.

DONATIONS NEEDED WARM UP CLEVELAND: Do you sew, knit, crochet, or quilt? Donate handmade items at any Cleveland Public Library location year-round to help neighbors in need. For more information, contact Outreach and Programming Services at 216-623-2921 or ops@cpl.org. All donations will be distributed to local charities. For more information, including a full list of participating charities, visit cpl.org/warmupcle.

EDUCATION CLEVELAND TRANSFORMATION ALLIANCE: Find the right kindergarten for your child. Visit mycleschool.org or call 216-592-2303 for more information.

FREE CULINARY EDUCATION: Edwins Leadership and Restaurant Institute (13101 Shaker Square) offers FREE culinary education to formerly incarcerated adults, giving them a foundation in the culinary and hospi-

talities industries and a support network necessary for long-term success. If interested, call, text or email Derrick Speights at derrick@edwinsrestaurant.org or 216-744-4309. Or just come in on any Friday at 9 am sharp.

FREE BOOKS for kids ages 0-5: Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Ohio mails kids one free book each month until their 5th birthday. Any child in Ohio between birth and age 5 is eligible for the program. To sign up, visit: Ohio.imaginationLibrary.org.

FREE CITIZENSHIP CLASS: Building Hope in the City offers free citizenship classes at the Hope Center (15135 Triskett Rd.). Topics covered include naturalization prep and N-400 review, English instruction, and U.S. government and history. Orientation and registration for the next session is Wednesday, September 4 from 5:30 pm to 7:30, and classes run from Monday, September 9 thru Monday, November 25, every Monday and Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Questions? Contact Sharon Hughes at sharonh@buildinghopeinthecity.org.

FREE CLASSES FOR SENIORS: Through Program 60, Ohio residents, age 60 and older, can register for regularly scheduled credit and noncredit courses at Tri-C on an audit, tuition-free, space available basis. Must register in person at an Enrollment Center. tri-c.edu/program60, 216-987-6000, enroll@tri-c.edu.

SCOLASTIC ART AND WRITING AWARDS: The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers tracks the creative development of more than a quarter of a million teenagers across the country. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, administered by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, recognize student achievement in the visual arts and creative writing. Creative teenagers in grades 7-12 from public, private, or home-school programs throughout the U.S. and its territories and Canada are eligible to apply. Art categories include architecture and industrial design, ceramics and glass, comic art, design, digital art, drawing and illustrations, editorial cartoons, fashion, film and animation, jewelry, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture. Writing categories include critical essays, dramatic scripts, flash fiction, humor, journalism, novel writing, personal essay and memoir, poetry, science fiction and fantasy, and short story. Several sponsored awards in specific categories are also offered. For more information visit: https://www.artandwriting.org/?mc_cid=21ac2b9fff&mc_eid=b09aac01aa

ELECTION EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING ahead of the November 5 presidential election will begin October 8 at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (2925 Euclid Ave.) The Board of Elections will be open for voting on select days from October 8 until Sunday, November 3. For a full list of hours, visit boe.ohio.gov.
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PHOTOGRAPHY

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evolving connection with the sport and its community. Her experience ringside was marked by both excitement and a sense of privilege as she captured moments that underscored the gym's role in shaping futures.

The current version of The Old Angle finds its home in the basement of Trinity Lutheran Church on West 30th Street, a historic venue dating back to 1873. Despite its architectural charm, the church needs substantial restoration, a mission championed by church president Laura Simko and the congregation, who continue to serve the local homeless population with unwavering commitment.

Dr. Lederer's photographic documentation of life at The Old Angle not only celebrates the dedication of its members to the sport but also highlights the profound personal connections she has forged within this vibrant community. Her compelling photographs will be featured at a fundraising event benefiting both The Old Angle and Trin-

ity Lutheran Church, scheduled for September 28th from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the church on West 30th and Lorain. The event promises an organ performance, dance music (probably salsa), guided tours, a raffle, and more, aiming to support these vital community institutions facing financial challenges.

In a dual effort to sustain both the church and the gym, Dr. Lederer's work stands as a testament to the power of photography in shedding light on community resilience and solidarity amidst adversity.

Editor's note: Authors of this article are Kady Manneh, Dave Stringer and Joan Lederer. Kady Manneh is an intern at IRTF (International Religious Task Force); Dave Stringer (Joan Lederer's longtime partner) is a writer, flute player and tinkerer; and Joan Lederer MD has lived in the Cleveland area since 1985 and has worked mainly within the City of Cleveland as a psychiatrist.

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OHIO DISTRICT 13

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to attacks on the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) community, which includes a large population in District 13. House Bill 68, a ban on gender transition treatment for minors, has a ban on trans athletes in girls' and women's sports.

Gov. Mike DeWine vetoed HB 68 late last year, but Franklin County Judge Michael Holbrook recently upheld the bill, arguing that transition treatment is too risky for anyone under the age of 18.

"It is appalling and certainly not what people want in this district," said Rader. "We have a strong voice. Lots of people from this area showed up to testify against HB 68."

Rader added that people are fighting for the heart and soul of the state in every election, especially during the presidential elections, with the right becoming more radical, challenging, and pushing to take away the rights of Ohioans.

"We have to stand up to that," he said, "whether it is passing initiatives to create maps and showing up in Columbus in force to push back on HB 68, for example. We have to continue to be vocal."

Rader would like to see a universal healthcare system based on Medicaid by expanding those benefits to everyone in the state. He wants Medicaid benefits to continue for those in the program. Cities in Ohio should decide for themselves the basis for a fair living wage, which he advocates would increase living standards.

Earth and health justice are among his core values. Rader wants to cut carbon emissions and create a system where no one fears losing health coverage or going bankrupt due to medical



Tristan Rader

debt.

"Our healthcare system requires urgent reform to become cost-effective and guarantee coverage for all of Ohio," he said.

Robert Dintaman

Robert Dintaman, born in Mansfield, attended Ohio University in 1995 and received an undergraduate degree in political science. He continued his studies at the University of Akron

School of Law and moved to Cleveland to begin his law career. He ran unopposed in the Republican primary last fall.

As a State Representative candidate, Dintaman wants to seek relief from the burden of high property taxes on the senior community, champion policies that support economic growth, enhance public education, and ensure the well-being of all residents. He attributes working one-on-one with individuals to solve their problems that have inspired him to run for Ohio State Representative in District 13. His approach to campaigning has been more grassroots, he told the Plain Press, shaking hands and meeting people when he can.

"This is my first go around," said Dintaman about running for political office. "It has been interesting, and I have enjoyed it. I get a lot of help from my friends. I have not gone the tradi-



Robert Dintaman

tional route with a big website, but I am getting my message out by talking to people."

As for renewable energy or traditional energy sources, he supports all types of innovation to make lives better and more productive. Dintaman is open to ideas for a better healthcare system. He admits to having no preconceived solutions but would work collectively with other state legislators to help the people get what they need.

Dintaman considers himself a problem solver, working with clients to



ARCHITECTURAL RENDERING BY BIALOSKY CLEVELAND

This architectural rendering shows a front view of the future Walz Campus of the Cleveland Public Library at W. 80th and Detroit Avenue which includes an addition called Karam Senior Living. Karam Senior Living will provide affordable housing to area senior citizens.

Partnerships push Karam Senior Living towards its construction as a place where anyone can thrive

Northwest Neighborhoods CDC (NWN) is celebrating its completed fundraising for Karam Senior Living, which will add affordable senior housing to the new Cleveland Public Library (CPL) Walz Campus to West 80th Street and Detroit Avenue. A new award by Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) of 51 housing vouchers both deepens the project's affordability for future residents and allows development to proceed towards construction in 2025 and opening in 2026.

"After months of working against the odds, we couldn't be more thrilled that our vision of Karam Senior Living will become reality," said Bridget Kent Márquez, NWN Executive Director. "We have so many community members and partners to thank now, at the groundbreaking and at the ribbon cutting, including Cleveland City Council, the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Enterprise Community Partners, Cleveland Public Library, and my board and staff."

NWN and CPL celebrated this progress at an "Our Future is Building Pop-Up Party" on Tuesday, August 27, at St. Luke's Church, 7708 Lake Avenue. The celebration included CPL's On the Road to Reading early literacy van complete with free kids' activities, snacks,

books, and more.

"We are excited to reimagine the Walz Campus and reaffirm our commitment to this vibrant community," said Felton Thomas, Jr., Executive Director and CEO of Cleveland Public Library. "With enhanced resources, the Walz Campus will be a hub for learning and growth, allowing us to better serve our neighbors and ensuring that everyone who walks through our doors can thrive."

As a \$23 million investment, Karam Senior Living will counteract displacement pressures affecting vulnerable, older residents by providing 51 residential units to seniors who earn less than 30% and 50% of the area median income (AMI). Developed in partnership with CPL, the energy-efficient, accessible building will include a new Walz Campus for intergenerational connections and wrap-around programming. The development reimagines the northeast corner of West 80th and Detroit, adjacent to bus transit and healthcare providers, to more equitably serve the surrounding Detroit Shoreway and Cudell neighborhoods.

CPL will anchor the facility with a new, five-star library to meet a wide range of community needs. The new Walz Campus will span two floors and provide meeting spaces, children and teen areas, enhanced

technology, and after-hours book lockers. This investment is part CPL's 10-year plan to reimagine all 27 campuses through renovation, expansion, and new library construction to fulfill its commitment to all Clevelanders.

Previous funding commitments were essential for NWN to overcome cost increases and delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the voucher commitment by CMHA, key awards since 2020 have included \$2 million in ARPA Funds from Cuyahoga County, \$1 million in ARPA Transformative Neighborhood Project Funds from Cleveland City Council, \$2 million in ARPA Gap Funds from the City of Cleveland, and Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

NWN's development work for Karam Senior Living is fulfilling a core goal of its 2024-2028 Strategic Plan: "To maintain, provide, and increase housing affordability for residents with low incomes." The Karam and Walz facility will manifest NWN's vision of "A place where anyone can thrive" by creating shared spaces where young scholars, older residents, and all community members will grow together.

solve their issues, and wants to take his experience to the state capitol. His legal practice spans more than twenty years. He has seen and heard about everything, representing civil and small business cases, development consulting, and criminal practice. He pledges to seek tax relief for the senior community, ensuring people bearing the burden of the property tax system receive the support they need.

"With a wealth of legal expertise and a deep understanding of the issues facing our district, I would like to focus on seeking relief from the burden of high property taxes on our senior community," said Dintaman.

In the latest round of reappraisals, property values have increased by 32% on average across Cuyahoga County. Property values increase does not mean property tax bills will increase by the same proportion. Still, residents are concerned. East Cleve-

land values are up by 67% and Maple Heights by 59%. Hunting Valley, by contrast, is seeing a 15% increase. Homeowners can file informal complaints about their new property values at the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office, Appraisal Department, 3rd Floor, 2079 East Ninth Street in Cleveland.

"I hear people talking about their property tax increases all the time. It spurred me to think maybe this is something I can do for them in Columbus," said Dintaman. "We need to start listening to the folks that need some help. I want to represent the people in my community and my district on issues like this."

The general election is Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Online registration deadline is Monday, October 7, 2024. Register by mail deadline must be post-

marked by Monday, October 7, 2024. The in-person registration deadline is Monday, October 7, 2024. The Ohio Registration Form is at www.ohiosos.gov. To register online, provide an Ohio license or identification card number, name, date of birth, address, and the last four digits of your Social Security number; voting options and registration in Cuyahoga County link: <https://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/voters>.

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PHOTO BY JOHN RAKAUSKAS

Monday, August 5, 2024; Brookmere Cemetery, 3645 Broadview Rd., in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood of Cleveland: Cleveland residents as well as residents of other cities in Ohio and neighboring states attended an outdoor workshop demonstrating how to clean, repair and reposition headstones. The workshop was conducted by Jonathan Appell, founder of “48StateTour! — Saving America’s Graveyards”.



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Old Brooklyn’s Brookmere Cemetery included in nationwide cemetery tour

by Lynette Filipis

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 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 ninth 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 January, the first of eight previous articles, I wrote about the three generations – Jeremiah, Charles, and Howard -- of the Gates family of millers in Old Brooklyn.

In February, the second of eight previous articles, I wrote about the precursor of Pearl Road United Methodist Church (which was on the north side of the Big Creek valley) -- Brooklyn Methodist Episcopal Church.

In March, the third of eight previous articles, I wrote about Brighton Methodist Episcopal Church, the initial name of the first Methodist church south of the Big Creek valley. Today it is known as Pearl Road United Methodist Church. I also began to write about the (Old) Burying/Burial Ground at the corner of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave just south of the Methodists’ property.

In April, the fourth of eight previous articles, I wrote additional information about the (Old) Burying/Burial Ground using research obtained from local cemetery author Bill Krejci.

In May, the fifth of eight previous articles, I wrote more about the (Old) Burying/Burial Ground, including Bill Krejci’s belief that the body of Revolutionary War veteran Richard Cooper remains interred there.

In June, the sixth of eight previous articles, I wrote about the history of St. Luke’s United Church of Christ, beginning with its precursor, the *German United Evangelical Protestant Church of Parma* and then an off shoot, the *German United Evangelical Church of Brighton*.

In July, the seventh of eight previous articles, I wrote about the two doctors, Washington Emil Linden and his son, John Linden, who had once lived in the frame, late Victorian-era house at 3444 Memphis Ave.

In August, the eighth of eight previous articles, I began to write about the Greenline Building(s), two separate commercial structures along the north side of Memphis Ave. (where it begins at Pearl Rd.)

This month I thought that I would be continuing to write about the Greenline Building(s), but because of a recent event at nearby Brookmere Cemetery which speaks of the historical importance of this section of Old Brooklyn, I have decided to put the Greenline on hold for another month so that I can report the Brookmere happening in a timely fashion.

Brookmere Cemetery is located at the end of “Short” Broadview Rd. (west of Pearl Rd.) I consider it to be the most serene place in all Old Brooklyn. I have previously mentioned it in this historical series because when it was established in 1835/36, many of the bodies in the Old Burying Ground at Memphis Ave. and Pearl Rd. were exhumed and reburied there. Today Brookmere Cemetery is maintained by the City of Cleveland, and the city had to grant permission for the outdoor workshop to take place on its grounds.

The story of the national cemetery event which took place at Brookmere on Monday, August 5th, began more than a year ago when two sisters were looking for the grave of a relative who is interred there. (The surname of the relative is Huy.) The sisters had grown up in Old Brooklyn, but now one of them, Linda Cameron, lives in Cleveland Hts., and the other, Karen Parks, lives in Parma. According to Linda, “We had seen one of our ancestors that started everything... our maiden name Huy,” Linda explained, “and upon further investigation, we learned that we have 18 ancestors buried there under various family names!”

The first time that they were at Brookmere, Linda and Karen were appalled at the poor condition of the Cemetery and afterwards they stopped at the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn’s (HSOB) Museum at 3430 Memphis Ave. to find out who is responsible for taking care of it. According to HSOB president Constance (Connie) Ewazen, the sisters returned to the Museum a second time to tell her that they and their volunteer crew had picked up 75 bags of trash from the Cemetery grounds and that they were interested in doing more volunteer work there. Connie suggested that they put the flags on the veterans’ graves for Memorial Day. Linda and Karen did that and planted poppy seeds, too.

Linda and Karen also established a foundation, the *Brookmere Cemetery Preservation Coalition*. And they began immersing themselves in news about old cemeteries. In the online process they learned about *48 State Tour, Saving America’s Graveyards*, the program founded by Jonathan/Jon Appell from Southington, Connecticut in 2020. A masonry preservation specialist and gravestone and monument conservator, Jonathan is the CEO of *Atlas Preservation, Inc.*, established in 2016. The firm sells products, tools and materials which can be used for gravestone repair and restoration. Jonathan’s daughter and two sons are the firm’s other owners and full-time employees.

Jonathan has had an aptitude for building and repairing since his youth and has years of experience doing just that in a variety of mediums. In the 1990s he worked for a cemetery contracting company where he gained valuable experience in excavation, monument installation, foundations, and restoration.

Taking the restoration concept a step farther, Jonathan got the idea to

continued on page 5



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Restoration of steeple at Iglesia El Calvario completed

by Chuck Hoven

Iglesia El Calvario in Tremont is celebrating the completion of the restoration of its steeple. The steeple at Iglesia El Calvario, located at 2536 W. 14th in the Tremont neighborhood, has been undergoing renovations for about a year and is now complete, says congregation member Gee Cirilo who serves as the church’s music direction and youth leader assistant. Cirilo says, Frost Architectural Preservation Company has completed the steeple renovation, and a subcontractor added lights to the steeple as a final touch, finishing in August of this year. Thus, the renovation is complete after being under construction for about a year.

Speaking of the work done by Frost Architectural Preservation Company, Cirilo said, “The steeple was damaged due to age and weather. Some birds got in and ruined it a bit more. So, they had to first fix the structure of it before even restoring the concrete and restoring the points on the steeple.” Cirilo said, Cleveland Restoration Society organized the project and was involved with working with Frost Architectural Preservation Company on the restoration of the steeple. The cost of the project was \$80,000. Cirilo says funds for the project were provided by Cleveland Restoration Society.

The Cleveland Restoration Society’s

website says, “The legacy of Cleveland’s ecclesiastical architecture is the focus of our Sacred Landmarks Support Initiative, an interdenominational initiative that assists congregations in Northeast Ohio with the preservation of their historic properties.” The website says the Sacred Landmarks Support Initiative was made possible with the support of the Ohio History Connection. The Cleveland Restoration Society also receives support from a few foundations, individual donations, and the National Park Service of the United States Department of Interior.

“This is a big job for our church, and we are glad it is coming to a conclusion,” said Cirilo.

The church’s pastor, Pastor Pedro Juan Gonzalez, has been at the church for the past 26 years. “So, this church has been alive and part of the Tremont community since then,” says Cirilo.

The corner of W. 14th and Starkweather where Iglesia El Calvario now serves its congregation, has served as a worship site for different congregations since 1865. According to an article by Chris Roy titled Calvary Pentecostal Church in *Cleveland Historical* published online at www.clevelandhistorical.org/items/shows/734, German immigrants built a wood structure on the site in 1865 to house Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church.

(Editor’s note: According to Architectural Historian Craig Bobby, this congregation of German immigrants was an Emmanuel Evangelical Church congregation not Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church Congregation.) This congregation held services in that structure until the current yellow brick structure was built in 1908.

Roy describes the current structure as follows: “Gothic in nature. The new church’s architectural highlights include large, pointed windows with hood moldings and corbel stops (decorative supports) on the front and sides. The entry porches and short steeple are more English in origin.”

The article in *Cleveland Historical* by Chris Roy says this congregation (Emmanuel Evangelical according to Craig Bobby) remained at that site until selling the church in 1968 to the Cleveland Baptist Temple. It then describes the sale by Cleveland Baptist Temple to the current owners: “This congregation remained there until 1994 when Calvary Pentecostal Church – known by its predominantly Puerto Rican members as Iglesia Pentecostal El Calvario (“Iglesia” is Spanish for “Church”) – purchased the property. That congregation had been located at 4502 Bridge Avenue (now West Side Alliance Church) in Ohio City since 1978.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Tuesday, August 6, 2024; Iglesia Pentecostal El Calvario, 2536 W.14th:
Renovation of the steeple nears completion.

BROOKMERE CEMETERY

continued from page 4

sponsor a contest tied to an annual tour. He would travel across the continental United States and visit one cemetery in each state to conduct a totally free hands-on seminar about – among other things -- cleaning gravestones, rejoining pieces of fractured tablet stones, and resetting tilted stones. The cemeteries would be chosen from the proposals and photos entrants submitted online.

Nationwide, for the 2024 event (Jon’s fifth annual tour) over 300 entries were vying for the coveted winning positions. Ohio cemeteries had submitted 12 of

those entries, including Linda Cameron’s for Old Brooklyn’s Brookmere Cemetery. The 2024 tour began in New Haven, Connecticut on May 28th and ended in Windsor, Connecticut on August 6th. That added up to 56 events and 15,000 miles in 82 days. Jonathan travelled with one other person, either his daughter Courtney or another lady.

The restoration workshop at Brookmere Cemetery was #47 in the line-up. It was preceded by a stop at a cemetery in Kalamazoo, Michigan and followed by a stop at a cemetery in Medina, New York. Approximately 80 people attended all or part of the workshop at Brookmere and not all of them were

from Northeast Ohio. Columbus, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Rochester, New York; Michigan; West Virginia, Texas, and the Carolinas were among the relatively distant places represented.

There are approximately 3,500 people interred at Brookmere Cemetery and not all of them have a headstone, footstone or monument marking their burial places. The materials on most of the marked graves varies, but include limestone, sandstone, granite, marble, and zinc. Identifying the material of the stones and safe practices for cleaning each material was one of the topics discussed early in the program. Explaining the carvings, identifying damage, and rust and graffiti removal were also covered. Ultimately cleaning and repair filled the rest of the day. After Jonathan’s demonstrations,

participants were able to try out the techniques themselves.

Four members of the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn attended segments of the cemetery preservation workshop. Below are their thoughts about the event.

Brenda Theurer, “I was only able to attend the first 45 minutes (because I had a previous commitment at the Cuyahoga County Fair Grounds.) I was amazed at the number of people who came to “our” little cemetery from out-of-town, even out-of-state, other cemeteries and other historical societies.”

Mary Ellen Stasek, “It was much more than I anticipated and well worth the time. Jonathan is very knowledgeable and very generous to do this.”

Greg Cznadel, “What an opportunity to have a hands-on experience removing

grown-on moss that may have been almost as old as the stone itself.”

John Rakauskas, (local architect), “I’m really glad that I attended; there are lots of other applications besides gravestone restoration.”

Channel 5 News’ (News5Cleveland.com) Mike Holden has given some good coverage to the Brookmere Cemetery project, and links to those videos can also be viewed on the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn’s (HSOB) website, www.oldbrooklynhistory.org. The dates of the three videos pertaining to the Brookmere restoration efforts are: July 19th; August 5th and August 19th. The previous articles in this attempt to “Save Our Historic District” are also available on the HSOB website as well as on the *Plain Press* website, <https://plainpress.blog>.

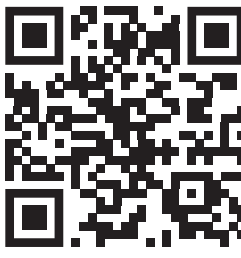
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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, July 27, 2024; Soil Shop Comes to Cleveland, Kentucky Gardens, W. 38th and Franklin: (L-R) United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff members Naomi Morgan, Saphique Thomas and Shannon Walsh. While residents visited the Soil Shop to have their soil screened for lead, staff of the Region 5 Chicago office of the United States EPA shared information and literature on some of the work their agency does to curb the use of pesticides, to identify native species and invasive species of insects, to promote environmental justice, and to help residents prevent lead paint poisoning.

Councilwoman Jasmin Santana Informs community of watch party for demolition of longtime vacant building

Councilwoman Jasmin Santana (Ward 14) announced the demolition of the longtime vacant building at 7275 Wentworth Avenue that began on Monday (Aug. 19) and invited residents to a “watch party” of the start of the demolition. The building runs between Wentworth and Neville avenues (both off of W. 73rd) and the demolition started on the Neville Avenue side, with a large empty lot across the way for visitors to safely watch from.

Stockyards neighborhood residents have expressed frustration with the presence of the huge vacant building in their neighborhood for years. Their persistent feedback

spurred forward the plans for the demolition.

To prepare for the project, the City of Cleveland has partnered with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Department of Development, the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, and Frontline Services. While reviewing and preparing the site for demolition, workers learned unhoused Clevelanders were using the building for shelter. This revelation led workers to elevate the demolition to a social services issue, as it is critical that Clevelanders are connected to wraparound services to potentially provide shelter, health, and economic assistance.

In addition to the organizations listed above, the Cleveland Divisions of Police and Fire were instrumental in moving inoperable cars, terminating the building’s fire line, and ensuring the overall safety of the building for workers and the neighborhood.

The City’s Building and Housing staff distributed door flyers in June 2024 to inform residents about the upcoming demolition and provide relevant contact information.

In discussing the demolition of the former factory complex, Councilwoman Jasmin Santana stated, “I thank my residents for expressing their concerns with this property,

Roldo Bartimole shares views about recent Cleveland development projects

Read in Scene magazine an August 15, 2024, article titled: *Roldo: The Haslams will get what they want – Sports team owners are, after all, undefeated against local politicians at:* <https://www.clevescene.com/news/roldo-the-haslams-will-get-what-they-want-44930741>

For an additional look at ROLDO’S WORK: <http://www.clevelandmemory.org/roldo/>
Read Roldo’s comments on HOW CLEVELAND SPENDS ITS MONEY: <https://coolcleveland.com/2013/06/roldo-disgusting-record-of-cleveland-down-town-scams/>

Ohio City Incorporated Board of Trustees names new Interim Executive Director

The Board of Trustees of Ohio City Incorporated (OCI) unanimously voted to name Jane Platten as their new Interim Executive Director effective August 1st.

Platten is a proven senior executive in Cuyahoga County with extensive experience in public administration, agency, and systems reorganization. Most recently Platten was employed at The MetroHealth System from 2016 - 2023 serving as the Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer among other roles in the organization. Platten also served as Chief of Staff of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s

office from 2012 to 2016 and prior to that was the Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections.

“With deep respect for the mission and values of OCI, I am honored to step into the role of Interim Executive Director. I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition and to working collaboratively with our dedicated team and stakeholders to continue driving our goals forward and set the organization up for long-term success. Together, we will build on our strong foundation and address the opportunities ahead with focus and determination,” Platten said.

Cleveland Public Market Corporation offers explanation on how to use new parking procedures at West Side Market lot

The Cleveland Public Market Corporation, which now runs the West Side Market, is implementing new parking procedures. When entering the West Side Market parking lot, there is no longer a gate. A scanner scans license plates and notes the time of entry. This prevents traffic bottlenecks at the entrance.

When entering the lot, shoppers see a sign that says: “Pay Here”. The sign has a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) symbol to scan. There is also an option to text to a phone number on the sign, if you have a phone where scanning a URL is not an option.

A West Side Market shopper

expressed concern that there is no sign to let shoppers know that the first 60 minutes of parking are free during hours the West Side Market is open.

Patrick J. Evans, Director of Marketing for the Cleveland Public Market Corporation says that once shoppers scan the URL, they will be given an option that says, “60 minutes free.” He also noted that the Cleveland Public Market Corporation is looking into permanent signage that will go at both entrances to the West Side Market parking lot. While he is not sure what will be on the new signs, the signs may be able to alert shoppers to the free minutes.

Evans says shoppers are encouraged to scan the URL when arriving at the West Side Market parking lot and indicate how long they plan to park there and provide information

when prompted. According to the website, the customer will be alerted when they are close to the 60 minutes of free time. If customers forget to scan the URL, Evans says that some merchants also have signs that serve as a reminder to scan the URL into their phones.

For those that use the texting option, Evans says that a port will prompt them to enter their license plate number and allow them to input their credit or debit card number into a secure system.

The parking lot only accepts payment by credit or debit card.

Evans says that shoppers that don’t have a phone, or don’t have a credit or debit card can come to the Cleveland Public Market Corporation office on Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. to make alternative arrangements. The office is in the West Side Market on the South side of the balcony.

The other alternative is to make sure you are in and out of the market in less than 60 minutes. Then you are not required to pay or to do any scanning or texting.

Evans says most shoppers are in and out of the market in less than an hour.

When the City of Cleveland renovated the parking lot, it was agreed that West Side Market shoppers would have 90 minutes free. Evans says the 60-minute time was chosen to help raise revenue to enable the West Side Market to someday operate without a subsidy from the City of Cleveland. He said the revenue will also help to keep rents low for West Side Market merchants. Evans says the majority of those that go over the 60 free minutes are in the 60-minutes to two-hour range. The cost of parking at the West Side Market is \$1.50 per hour plus tax. The daily maximum is \$12.



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Can a \$23 million redevelopment of St. Michael’s High School building help Clark-Fulton add affordable senior housing while retaining history?

by Collin Cunningham, *The Land*

Nearly three years after Cleveland leaders launched a master plan for redeveloping the Clark-Fulton neighborhood with professional and residential input, one of its cornerstone housing developments is moving forward. The Arch at Saint Michael project will repurpose classrooms and offices into 46 new low-income multifamily apartment units for seniors in the Saint Michael Archangel Roman Catholic Church’s former school and convent.

Editor’s Note: This article by Collin Cunningham, updating efforts to redevelop the former St. Michael’s High School building was originally published by the online publication, *The Land* at www.thelandcle.org. To read the article on the *Plain Press* website with some editing by Architectural Historian Craig Bobby visit: <https://plainpress.blog>.

NOBLE urges residents to lobby against Ohio Senate Bill 240

Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE) urges residents to lobby to oppose Ohio Senate Bill 240.

If passed, Ohio Senate Bill 240 would negatively affect SNAP and Medicaid recipients and limit individuals from receiving these much-needed services.

One proposed provision is to bring back the modified drug felon ban, which would prevent those with felonies from receiving SNAP benefits. This provision is outdated and discriminatory Those marked with a felony conviction will already have a rough time securing a job and should be able to have access to food.

SB240 would ban the ability to

waive the time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD). Currently, ABAWD time limits may be waived due to insufficient number of jobs, longer lengths of unemployment or low wage employment.

Under SB240 non-custodial parents would be mandated to cooperate with child support. However, parent(s) seeking SNAP services likely do not have the funds to pay for child support, and receiving SNAP may help them to have these funds.

SB240 Medicaid provisions require applicants to submit proof of monetary income, eliminate retroactive coverage, and more. This leaves out unemployed individuals. Medicaid application pro-

cesses are often long, applicants cannot always wait to be approved to access medical care.

Overall, SB240 is a discriminatory, inhumane bill that ignores and fails to address the underlying systemic issues of those seeking SNAP and Medicaid services.

Contact these legislators and tell them to vote NO on SB240: Senator Matt Dolan, Senator Kent Smith, Senator Nickie Antonio, Senator Matt Hoffman. The State Senators can be reached via the Ohio Senate website at: www.ohiosenate.gov/members.

Torso Murders: Cleveland’s “Mad Butcher of Kingsbury Run”

It has been decided by the Cuyahoga Chief Medical Examiner, along with a non-profit organization, the “DNA Doe Project,” to exhume the unidentified victims of the “Cleveland Torso Murderer” to identify them through new DNA testing. Their remains have been buried in the City of Cleveland’s Potter’s Field for almost 90 years.

The Torso Murders took place in Cleveland, Ohio, back in the 1930s. The murders have remained unsolved, therefore the killer has never been brought to justice. The murderer decapitated and dismembered over a dozen people around the city of Cleveland. One headless victim was found in Brooklyn, near Clifton Road, floating in Big Creek. It was even determined, by the medical

examiner, that some of the victims were even alive when beheaded, including the victim in Brooklyn, Ohio. Because of the mutilation of the bodies, many of the victims have never been identified. Only three of the murdered victims could positively be identified. Many of the bodies were discovered in and around the railroad tracks near Kingsbury Run.

The famous “Untouchable,” Elliot Ness, who helped put Al Capone away in Chicago, was Cleveland’s Safety Director during the time of the murders and was pressured by his superiors to catch the “Mad Butcher.” Unfortunately, Ness had no luck in bringing the killer to justice, which contributed to his downward spiral of his reputation as a crime fighter.

At the same time these murders were taking place, there was the “Great Lakes Exposition” going on in downtown Cleveland. Many from outside Ohio arrived to take part in the festival. It was speculated that some of the Torso victims may have been from out of state, which may have contributed to the difficulty in identifying the remains. Shortly after the murders stopped, a letter was sent to the FBI, stating that “he” (the killer) had moved on to California, and that they could rest easy at least here. This caused authorities to speculate if the Cleveland Killer was responsible for the horrific murder of Elizabeth Short, aka “Black Dahlia,” in 1947.

To learn more about the “Cleveland Torso Murders” tune into Channel



PHOTO BY MARYANN ROSENBERG
Thursday July 25, 2024; Cleveland Public Theatre’s Student Theatre Enrichment Program performance of Carved, Herman Park, 6198 Herman Avenue: Ward 15 City Council Representative Jenny Spencer talks to the crowd gathered for the performance at Herman Park.

1025 on Cleveland Spectrum, Mondays at 9 PM, or Channel 45 on COX Cable, Wednesdays at 8 PM. For more information, you can contact Kevin@ShockerEnterprises.com or call 216 534-7968.

COMMUNITY BOARD continued from page 2

cuyahogacounty.gov/voters/vote-early-in-person. Don’t forget to bring a valid photo ID!

VOTER REGISTRATION: To be eligible to vote in the presidential election this November, you must be registered to vote by October 7. To register to vote for the first time, check or update your voter status, request an absentee ballot, or find your polling location, visit boe.cuyahogacounty.gov. You can also visit any branch of the Cleveland Public Library to receive assistance with

EVENTS

WARD 11 STREET FEST: Join Councilman Danny Kelly and other community leaders for this new free street festival with live bands and DJs, food trucks, beer, face painting and more on Saturday, September 7, 2pm-8pm at Variety Village (W.118th St. and Lorain Ave).

THE CHALK FESTIVAL at the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) features sidewalk artistry by professional chalk artists and local community groups, families, and individuals, all using the CMA’s south plaza and walkways that wind through the Fine Arts Garden and down to Wade Lagoon as a colorful canvas. The event will be held Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15 from noon to 5 pm both days outside the art museum (11150 East Blvd).

CLEVELAND NATIONAL AIR-SHOW: Celebrating 60 years, the Air Show is Cleveland’s Labor Day Weekend tradition with three days of aerial thrills featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, military jet demonstrations. The event runs from Saturday, August 31 thru Monday, September 2 at Burke Lakefront Airport. While it is a ticketed event, much of the show’s aerial performances are visible from around the Cleveland area.

GIGS ON THE GREEN: Enjoy these free weekly concerts every Wednesday now thru September 11, from 5 pm to 8 pm on Public Square. September 4’s concert will feature the Chardon Polka Band, and September 11 will feature jazz pianist Theron Brown.

HISPANIC-LATINO HERITAGE CELEBRATION: The Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center (2800 Archwood Ave.) will celebrate its 10th annual Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month Celebration Saturday, September 14, from 4 pm

to 7 pm. Whether you’re interested in volunteering, sponsoring, performing, vending, or hosting a resource table, we want to hear from you. Get involved and make this celebration unforgettable! Contact us today at 216-894-5664 or email info@juliadeburgos.org.

MAX HAYES CAR SHOW: Come check out a wide selection of classic cars and mingle with other classic car enthusiasts at this year’s edition of the Max Hayes Classic Car Show, which will take place in the parking lot of Max Hayes High School (2211 W. 65th St.) on September 14, 10 am - 2 pm.

THE OHIO CITY STREET FESTIVAL returns Sunday, September 15 from 11am to 7 pm for a full day of music, entertainment, food, and local vendors. For more information, visit www.ohiocity.org/OCSF or email Katy Baumbach of Ohio City Inc. at kbaumbach@ohiocity.org.

TREMONT ARTS AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL (TACF): Saturday, September 21, noon-7 p.m.; and Sunday, September 22, noon -5 p.m. in Lincoln Park. Come celebrate the cultural and artistic diversity of Tremont and the Greater Cleveland area, featuring fine art, sculpture, original jewelry, children’s activities and programs, food booths, musicians, and performers. More information is available at: <https://experiencetremont.com/featured-events/tremont-arts-cultural-festival/>

FOOD

CLEVELAND FOOD BANK: Cuyahoga County has increased funding for emergency food assistance by \$250k due to a significant increase in calls for service stemming from recent power outages. Cuyahoga County will work with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to replenish food lost in the outages. The Food Bank locations can be found at <https://www.greaterclevelandfoodbank.org/get-help/map>.

HEALTH

DOG-FRIENDLY YOGA: Bring your four-legged friends to these bi-monthly, donation-based yoga sessions at City Goods (1442 W 28 St). Held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from May through September at 6:30 pm, this month’s sessions will be Wednesday, September 4 and Wednesday, September 18. Donations are appreciated. Questions? Email venturepawz@gmail.com.

FREE SMOKE ALARMS are avail-

able 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.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL: Proper disposal of hazardous chemicals from your home has never been easier in Cuyahoga County. As a resident, you can turn in unwanted products at a free collection held in your community. The City of Cleveland has a drop off the first Friday of every month at the Division of Waste Collection city garage (5600 Carnegie Ave). This month’s event will be Friday, September 6. Hours are 9 am-3 pm. No latex paint, please! For more information, including a full list of what can and can’t be dropped off, call the Cleveland Service Department at 216-664-2397, or visit cuyahogarecycles.org.

TAI CHI FOR OLDER ADULTS at the Lakewood Public Library main branch (15425 Detroit Ave.) from 2 pm to 3 pm every Wednesday from September 18 thru November 6. Contact the instructor, Patricia, at 216-956-3757.

LEGAL AID

BRIEF ADVICE CLINIC: Have a legal question? Legal Aid has answers! Visit this Brief Advice Clinic at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (8216 Lorain Ave.) on Saturday, September 7 to chat with an attorney about a problem related to money, housing, family, employment or other issues. This clinic is first come, first served, no appointments needed. (Only questions on civil legal issues, not criminal problems). Please bring all important paperwork with you. Intake hour is from 10 am to 11 am. In the meantime, Legal Aid is open 24/7 online at laslev.org, or you can call Legal Aid for help during most business hours at 888-817-3777.

FREE EVICTION HELP: You may qualify for free legal representation at your eviction hearing if you have at least one minor child in your household and meet income guidelines. Call the Legal Aid Society at 216-861-5835 or apply online at laslev.org to find out if you are eligible for free legal help. The sooner you call, the more a lawyer can do for you.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

REAL ESTATE TAX RELIEF AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS OF STORMS: If your property was damaged in the August 6th storms, you can apply for a reduction in value and property tax assistance. The Cuyahoga County Fiscal Office provides property owners the ability to file an Application for Valuation of Damaged or Destroyed Property. The deadline to apply is December 31st. Learn

more and apply: <https://cuyahogacounty.gov/fiscal-officer/>

2024 PROPERTY TAX REAPPRAISAL: To challenge your reappraisal or explore resources that may help reduce your property tax visit: <https://cuyahogacounty.gov/fiscal-officer/2024-sexennial-reappraisal>

STORM CLEAN-UP

CUYAHOGA COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, in partnership with volunteers from **Team Rubicon**, the **Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief Ohio**, and **Crisis Clean-up**, has established a hotline for residents who want assistance moving tree and yard debris. **Residents struggling to clear tree and yard debris can call (330)208-9761 to make a request.** Services are free of charge.

VOLUNTEERING

THE METANOIA PROJECT Metanoia Project has a permanent site for the 2024-2025 season at 10050 Clinton Road Cleveland 44111. Volunteers are needed to sign up for meals for the season, beginning on November 15th and ending on April 15th. The Metanoia Project will be hosting 35 guests in one space, and is asking for volunteers to bring enough food for 35 people. Dinner should arrive between 6:30pm - 6:45 pm. Paper products, utensils and drinks are always appreciated. A reminder email will be sent out a week prior to the evening you will be bringing the meal. If you are interested in signing up, please email Michael Stanczyk at volunteercoordinator@projectmetanoia.org

NEAR WEST THEATRE (6702 Detroit Ave.) offers a variety of ways for you to get involved in local theater, including auditioning for upcoming productions, volunteering as a backstage crew member, and volunteering at the box office. For a full list

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REAL ESTATE

I BUY REAL ESTATE “As Is” condition? Inherit a house? Call Pat (216) 324-3934.

SEEKING RENTAL

PROPERTY OWNERS NEEDED: If you are a property owner with nice, clean, reasonably priced apartments, and are looking for tenants, please call Jim Schlecht of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless at 216-357-1612.

of opportunities and to apply, visit nearwest-theatre.org/get-involved. Questions? Email info@nearwesttheatre.org. Please also note that we are committed to diverse, inclusive casting. We will cast artists without regard to disability, race, age, sexual orientation, color, gender identity, etc.

VOLUNTEER SOCCER COACHES are always needed for Near West Recreation’s soccer leagues. No experience is necessary. A background check is required (paid for by Near West Recreation). We are looking for individuals who enjoy working with and leading kids and have general knowledge of the sport. Commitment level ranges from 3-6 hours per week. Questions? Call or email, 216-781-3222 or nearwestrec@ohiocity.org.

WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER (3135 Lorain Ave.) is currently seeking volunteers for the following areas: Afternoon Receptionist, Database Entry, Monday Cook, and Clothing Sorter. Most opportunities are during traditional work hours, but we have occasional Saturday morning food pantries. If interested, please email Veronica at vfave-la@wsscencer.org.

YOUTH

FALL REGISTRATION AT BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS: Fall registration is underway at Boys and Girls Clubs for youths ages 6-18. Due to federal budget cuts there will be fewer clubs open this year. As the new school year gets underway, the only club open on the West Side of Cleveland will be the club at Joseph Gallagher School. There is no charge to join a club. Visit the Boys and Girls Clubs website for more information at www.bgcneo.org.

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Legal Aid can help with legal issues related to employment

by Tonya Sams

Millions of people report to work every day and have no idea what rights they have as employees. If their rights are violated, they may have to find an attorney. Employment Law attorneys focus on many work-related issues such as discrimination, wage theft, workers' compensation, expungements, unsafe working environments and more.

"Employees have the right to be treated fairly without being discriminated against. That's the most important right," said Matt Alden, a Senior Attorney in Legal Aid's Economic Justice Practice Group. "If they're a member of a union, they might have additional rights over and above what nonunion members have."

Employment discrimination occurs when the employer makes some type of decision about a person's employment by using unlawful criteria. This could be based on race, sex, religious beliefs, age and disability. It also includes discrimination against veterans and those who have filed for bankruptcy or unemployment.

Workers who have been discriminated against or have even faced retaliation for speaking out, have options on how they should address it. If an employee is part of a union, they should contact their union representative to determine if a grievance can be filed. They should also look in the employee handbook to learn what the company states about discrimination complaints. An employee, whether union or nonunion, can also file a charge of discrimination on their own with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

There are other things that employees can do to protect them-

selves if they believe that their rights have been violated. They should keep track of the dates that the incidents occurred and keep all paperwork, texts or emails from their employer.

"This will help you later because sometimes you may not realize that you have a case. Your lawyer will ask you about incidents that may have happened six months or a year ago. And if you've written it down, it's a lot easier to go back and remember the full details," said Alden.

Alden suggests that even if you don't believe that you have enough evidence to prove your case, that you should still get an attorney. Depending on the type of employment case it is, especially in wage theft cases, many attorneys will do it on a contingency fee basis. This means that it will not cost the employee anything to have a consultation and have an attorney handle their case. In some cases, the law provides a provision that, if the employee's case is successful, the employer must pay the attorney.

"Two lawyers can look at the same case and sometimes come up with two different opinions on how strong it is, so it's always worth it to get another opinion. You may have claims that you don't even know about," he said. "Another lawyer might think that you've got a viable claim that's very strong and you may not. You just never know, especially if you're not a lawyer. You're not trained to know what to look for."

If you are experiencing employment related issues, 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



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, July 27, 2024; Soil Shop Comes to Cleveland, Kentucky Gardens, W. 38th and Franklin: Yulissa Aguilar, an Environmental Justice staff member of the Chicago Office of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), performs soil screening for lead of soil brought in by residents from their yards or gardens. Kentucky Gardens joined with Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing (CLASH) and the Soil Shop program of the United States EPA to offer this service to residents.

LEAD SCREENING

continued from page one

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.

Following the testing, EPA staff provided residents with advice on how to improve garden or play area safety. CLASH also had a table at the event

where they distributed free copies of lead safety information.

CLASH member Rev. Darrick L. Wade Sr. also brought copies of his book, "Mr. Lead is not your friend." The book is dedicated to Darrick's son, Demetrius Lamar Wade, who died of complications of lead poisoning in September of 2007 at the age of 24. Rev. Wade says the book is for both parents and children to help them recognize the dangers of exposure to lead and to recognize some of the symptoms of lead poisoning. In addition to being a children's picture book, the book offers a checklist for parents to protect their home and child from lead poisoning.

Public hearings on Enbridge's natural gas rate application scheduled for September 18

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) scheduled public hearings regarding Enbridge Gas Ohio's (formerly known as Dominion Energy Ohio) applications to increase rates and charges and for approval of an alternative rate plan.

A local public hearing will be held on: Sept. 18, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at the Frank J. Lausche State Office Building, 615 W. Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Those that testify will have their comments included in the case record.

In addition to providing soil screening, the United States EPA staff also provided literature on other EPA programs. Information included how to limit pesticide use to avoid runoff that is harmful to waterways, information on native species of insects including a booklet on native moths, and information on EPA's environmental justice programs. The staff also provided a leaflet describing the invasive spotted lanternfly, which presents a hazard to a few commercial and garden crops. The flier asked gardeners to kill the spotted lanternfly and report a sighting to the EPA.

Cuyahoga County determination of property values called arbitrary and capricious -- citizens being hoodwinked

To the editor:

As someone who worked for 25 years in the mortgage industry {the last 10 years in underwriting} I find it appalling that Cuyahoga County determines property values in such an arbitrary and capricious manner.

LETTER

Part of my responsibility was reviewing appraisals whether it be for

a purchase or refinance transaction. The same principle in determining value for property taxes is applied here. Comparables {or Comps} refer to properties that closely resemble each other in terms of square footage, the number of bedrooms and bathrooms, age etc. The rule required the comps to be no further than a half mile to one mile away

with recent sales within six months to one year ago.

Unless something has changed dramatically in the industry it appears the citizens of Cuyahoga County have been hoodwinked. Accordingly, no increase in taxation without proper representation.

Joe Bialek



St. Paul's Community United Church of Christ
4427 Franklin Blvd. 216-651-6250

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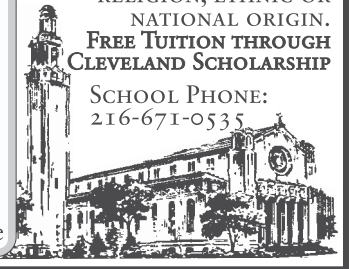
Mass Times:
MTWTF: 9AM
SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL: 5:00PM
SUNDAY: 9AM AND 11AM

Eucharistic Adoration:
SATURDAYS: 3:30-4:30PM
1ST FRIDAYS: 7PM

Confession:
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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

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An evidentiary hearing will also take place at the PUCO offices in Columbus on Nov. 13, 2024.

[Learn more about how to testify at a PUCO public hearing.](#)

Written comments may also be addressed to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215. Public comments [can also be filed online](#), and all comments should reference case docket number [23-894-GA-AIR](#).

A copy of Enbridge's application and the entry scheduling the public hearing is available on the PUCO website www.PUCO.ohio.gov by clicking on the links to "Docketing Information System" and searching for case [23-894-GA-AIR](#).

Case Background

On Oct. 31, 2023, Enbridge filed a combined application to increase rates and charges and for approval of an alternative rate plan.

Enbridge seeks a rate increase that would generate approximately \$218.2 million of additional revenue, or an increase of 25 percent. After its review of Enbridge's records and application, PUCO's staff recommends a revenue decrease in the range of \$251 million to \$225 million, or a decrease of 27 to 24 percent.

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is the sole agency charged with regulating public utility service. The role of the PUCO is to assure all residential, business and industrial consumers have access to adequate, safe and reliable utility services at fair prices while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices. Consumers with utility-related questions or concerns can call the PUCO Call Center at (800) 686-PUCO (7826) and speak with a representative.

For additional information, contact: [Brittany Waugaman](#) at (614) 466-7750.