



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Tuesday, December 10, 2024; Second District Police Station, 3481 Fulton Road: New Second District Commander Timothy Maffo-Judd at his desk in the Commander's Office. See related story on page 3.

Non Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
CLEVELAND, OHIO
PERMIT 1354

FREE
Vol. 52, No.1 January 2025

Plain Press

Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

Protesters seek County disinvestment from Israel Bonds

by Chuck Hoven

On Sunday, November 24th about one hundred protesters responding to a call to "Rally Against Racist Ronayne – Demand an End to Israel Bonds" gathered at Baltic Children's Park to get ready to march to Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne's house. The goal of the protest was to get Cuyahoga County to divest from the \$16 million it has

invested in Israel Bonds.

According to a press release issued by the Palestine Task Force Cle before the rally: "Cuyahoga County has invested millions of taxpayer dollars directly into Israel through Israel Bonds, supporting a regime that the United Nations has recently cited for utilizing warfare methods in Gaza consistent with genocide, including use of starvation as a weapon

of war".

The statement said members of "Cleveland Palestinian Advocacy Community and other concerned community members have continuously attended Cuyahoga County Council meetings to demand disinvestment, but their calls have gone unanswered."

The statement says: "Ronayne [Editor's note: Christopher Ronayne is the Cuyahoga County Executive] has refused to meet with constituents advocating for disinvestment. In a show of anti-Palestinian racism, he has refused to meet with Palestinian constituents and instead has increased surveillance and policing of his constituents. Meanwhile Ronayne continues to engage with and support proponents of these controversial investments."

At the rally, the group held their signs as they marched down W. 110th Street to Ronayne's home on Lake Avenue with an escort from the Cleveland Division of Police. The group included students from local colleges, some veteran human rights protesters, members of the Party for Socialism and Liberation, members of the Democratic Socialists of America, and a sizable contingent from Cleveland's Palestinian community wearing Palestinian head scarfs.

The signs displayed, many homemade, sent out messages to observers along the route to Ronayne's house. Some of the messages said: "County Executive Chris Ronayne uses our tax dollars for Genocide"; "Israel Bombs, Ronayne Pays"; "Homeless in our Streets, \$16 million for Genocide, continued on page 7



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Sunday, November 24, 2024; Palestine Task Force Cle's Rally Against Racist Ronayne – Demanding an End to Cuyahoga County's Investment in Israel Bonds, in front of Chris Ronayne's house on Lake Avenue near W. 110th: Cleveland Police, from a special citywide unit under orders from Police Chief Dorothy Todd, take Palestinian Youth Movement Organizer Yousef Khalaf out of the assembly and issue him a citation for violating a noise ordinance by using a megaphone during the protest.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Wednesday, December 11, 2024; Franklin Circle Christian Church, 1688 Fulton Road: Pastor Richard Hinkelman says the congregation will hold its last worship service in the church on January 19th and then put the building up for sale.

Council set to vote on proposed 15-ward map

by Bruce Checefsky

City of Cleveland Council Member Rebecca Maurer spoke before the City Council a few days before Thanksgiving about her concern over the redistricting process. Maurer and Council President Blaine Griffin have never seen eye to eye on the mandatory legislative move as required under the City Charter. The new redistricting plan will reduce the city's current 17 wards to 15. Voters approved the charter amendment in 2008, with two seats eliminated in 2009 and another two in 2013. Cleveland's population stands at 372,000, according to the 2020 census, down 7% in the last decade and 22% since 2000.

Maurer, who represents Ward 12, which includes parts of Old Brooklyn, Slavic Village, Brooklyn Centre, and Tremont, wants to remove politicians from the process and get genuine community feedback before the final maps are voted on by City Council.

"I don't think this map did right by our neighborhoods. It deeply concerns me that the Forest City section of Slavic Village is still cut off from the rest of

Slavic Village, as it was in the first version of this map I saw before Thanksgiving. And from what I can tell, Tremont still isn't kept together," she said, referring to maps presented to the City Council for review in November.

Maurer accused Griffin of targeting her personally and said her home in Slavic Village was marked on the map and redrawn into a ward she does not represent. Her conversations with council leadership led nowhere; Ward 12 is now divided into five pieces, she complained, more than any ward in the city.

"I won my election for Council because the residents of Ward 12 believed in the message of a more transparent, accountable, and responsible government. My election disrupted the status quo but certainly did not end it," said Maurer. "Do not play games with my house," she continued, directing her comments to Council President Griffin. "This is an affront to this body to consider a map that gerrymanders a councilperson's house. I will not have it."

continued on page 5

Franklin Circle Christian Church to hold Commemorative Service

On Sunday, January 19 at 10:30am, Franklin Circle Christian Church (FCCC) will hold a special Commemorative Service to honor over 180 years of faith, service, and community impact in Ohio City. While this service marks the congregation's transition from its historic building at 1688 Fulton, it also celebrates a new chapter of ministry and collaboration. FCCC is

excited to continue serving the neighborhood through an innovative partnership with two allied congregations, ensuring the sustainability of its mission of faith, connection, and outreach for the long-term.

For over 180 years, FCCC has been a cornerstone of Ohio City, creating an affirming space for education, judgment free spiritual curiosity, and out-

reach for people within and beyond its walls. Built in 1874, the church has witnessed major transformations in the neighborhood. The church has grown to support emerging needs, all while remaining steadfast in its support of people from every background, especially those who do not feel welcomed at other churches. From hosting En- continued on page 7



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN
Tuesday, December 10, 2024; Fire damage at Byright Auto Sales, W. 48th and Lorain Avenue: A fire on Monday December 9th, shortly after midnight, engulfed the Byright Auto Sales building in flames and damaged the attached building next door as well.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, December 13, 2024; Ward 14 Holiday Party at CentroVilla25, 3140 W. 25th; Taylor Logan, age 5, dances the night away.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

HOMEWORK HELP: All K-12 students can receive free help with their homework at select branches of the Cleveland Public Library, including the Fulton Branch (3545 Fulton Rd., 216-623-6969), the South Branch (3096 Scranton Rd., 216-623-7060), and the West Park Branch (3805 W 157 St, 216-623-7102). The help is available 4pm-6pm, Mondays thru Thursdays. Tutoring is generally scheduled in one-hour sessions. Contact your nearest tutoring locations for availability.

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

ARTS

COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER: The Pivot Art Center (2937 W 25 St.) offers free drop-in art making and gallery exploration for the whole family during open hours: Fridays 2pm-7pm, Saturdays and Sundays 10 am-5 pm. For group visits during open and non-open hours, email commartsinfo@clevelandart.org. For a full list of upcoming events, visit pivotartcenter.com.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OPEN STUDIO: Arthouse Inc. (3119 Denison Ave.) offers a family-friendly, pay-what-you-can art workshop on the third Saturday of each month from 1 pm-3 pm. This month's Friends and Family Open Studio will be on Saturday, January 18. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Visit arthouseinc.org to sign up or call 216-398-8556 for more information.

STREET STUDIO at St. Paul's Church will be Saturday, Jan. 18th at 1 pm at St. Paul's Community Church, 4427 Franklin Ave. All are welcome to share music, poetry, spoken word or to listen in support. Piano, drums, guitar, and microphones provided as well as coffee and snacks. All are welcome! For more information contact Ian Heisey at heisey2140@sbcglobal.net.

ASSISTANCE
CUYAHOGA COUNTY WOMEN,

INFANTS & CHILDREN (WIC)

NUTRITION PROGRAM provides nutrition education, nutritious foods and breastfeeding support. To be eligible you must be pregnant, breastfeeding, or postpartum (having a baby less than 6 months old) or be an infant or child less than five years old. You must also have a nutritional need and have household income that fits within the WIC guidelines. For more information, call 216-957-9421.

FREE LAUNDRY DAYS: BQ Washland (6912 Lorain Ave) is providing FREE laundry service for those in need on the third Thursday of every month, 1-3 pm and 6-8 pm. This month, the free laundry day will be on Thursday, January 16. For more information, contact St. Paul's Community Church at 216-651-6250 or office@stpaulscommunityucc.org.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE WINTER CRISIS PROGRAM: Assistance is available thru March 31 to help with home energy bills thru the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Winter Crisis Program. The program, administered by CHN Housing Partners, helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the federal poverty guidelines pay their heating bills. Ohioans who are threatened with disconnection, have been disconnected from their utility service, are transferring services, establishing new services, or at or below 25% fuel may also be eligible. Cuyahoga County residents can call 216-350-8008 to make an appointment, or they can schedule an appointment online at chn.ifrontdesk.com. Appointments will be conducted by phone or video conference. For more information about the Winter Crisis Program, contact CHN Housing Partners at 216-325-1148. To be connected to a local Energy Assistance provider call (800) 282-0880 (hearing impaired clients may dial 711 for assistance) or visit energyhelp.ohio.gov.

THE HOPE CENTER FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS (15135 Triskett Rd.) offers a variety of resources for recent arrivals to the United States, including ESL and citizenship classes, immigration and legal services, job place and career services, after-school tutoring, child care, and transportation assistance. Visit buildinghopeinthecity.org for more information.

CELEBRATIONS
FREE ADMISSION to a variety of local museums is available Monday, January 20, in honor of MLK Day during normal visiting hours. This includes the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame



(rockhall.com), the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (cmnh.org), and the Maltz Museum (maltzmuseum.org). The Cleveland Museum of Art (clevelandart.org), which normally has free admission, will offer a variety of special programming in honor of MLK Day.

THREE KINGS DAY: Join us for a vibrant celebration of Three Kings Day, a festive occasion marking the end of the holiday season, from 4:15 pm-5:30 pm on Monday, January 6 at the Fulton Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (3545 Fulton Rd). Our event promises a rich blend of cultural traditions, interactive activities, and community fun for all ages.

TRI-C'S MLK CELEBRATION: Cuyahoga Community College is proud to present the 48th annual celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, January 19 at 5:30 p.m. at Playhouse Square. The event will feature a musical performance by Pastor Marvin L. Winans and will also honor Tri-C scholarship winners who embody the work of Dr. King and feature impassioned student presentations and inspiring performances by students from the Tri-C Creative Arts Academy. To reserve your free seat, call Playhouse Square at 216-241-6000 Monday - Friday from 10 am-5 pm. Or visit playhousesquare.org/events

COMMUNITY

CodeRED, an emergency contact system, allows you to receive emergency alerts and severe weather updates from the City of Cleveland. Call 216-664-4383 to sign up for this free service. Stay warm, stay safe, and let's all do our part!
COLLECTIVE THOUGHTS: A news discussion group that meets on the second and fourth Sunday of every month from 9 am to 10 am at Harbor and Bridge at 4321 Bridge Ave. The next two meetings will be Sunday, January 12 and Sunday, January 26. The meetings are a chance to read, reflect, and respond to difficult and divisive issues. We often talk about local issues (housing, policing, politics, gentrification, etc.), and sometimes talk about more broad ones. Email Matt at mattw@harborandbridge.com for a copy of the article we'll be discussing at the next meeting.

COMMUNITY GUIDE

THE PLAIN PRESS will publish its annual Community Guide in the March issue. The guide offers free listings of the names and phone numbers of non-profit organizations and government agencies serving the neighborhoods that the Plain Press covers. If you know of a nonprofit organization that has changed its name, changed its phone number, or was not listed in last year's guide, please email us at plainpress@gmail.com, or leave a phone message at 216-621-3060.

EDUCATION

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.

SAY YES CLEVELAND offers a variety of free support services to students and their families. The services are available to all families with a student enrolled at a CMSD or partner charter school and include: after school programs, legal assistance, tutoring, food assistance, behavioral and physical health services, and help with housing. To learn more, visit sayyescleveland.org or meet with a Family Support Specialist, available at every school, to

find out how they can connect you to the resources you need.

SEEDS OF LITERACY offers free adult basic education and GED classes and one-on-one tutoring. Services are available at both their westside (3104 W 25 St, third floor) and eastside locations (13815 Kinsman Ave). Call 216-661-7950 or visit seedsofliteracy.org to enroll.

HEALTH

THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CLEVELAND AREA CHAPTER regularly offers a free education program, Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research, in various locations throughout the year. To find upcoming programs near you, visit alz.org/crf and search by your zip code. Those concerned about themselves, or a loved one, can contact the Alzheimer's Association Cleveland Area Chapter office at 216-342-5556 to schedule a care consultation and be connected to local resources that can help. The Alzheimer's Association's Helpline can be reached 24/7 at 800-272-3900.

CLEVELAND RAPE CRISIS CENTER offers 24/7 access to free, anonymous support via text, online chat, or phone call. Call or text 216-619-6192 or 440-423-2020. You can also visit our app (no download needed) at app. clevelandrapecrisis.org to learn about preventing sexual violence, developing healthy relationships, supporting a friend who needs help, and more.

FREE SMOKE ALARMS are available to Cleveland residents thru Operation Save-A-Life, a program of the American Red Cross and Cleveland Fire Department. The smoke alarms are installed by Cleveland firefighters at no cost to the resident. To apply, call the 24-hour hotline at 216-361-5535. Please note that the application and installation process may take up to 90 days.

FREE ELECTRIC STOVES: If you or someone in your home has asthma and you cook with a gas stove, you may be eligible for a new electric stove at no cost to you, thanks to a new program from MetroHealth in partnership with the EPA. Cooking on a gas stove is a major source of indoor air pollution and may worsen asthma. For more information, contact Maria Figueroa at 216-778-3343 or mfigueroa1@metrohealth.org.

JANUARY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH:

If you suspect someone is experiencing a mental health crisis or is contemplating suicide, consider reaching out to them with empathy and understanding. Call or text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988. Dial 911 if it is an emergency. The Jason Foundation is another available resource. The Jason Foundation is dedicated to the awareness and prevention of suicide through educational programs and provides tools and resources to identify and assist those who are at-risk. For more information on helping your friends and loved ones who are suffering with a mental illness, please visit jasonfoundation.com.

OHIO PROBLEM GAMBLING HELPLINE: Problem gambling treatment is available at low or no cost to Ohioans. The Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline operates 24/7 at 1-800-589-9966 to provide resources to callers. Specialists can also connect callers with treatment options within 24 hours. You can also visit GamblingHelpOhio.org to find gambling treatment in your area.

HOMELESS

IF YOU NEED SHELTER contact Cuyahoga County's Coordinated Intake office at 216-674-6700. Hours of operation: 8 am - 8 pm, Monday - Friday. After hours and weekends please call

2-1-1 for an on-call Coordinated Intake representative. If it is after hours women in need of assistance may also go directly to Norma Herr Women's Center, 2227 Payne Avenue, and staff will assist you in contacting Coordinated Intake the following day.

WESTSIDE HOMELESS CONGRESS: The Homeless Congress, sponsored by the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH), is made up of unhoused/homeless residents that come together to solve local problems in the homeless community. Please join us the second Tuesday of every month at noon at St. Paul's Community Church (4427 Franklin Blvd.) This month's meeting is on Tuesday, January 14. A limited amount of bus passes will be given out to participants at the end of the meeting. Questions? Call NEOCH at 216-432-0504 or visit neoch.org/homeless-congress.

LIBRARIES

CANVAS PAINTING FOR KIDS: Children and teens are invited to come express themselves through art as library staff guide them through painting a winter-inspired landscape on canvas. Monday, January 13, 2025, 4:30pm - 5:30pm at the South Brooklyn Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (4303 Pearl Rd).

CAPTURE AND EDIT - DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS: Join library staff twice a month from 4:45 pm-5:45 pm with your digital camera or phone to learn basic and intermediate digital photography skills at the Jefferson Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (850 Jefferson Ave). You'll learn how to utilize camera functions, compositional techniques, and editing software to create photos you are proud of. This month, classes will be on Wednesday, January 15 and Wednesday, January 29. Visit cpl.libcal.com/event/13132976 to register for this free class.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL RUBBER DUCKY DAY:

Rubber ducky has gone from a childhood bath toy to gracing the ponds of Jeeps everywhere. Join us for a fun day as we explore Rubber ducky lore and play some fun duck-themed games. Every participant will go home with their very own rubber duck. Monday, January 13, 4 pm - 5 pm at the Eastman Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (11602 Lorain Ave).

LEGAL AID AT THE LIBRARY:

Have a legal question? Need to chat with an attorney about a problem related to money, housing, family, employment or other issues? Stop by our Legal Aid Brief Advice and Referral Clinic on Saturday, January 25, starting at 10 am at the Carnegie West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (1900 Fulton Rd). Please bring all relevant paperwork with you. All clinics are first come, first served for people with low-income who have civil legal issues. Attorneys are available for brief advice and referral only. Advice clinic attorneys do NOT represent you. If you need legal

continued on page 7

Plain Press
P.O. Box 602453
Cleveland, OH 44102
News room phone:
(216) 621-3060
Advertising phone:
216-978-2361
email:
plainpress@gmail.com
Advertising email:
plainpressads@yahoo.com
Website:
<https://plainpress.blog>
Plain Press © Established in 1971
Circulation: 21,000 copies.
Published monthly.
Member of the
Neighborhood and Community Media
Association of Greater Cleveland
Distribution area: Cuyahoga River west to W. 140, Lake Erie south to the Lower Big Creek Valley. Available free at over 500 locations.
Managing Editor: Charles E. Hoven;
Editor: Deborah Rose Sadlon;
Editorial Assistant: Abe Kurp;
Copy Editor: Craig Bobby;
Photo Editor: Coriana Close;
Reporters: Bruce Chechetsky & Erik Ault,
Photographer: Greg Rosenberg
Advertising Sales: Ed Tishel
Graphic Artist: David Myers
Distribution: Ahmed Morad
Mailing: Ahmed Morad
Board of Trustees: Keith Brown, Peggy Davenport, David Gamble, Dr. Leo Jeffers, Joe Narkin, and Helen K. Smith.

New Second District Commander focuses on community relations

by Chuck Hoven

The new Second District Commander, Timothy Maffo-Judd, says of his new position, "I am humbled to be here, and excited at the same time. I can't wait to see what the future brings."

The Second District roughly covers the area from Lake Erie on the north to Brook Park on the south. The Cuyahoga River is the eastern boundary, and the western boundary is W. 85th in the area north of Lorain Avenue and W. 73rd and Ridge Road in the area South of Lorain Avenue. Commander Maffo-Judd says the Second District has between 150 and 170 officers.

A goal for the Second District is for police officers to be engaged in Community Problem Oriented Policing (CPOP), said Commander Maffo-Judd. He explained that CPOP is a "whole government approach" to solving problems encountered by police. For example, he said an area with high drug activity may have streetlights that are out. As part of solving the problem in that area, Police Officers could contact Cleveland Public Power to make the area brighter.

To learn about how other cities are implementing CPOP, Maffo-Judd recently visited the City of Baltimore to learn about how that City is using CPOP to solve problems. Maffo-Judd said in addition to government resources, officers would learn about nonprofit organizations and private sector organizations that have resources to address specific problems. He envisions police officers reaching out to City Council representatives, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and clergy to help solve neighborhood problems.

Maffo-Judd says his goals for the Second District include two major thrusts.

One is having great community and police relations which involves officers engaging with the public, giving quality service, and participating in constitutional policing as outlined in the consent decree and state and local law.

The second goal is to improve police officers' work experience by providing a positive environment and a clean quality workplace at Second District.

He said those goals will be measured by both data and by stories told by police officers and community members.

Community Relations

A major effort in the Second District to improve police community relations is to have police officers engage in a practice called "park, walk and talk". Speaking of "park, walk and talk" Commander Maffo-Judd says, "I place emphasis on it, and think it is super important."

The Commander explained how the program will work. He said that in the Second District there are four police squads of about twenty officers on each 12-hour shift. He says each squad is given a location in their patrol area where some officers from the squad will do a park and walk during their shift. The idea is for officers to get out of their cars and engage in walking and talking with residents. The "park, walk and talk" will last from 15 minutes to

an hour, he said. Maffo-Judd said the Second District now does about half the of the "park, walk and talk" being initiated city-wide.

Other examples mentioned by Maffo-Judd of ways Second District officers are engaging in community relations include some ongoing Second District programs. These include Coffee with Cops and the Second District Socks and Underwear Drive. He said the Second District collects socks and underwear for adults in the unsheltered community each year and works with organizations such as the Metanoia Project to get them to people that can use them. The Second District also distributes toys to children each December.

Other ideas for community engagement include ward tours with each of the five City Council members representing parts of the Second District, attending local block clubs, ride-along with police officers, pancake breakfasts, meeting with staff members of local nonprofit organizations and meeting with organizations that reach out to interact with local police. Maffo-Judd mentioned some other ideas such as "Mow and Protect"— police mowing lawns for residents who can no longer do that chore —and a program such as police providing fishing rods for youths and teaching them to fish. Commander Maffo-Judd says he would like to create an outdoor space in front of the Second District headquarters where community engagement could take place.

Commander Maffo-Judd says the Second District also has a social media presence on Facebook where residents can find information on missing persons, safety walks and other items of interest in the Second District. He said he will be accessible to those trying to reach him with phone calls, email or by attending the Second District Policing Committee meetings.

When it is necessary for police to engage with persons suffering from a mental health crisis, Commander Maffo-Judd says that while all officers now receive crisis intervention training, some are especially trained to be Crisis Intervention Team officers. In a partnership with the Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMHS), those officers are now joined by a social worker when they respond to a mental health crisis as part of a Crisis Response Team, he said. Maffo-Judd said officers on the Crisis Response Team generally dress down rather than responding to a crisis in uniform.

Officer Wellness

Commander Maffo-Judd believes in the importance of promoting "officer wellness." He says that if police officers have a good, clean work environment that will help them to have better interactions with the public. He noted that the working conditions at the Second District improved dramatically two years ago when a former prisoner intake space no longer being used was converted into an officer lounge and roll call room with the assistance of the Cleveland Police Foundation.

Personal History

Commander Maffo-Judd, who began serving as Second District Commander in November of 2024, says he lives in the Second District in the Bridge Avenue area, just a stone's throw from St. Stephen's Church on W. 54th. Maffo-Judd says, "It is an honor to be offered a command in the Police District where you live and play."

While Maffo-Judd grew up in the First Police District at W. 117th and Dale, near Halloran Park, he said that he spent considerable time in the Second District as a child. He attended elementary school at Saint Mary Byzantine Catholic School on State Road in the Old Brooklyn neighborhood and his family belonged to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish at W. 70th and Detroit Avenue in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood.

During his tenure as a police officer, Maffo-Judd also spent considerable time serving in the Second District. He explained that the City of Cleveland's policy is to transfer officers to a different district each time they are promoted. After graduating from the Police Academy on October 15, 2007, Maffo-Judd served as a Patrol Officer in the Second District. When he was promoted to Sergeant, he was sent to the Fifth District. He then returned to the Second District to as a Sergeant. When promoted to Lieutenant, Maffo-Judd served in the Bureau of Community Relations. He then returned to the Second District as a Lieutenant and served there until he was named Captain and transferred to the Fifth District. As a Captain, he later served in the Third District. After serving as Captain in the Third District, Maffo-Judd was appointed to his current position as Commander of the Second District.

As a youth growing up in Cleveland, Maffo-Judd said he always had an interest in "a career in public safety." When he and friends played outside, they always waved to police cars when they went by. Living near the fire station near Halloran Park, he also saw fire fighters from Engine 33 and Emergency Medical Service workers at work and sitting outside and engaging in conversations with neighborhood youth. He said his experiences with public service workers were positive as a youth. He believes that every police officer is a recruiting officer and by respectfully engaging with members of the public they are the best recruiters of future officers.

Commander Timothy Maffo-Judd said that while his father is a retired police officer, his father didn't become a police officer until he was 43 years old — so his father was not a police officer while he was a youth. In fact, Maffo-Judd says his father's police academy



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, November 24, 2024; Palestine Task Force Cle's Rally Against Racist Ronayne – Demanding an End to Cuyahoga County's Investment in Israel Bonds, Protest March from Baltic Children's Park north on W. 110th to Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne's house on Lake Avenue: Stephanie Yohe and Edgardo Munoz call out County Executive Chris Ronayne for using tax dollars pay for Israeli bombs.

class was only two classes ahead of his. Timothy Maffo-Judd became a police officer at age 24.

Prior to him becoming a police officer, Maffo-Judd says he taught middle school in Australia, was a substitute teacher in Cleveland, and served for five years in the Marine Reserves.

Plain Press:
To advertise
Contact Ed Tishel
at
plainpressads@
yahoo.com

**DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE DESTROYING YOUR LIFE?
YOU'VE TRIED AA, NA & CA.
TRYING TO STAY CLEAN IS NOT ENOUGH.
THE WORD CAN FILL THE VOID.
POWERTOCHANGEMINISTRIES.ORG**

NUTS OF QUALITY SINCE 1935

Hillson's

Visit our Factory Outlet Store
3225 W. 71st St. (South of Clark)
961-4477
Toll Free: 800-333-2818

8:00-5:00 Mon. - Fri.

Best in the West!

MasterCard, VISA, Discover, American Express

CLARK USED AUTO SALES

Cars • Trucks • SUV •

3837 RIDGE RD. CLEVELAND, OH. 44144

(216) 346-4542

Art's Tree Service

STORM DAMAGE CLEAN UP

- Branch Trimming
- Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding

SPRING & FALL CLEAN-UP LANDSCAPING

LOADER & BACKHOE WORK Shop

(216)-326-4377

EMERGENCY (216) 326-4377

Firewood
Patio Paver Stones
Wood Fence Repair

Attention:
Non-Profit Organizations, Government Offices and Public Officials!

The Plain Press Community Guide will be published in our March Issue.

The guide offers free listings of names and phone numbers — additional information can be placed in the guide by purchasing a square in the guide.

For more information contact Ed Tishel at plainpressads@yahoo.com

Plain Press Community Guide

Be There! Buy a Square!

Plain Press

To advertise
contact
Ed Tishel
at
plainpressads@yahoo.com

Planning Commission approves demolition of buildings in Old Brooklyn's Historic District



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OLD BROOKLYN

2005 Photo that accompanied the application of the South Brooklyn Commercial District to be on the National Register of Historic Places: On Friday, December 6th, the Cleveland Planning Commission approved the demolition of four buildings on the corner of Pearl Road and Memphis Avenue to make way for a new development. While the original sanctuary of St. Luke's will be spared from the wrecking ball, the educational addition to the church that begins on the right side of this photo is slated for razing. Neighborhood historic preservation advocates are still trying to save all the buildings and hope that, despite issuing a permit for the demolition, the City of Cleveland will not allow any demolition to occur before the developers with plans for the corner have secured funding for the proposed project.

by Lynette Filips

A year has passed since I began writing about the history of the northwest corner of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave.

For several years now, the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC) has been working on plans to "revitalize" it. This time they are

working with Desmone, an architectural firm from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The plans continue to change, but the current developer's plan has always

involved: demolishing the northern half of the former St. Luke's United Church of Christ complex at 4216 Pearl Rd.; demolishing the two Greenline commercial buildings on Memphis Ave.; and demolishing a small, very old house behind St. Luke's (which likely has some historical significance.) The southern half of St. Luke's, where the worship space once was, will remain standing. In the future, it could possibly house a restaurant, a brewery and/or community space.

NEWS ANALYSIS

An ultra-modern apartment complex with retail spaces on the first floor would replace the downed Greenline buildings and extend over the grassy area between St. Luke's and the Greenline Building. Originally expected to be four floors, the height has since been increased to six floors to accommodate more apartments. Changes to the neighboring Pearl Road United Methodist Church are also part of the plans.

In addition to securing the funding to finance the roughly \$31 million project, another factor which has been delaying the start of the new construction is finding enough parking space for all the cars which would be associated with the 80-plus apartments and the new retail space. OBCDC also needed to obtain a permit from the city to demolish the four previously mentioned buildings.

OBCDC's plans came a bit closer to fruition early last month when a majority of

the members of the Near West Design Review Committee (which decides such things for Old Brooklyn and surrounding Cleveland neighborhoods) voted in favor of demolition. That same week OBCDC took that vote and their tentative plans for the site to the City of Cleveland's Planning Commission, and on Friday, December 6th, the Commission issued a permit to have the specified buildings razed. That could happen even before OBCDC secures sufficient parking and funding for their project.

Ken Prendergast covered the story in *NEO Trans*, an online news source, on Monday, December 9th. His perspective on the project was obviously based on what he had been told, presumably by OBCDC, Ward 13 Councilman Kris Harsh and the Cleveland City Planning Commission's notes about the meeting and decision. I first saw it posted in a Facebook group called "CLEVELAND STREETS — Then and Now, News and Nostalgia", but it has since been posted and reposted numerous times in other groups and by other individuals.

I have tried to read all the comments and keep track of the emojis, based on what people read and assumed to be correct. While some persons liked and even loved OBCDC's plans for the corner, the combined total of the emojis with sad, tearful faces and shocked faces far exceeded the likes and loves.

Steven Hernandez, a reporter and cameraman for both Spanish and English-speaking viewers, was quick to appear at the Greenline Building. He first interviewed Maria, owner of Maria the Barberette, for the Hispanic station, *Telemundo News & Media Productions*. Understandingly, Maria is very distressed at the prospect of losing her thriving business and the place where she earns her livelihood.

The next week Steven Hernandez interviewed Constance "Connie" Ewazen, the president of the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn. He also interviewed Ward 13 Councilman Kris Harsh and OBCDC executive director Lucas Reeve. Obviously, the thoughts of Connie Ewazen were quite different from those of Kris Harsh and Lucas Reeve. The *19 News* "Everywhere at 5" interview has been repeatedly posted online and those who wish to view it can do so.

The Historical Society's concern about OBCDC's intended revitalization of the corner which the *Channel 19* editor chose to focus on was the displacement of the Historical Society's museum. The tenants in the Greenline Buildings were informed that they will soon be receiving letters, after which time they will have three months to find a new place and move. A company has been employed to help them find new spaces. Money has been sent aside to help them with the moves.

But this impending move, while important, is not the Historical Society's most serious concern about OBCDC's plans. The Historical Society of Old Brooklyn is devastated at the thought of having more historic buildings in the community's downtown area destroyed, destroyed in the name of progress. The Society is devastated at the lack of respect for what remains of the early community burying ground (cemetery) in the grassy area between the Greenline Building and the St. Luke's complex. It is further devastated by the lack of regard for the "South Brooklyn Commercial District" designation on the National Register of Historic Places, the application for which is on the National Archives website. It does not understand how a small group of people who happen to be on OBCDC's Board (and thus in control) now are qualified to make such an important decision — one which will destroy the character of the corner and much of the legacy of past generations.

More History of the Site

In my articles in the last two issues of the *Plain Press* I talked about how Old Brooklyn's National Register designation came about, and I also began

to describe each building in the historic district. I will continue with that process in February, but before I move on, I must correct an inaccurate statement that I made in last month's article. In the paragraphs about the building that the Marshall Drug Company erected at the southwest corner of Pearl Rd. and "Short" Broadview Rd., I had added this sentence — "After Marshall's closed, local pharmacist Fernau Bader had his drug store there."

While it is true that a Bader pharmacy was on that site, my timing was off, and I confused Fernau with his father Fred who was also a pharmacist. Here's the short version of the many decades during which both Fred and Fernau Bader operated pharmacies in and near Old Brooklyn's historic district

As I'd mentioned last month, the original lodge of a fraternal organization known as the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) was in a frame building located where today's Metro by T-Mobile is. In 1899 a pharmacist named Jake Schmitt began renting space on the ground floor of this original IOOF building. Because his drug store was not doing well, in 1901 he sold it to Fred Bader, who then rented that space in the IOOF building.

In time Fred married and had children. Fred's oldest son Fernau began working at the family's drug store in 1915 when he was just 7 years old. Shortly after World War I ended, Fred Bader sold his pharmacy business to the Marshall Drug Company. (It's very likely that the sale happened in 1922.) Marshall's, too, rented space from the IOOF until the IOOF decided to build a new brick lodge behind their original one. Then they sold their original lodge building to Marshall's.

Marshall's temporarily moved their drug store to a nearby storefront in the new Broadvue Theatre complex (It was demolished in the early 1990s) north of "Short" Broadview Rd. They tore down the former wooden lodge building on the property and in 1926 built the white terra cotta-faced building which is still there today.

As for Fred and Fernau Bader, in the late 1930s Fred bought a pharmacy business from Charles Grega who was operating in a building on the southwest corner of Pearl Rd. and Brooklyn Ave. (where Gyros Guys is today.) In the late 1940s, Fernau Bader bought the business from his father. Fernau owned it until 1972 when he became the pharmacist at Deaconess Hospital and sold Bader Drug to two other pharmacists.

(The source of all this month's information about Bader Drug and its sale to Marshall Drug was Fernau Bader himself. In the early 1990s, soon after I started writing about local history for the Old Brooklyn News, Fernau began communicating with me from his retirement home in Venice, Florida. His letters were the inspiration for a long-running series called "Old Time Druggists". That series made its debut in December 1993, and most of what I discussed in the first three articles came from material Fernau told me.)

Preservation-minded folks in Old Brooklyn are still intent on saving their historic district. The Pearl and Memphis corner could be revitalized with adaptive reuse of all the existing buildings and at far less cost than demolition and building new. A highly experienced Cleveland team who wanted to do that bid on this project, but their plan was not chosen.

Read previous *Plain Press* articles about the rich history of the Pearl-Memphis area on the home page of the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn's website, www.oldbrooklynhistory.org, and understand why so many people would prefer reimagining these quality, character-filled old buildings to new big box construction.

Want to improve your home?
Borrow up to \$9,900 and pay
only \$53 per month!¹



Does your home need a new roof? What about new carpeting, windows, washer and dryer, or air conditioning? With Third Federal's Fixer Upper Home Repair Loan, you can do just that! At 2.99% APR, this rate is much lower than loans from other lenders.² And, unlike many lenders, 2.99% APR is fixed for the life of your loan.

And we didn't stop there. With the Third Federal Fixer Upper Loan:

- No hidden fees.
- No upfront costs whatsoever.
- The fixed rate of 2.99% is not an introductory or teaser rate—it's good for the life of your loan.
- No minimum draw—borrow as much or as little as you want!

Apply online today!



ThirdFederal
SAVINGS & LOAN

1-800-THIRD-FED
800-844-7333

thirdfederal.com/community

¹Actual monthly payment for above example is based on 252 month term and is \$52.95 at a fixed APR of 2.99%. Rates effective as of 2/1/2024 and are subject to change. ²Fixed APR is 2.99%. Homeowners insurance required. Flood insurance required, if applicable. Maximum LTV 85%. Minimum loan amount \$1,000. Maximum loan amount \$9,900. 21-year term. A Third Federal Home Repair Loan is available as a first or second lien on owner-occupied primary residences and can be the only HELOC on your property. \$0 annual fee and \$10 minimum monthly payment. Borrowers must meet certain income, geographic and other requirements to qualify. Product features subject to change without notice. ©2024 Third Federal.



Plain Press website:
visit
<https://plainpress.blog>

WARD MAP VOTE

continued from page one

In response, Griffin left the council president's seat and walked to the floor. Councilman Kerry McCormick took his seat and presided.

"Whenever someone invokes my name personally, I feel it's important to respond," said Griffin, facing the council. He accused Maurer of trying to implode the remapping issue.

"Members of this body encouraged me to get rid of Ward 12 because they do not trust the Council member in Ward 12," he said. "The Council member in Ward 12 is not a team player and often goes to the media to express things outside of being a team player in this body. I did not try to target any Councilperson, but I will say that council lady, your wish is my command. We will make sure you end up exactly where you need to be."

In a press conference held a few weeks later at City Hall, Griffin released the latest version of the remapping plan. Maurer was not present. Bob Dykes and the Triad Research Group, consultants for the project, were there along with Dr. Mark Salling from Cleveland State University. Dr. Salling is a senior fellow and research associate at the Maxine Goodman Levin School of Urban Affairs. Griffin maintained his objectivity, stating that at no time did he influence the process.

"We trusted consultants to do their job," said Griffin. "No council member had been a target for elimination. The consultants and I tried to un-gerrymander the process that was gerrymandered in the past. False accusations, misinformation, and disinformation have been dangerous to this process."

Some changes were made to the map following the November meeting (see clevelandcitycouncil.org for the full map).

Griffin defends his work, saying the resulting process accurately reflects the city demographics while not advocating for individual council members.

"This is about trying to make sure that we had a process that we felt was fair and transparent," he said. "Cleveland is a city that is very tenacious, and we accept these kinds of challenges."

Maurer would have liked to remove the map drawing from the Council using an Issue 1-like approach.

Issue 1, which failed to pass in November, would have created the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission. The proposed commission included 15 members: 5 from the largest political party, 5 from the second-largest political party, and 5 independents, and would oversee drawing district boundaries used in elections.

Under the proposed remapping of wards in Cleveland, Ward 12 in the Slavic Village area was one of the most divided. Ward 10, represented by Anthony Hairston, will compete with Ward 8, represented by decades-long Council member Michael D. Polensek, to represent a united Collinwood in 2025. Ward 6, represented by Council President Blaine Griffin, would expand to include a portion of Hough, part of Buckeye-Shaker, and half of Shaker Square.

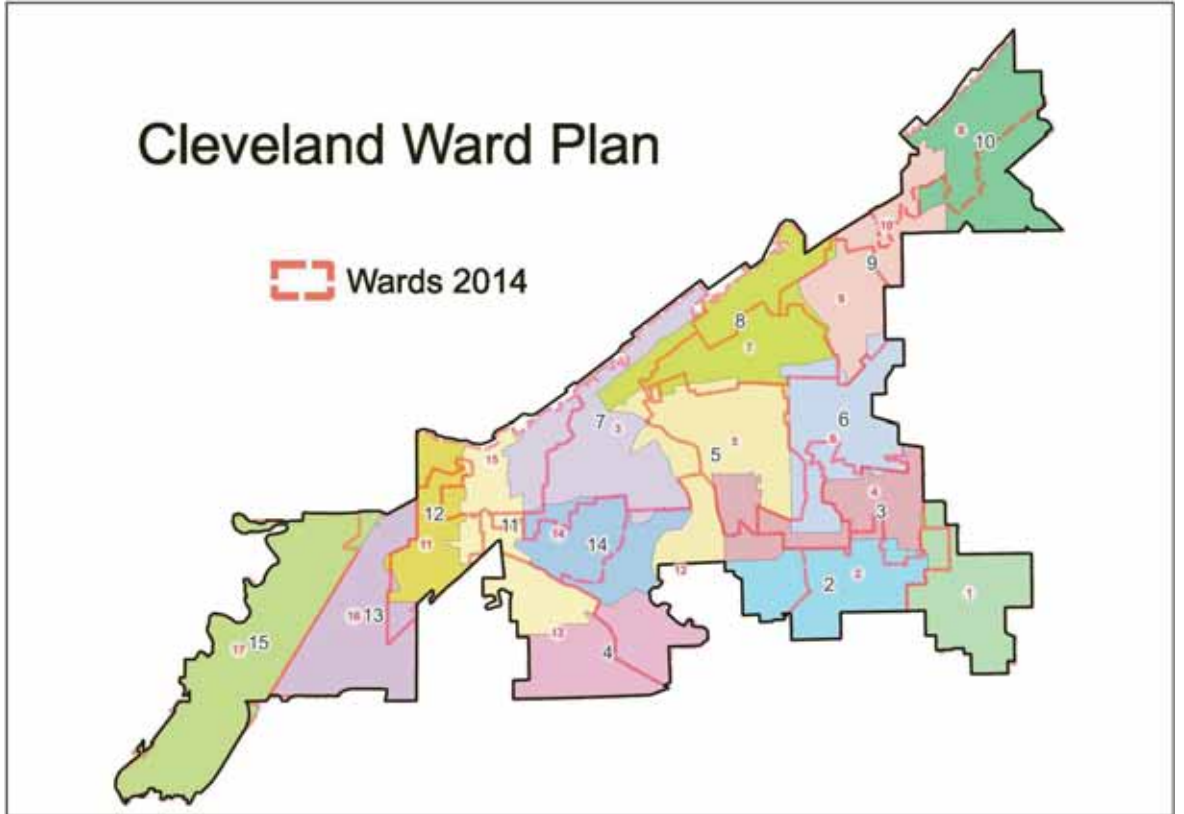
AsiaTown, St. Clair-Superior, and Hough neighborhoods, along with the northern half of downtown, would roll into Ward 8; Ohio City, Tremont, and most of the Detroit-Shoreway, including the Flats, the downtown lakefront, and Burke Lakefront Airport, are part of the new Ward 7.

Ward 12 would extend from Edgewater south to West Boulevard. Ward 14 includes the Stockyards neighborhood, Clark-Fulton, and Brooklyn Centre. Ward 17 changes to a new Ward 15 on the map but remains geographically the same; so does Ward 1 in the Lee-Harvard neighborhood, which will remain the same.

Griffin said any changes made to the map would be minimal. Anyone interested in providing input can call (216) 714-3006 or submit an online comment at clevelandcitycouncil.org/redistricting. He expects the council to vote on the new map at its Jan. 6 meeting.

Sources close to City Hall reported to the *Plain Press* that Ward 3 Councilman Kerry McCormack may not seek re-election. McCormack neither acknowledges nor denies the rumors and has not responded to a request for comment. Jenny Spencer, Ward 15 Council Member representing Edgewater, Cudell, Detroit Shoreway, and parts of the Ohio City and Stockyard neighborhoods, has stated publicly that she will not seek another Council term.

The ward system has faced criticism over the years, with some argu-



WARD MAP COURTESY OF CLEVELAND CITY COUNCIL
Cleveland City Council posted this map on its website that includes lines for the current City Council Wards as well as multicolored images of the proposed new City Council Wards. Due to a drop in population, Cleveland City Council must reduce the number of Council Wards from seventeen down to fifteen.

ing that it can contribute to corruption and cronyism in local government. A University of Chicago study finds city governments sometimes redraw ward maps to punish advocates of racial and economic equality, including suppressive redistricting, disciplinary redistricting, remunerative redistricting, and transactional redistricting, according to Robert Vargas, an associate professor of sociology, published in *Social Problems*, *American Journal of Sociology*.

Griffin maintains that no favoritism played a role in decision-making. "These are not our seats," he said at the close of the redistricting press conference, referencing Maurer's comments at the November meeting. "I just want to make sure that I defend the process."

Plain Press:
To advertise
Contact Ed Tishel
at
plainpressads@yahoo.com

Read the Plain Press online at:
<https://plainpress.blog>



Franklin Plaza

Skilled Rehabilitation Services

Part of the Legacy Health Services Family

Proudly serving the Ohio City community featuring:

- Private Rehabilitation Suites
- Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapies
- Short-Term Rehabilitation Services
- Complex Wound Care
- Hospice Care
- Respite Stays

3600 Franklin Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44113
216-651-1600



www.lhshealth.com

Neighborhood Family Practice
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

Family Health Care

Atención Médica Familiar

Seven West Side Locations

Siete ubicaciones en el lado oeste

Medical Care
Atención Médica

Behavioral Health
Salud Conductual

Pharmacy
Farmacia

Pregnancy Care
Cuidado del Embarazo

HIV Care
Cuidado del VIH

Vaccinations
Vacunas

For all ages
Para todas las edades

Call 216.281.0872 or scan to make an appointment.
Lláme al 216.281.0872 o escanee para programar una cita.

LANDLORD Just Won't Fix it?

Consider Rent Deposit At the office of

Cleveland Clerk of Courts

Earle B. Turner
(216) 664-4812



PHOTO BY GREG CZNADEL

Goudreau Park, 4900 W. 14th: Tree dedicated in the memory of Old Brooklyn Tree Steward Kevin Kubovcik: The metal tag reads: "Planted in memory of Kevin Kubovcik, Old Brooklyn Tree Steward, Dedicated on October 14, 2023".

Summer comes to end for Old Brooklyn Tree Stewards

by Greg Cznadel

The last buckets of water were emptied around the Oaks and Tulip trees at Goudreau Park in Old Brooklyn. The buckets were returned to the drop box locked up against the fence. The two hundred feet of hoses were disconnected from the fire hydrant and placed on top of the buckets in the storage container. The hydrant adapter and wrench were taken back to the Ambassador room at the OBCDC (Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation). The tree steward cart, used to carry the buckets, was locked to the fence. It was November and the young trees were ready to sleep for the winter.

In 2013, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, recognizing the value of trees, undertook an urban tree canopy study. The initial 2013 report, including a 2019 update, provided a street-level analysis of tree canopy coverage. The

report indicated a loss of 6,600 acres of Cuyahoga County tree canopy between measurements, a lost area equal to 5,000 football fields. The City of Cleveland alone has lost half of its tree canopy since 1950, according to the Cleveland Tree Plan. The decline has left only 18% of the city covered in shade. Old Brooklyn around 21%.

As the result of that Urban Tree Canopy study, Old Brooklyn applied for and received in 2019, a \$30,000 grant, part of \$5 million pledged over five years. One of the outcomes of this plan was this tree planting program. Hope Fiero, initiator of the program, explained, "that using residential properties is where a lot of opportunities are. And that goes along with empowering residents to care for their own trees and teaching. And that's also where the stewards came along."

"I wanted to enhance what I already

had done. I wanted to involve the community more. I started interviewing for the tree stewards in winter of 2022. They started in February of 2023, that's when the Sherwick Tree Steward Training Program started. We currently have over 12 stewards. They are tree ambassadors. They help residents with the location and selection of trees for their yards, though their main focus is on the trees in the parks."

The tree stewards are divided into three groups. They are responsible for Goudreau Park, Lowe Park, and Estabrook Recreation Center. They are on their own as to the maintenance of the trees planted in their parks.

Each Thursday throughout the summer, three of us would meet at Goudreau Park. We would put the hoses in a cart and take them to the nearest hydrant, across W. 14th Street. As the hoses only reached into the park, we had to take five-gallon buckets- everything from orange Home Depot buckets to plastic containers trees had been planted in, fill them up one at a time, put them in our carts and pull them across 4.5 acres to the needed trees. Each of the 17 trees needed 10 to 15 gallons of water a week.

These five-gallon buckets full of water are heavy so we decided to add two-gallon empty plastic litter kitty containers from home to help spread the weight. Easier to lift and pour.

One day, while pulling our wagons, we saw a garbage truck pull up and drive around the park picking up trash cans. We thought, why can't we do that? The next week we put all the containers in the back of a Forester and filled them one at a time. Didn't have to lift them, didn't have to haul them. Nearly cut the time in half. Worked well except for the spilled water in the back of the car from the bumpy lawn.

As summer continued, we noted lots of time was spent filling the buckets. Barb, one the stewards and a new Master Gardener, came up with the idea of using a "splitter" to fill two containers at a time. The time was reduced even more!

Looking back, we appreciated the neighbors walking their dogs in the park. They appreciated our efforts. Unfortunately, the deer did not. The chain link fence all around the park was no guarantee deer would not find their way inside. They must have known where the entrance to the park was on W. 14th.

Initially we used plastic fencing to protect the trunks of the trees. Halfway through the summer we noted there were several trees that had the fencing pushed up or down, and the bark girdled, one around the entire perimeter. We obtained steel fencing from the Ambassador room at the OBCDC. We cut the appropriate length (through trial and error), placed it around each tree, and staked it. The trees are now not sanding blocks to those ruminants.

Stewards love trees big or small. One that looked dead, had one-foot sprouts coming up from the base. We called Colby Sattler, our arborist. He said, let it go. Let's see what happens next year. So, we treated it like the other trees. Watering it weekly.

Hope Fiero has a fondness for every tree steward. Kevin Kubovcik was an original Tree Steward. He passed away last year of cancer. "He lives in our hearts. So that's why at Goudreau Park we have that one tree dedicated to him." A metal tag that reads: "Planted in memory of Kevin Kubovcik, Old Brooklyn Tree Steward, Dedicated on October 14, 2023".

Throughout the summer we spread the news of Old Brooklyn's Reforestation Program and free tree program to residents. We had tables at the South Brooklyn Branch library, the Farmer's Market, Old Brooklyn's Street Fest even the Old Brooklyn Green House. If at a meeting, we would be sure to talk about our tree giveaway program. Dogwood, Crabapple, Tupelo, Kentucky Coffee tree - offering different selections each spring and fall. Planted, mulched,

staked, deer protected, and all for free. This will continue next spring. Check <https://www.oldbrooklyn.com/tree> for more information.

If anytime a tree was leaning or had signs of girdling by deers, we would stop over and help the resident. If a tree died, we would have them signed up for another tree. Churches in the neighborhood became good stewards of mother earth, two of them planting a pair of trees.

As fall ended, we continued with the weeding and mulching at Lowe Park. The trees along Pearl Road were pruned under the guidance of Amanda Wood of the Holden Arboretum. It was a training program for both the Tree Corps at the Holden Arboretum and the Tree Stewards. Branches that were growing toward a pole or out toward the sidewalk were removed. Any branches that crossed or touched, were diseased or dead were also removed. Amanda explained that each tree should have "leader" branch. That branch that should take the lead aiming to the sky, not sharing that task with another. We looked at each tree deciding which tree branch on each tree should be the leader. All the cuttings were then taken over to Benjamin Franklin Garden where Greg Noeth, head of maintenance, was to chip them.

If you would like to help Old Brooklyn be a greener, healthier place to live, contact Brittney Hooper at treestewards@oldbrooklyn.com or check Old Brooklyn's website at <https://www.oldbrooklyn.com/tree>.

Are eight photos on one event a record?

To the editor:

Dear brother and sister editors of the Plain Press,

I always enjoy reading the Plain Press and appreciate your coverage of local issues in the Tremont and beyond neighborhoods.

I noted eight (8) photos of the

"Day of the Dead" festivities and was wondering if that's a world record for photos of one event in a single issue? If it is not, it should be!

Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your work!

Fr. Ben Jimenez, SJ
St. Augustine Parish

Read the Plain Press online

at:

<https://plainpress.blog>

OHIO ANTIQUE PICKERS
\$\$\$\$ WANTED \$\$\$\$ (216) 673-3358
 Radios • Old Toys - tin windup cast iron • Fishing Items - lures reels • Sport Cards - baseball basketball football hockey any sports • Comic Books • Oil Bottles • Posters • Signs, • Telephones • Old Bottles • Early Board Games • Advertising Items • Motorcycles • Motor scooters -Vespa, Labretta, Cushman • Old Movie Posters • Boy Scout Items • Bicycles • Cap Guns • Oil Paintings

Your Birth MATTERS
 EMPOWERMENT. COMFORT. CARE.

Our midwives pair you with a **doula who provides support during your pregnancy, birth and through your baby's first birthday!**



Scan the QR code for more information.



(216) 281-0872 • nfpmcenter.org/midwifery

\$250 Deposit Special!
 Limited Time Only
A New Home Chosen By You
 Kirby Manor offers one bedroom for \$750 and two bedrooms for \$850 for older adults 62+. In the heart of Cleveland, features comfortable indoor and outdoor spaces, along with a host of amenities that make life easy. You'll have endless opportunities to create new memories, meet new friends, and live life to the fullest. We accept EDEN and CMHA Vouchers. See how good senior life can be.

National Church Residences KIRBY MANOR
 Highlights of Kirby Manor include:
 Onsite Laundry Facility
 24hr Emergency Maintenance
 Garden and Outdoor Space
 Small Pet Friendly
 Community Room
 Close to Shopping, Restaurants, and on the Bus Line!
 Underground Parking

844-375-4136 11500 Detroit Ave. Cleveland, OH 44102
 TDD: 711 NationalChurchResidences.org

Attention: Non-Profit Organizations, Government Offices and Public Officials!

The Plain Press Community Guide will be published in our March Issue.

The guide offers free listings of names and phone numbers - additional information can be placed in the guide by purchasing a square in the guide. For more information contact Ed Tishel at plainpressads@yahoo.com

Plain Press Community Guide Be There! Buy a Square!

Mural completed in time for opening of Impett Park

by Gregory Cznadel

Impett Park, located at 3207 W. 153rd in the West Park neighborhood, opened this November. Although the opening was centered on the much-needed playground, there was another item that, after long hours of work this past summer, was completed in time for this celebration.

It was a mural against the outside wall of the swimming pool's wall facing the play area.

Bernadette Glorioso, resident artist, spent her days in the park; on her knees painting creatures of the forest; on her ladder painting pin and burr oaks; and on a 9-foot scaffolding painting the northern lights on the overhang.

Anyone who walked by the wall was invited to partake in the fun. From little kids who painted flowers on the edge of the forest to seniors who helped with everything from rolling paint for the sky to painting butterflies on a dog's ear and bird nest in a tree.

On the bottom of the mural is a "Can you spot it" game. It lists items in the forest kids can try to find: Falling pin oak leaves, a solar eclipse, skunk, 4 leaf clover, airplane. Each item has

some connection with Cleveland. The roller coaster is in remembrance of the Puritas Park amusement park; the Oaks, our native trees; the horses, the nearby stables; the Monarchs for their byway; and the plane, the Cleveland Airport. The lettering was done by a friend.

Two volunteer artists from the Old Brooklyn Senior Citizens Resource Center where Bernadette teaches art classes, helped. Dolores Hules spent an afternoon painting these cute little butterflies on the head of a dog. Gregory Cznadel, tree steward, helped paint bark on the trees.

During the opening Bernadette was asked to speak. This woman praised all the kids, all the residents, all her friends who stopped by to help. A short speech was given hesitantly, with no recognition to herself, the time she put in doing research, cleaning brushes each day, crawling up and down scaffolding, being a Friend to Impett Park.

Thank you, Bernadette.

One picture is worth a thousand words. Walking through this "forest" is worth a million.



PHOTO BY GREG CZNADEL

Impett Park, 3207 W. 153rd in the West Park neighborhood: This fawn, laying under a tree, is one of the creatures of the forest depicted in a mural by resident artist Bernadette Glorioso.

Don't Kill Rufus

by Cameron Mays

Take a walk around the entire stadium (Huntington Bank Field, home of the Cleveland Browns), from Dawg Pound to Dawg Pound, then take a walk down East 55th from St. Clair to Broadway. Watch a game from the owner's box, then watch one from a television set in any apartment at Outhwaite. The point of this comparison should be obvious. Our football stadium is as bad, if not worse, than these places.

HUMOR

On the question of how to spend a billion dollars in Cleveland, it is

about time we listen to a truck stop tycoon from Tennessee. He is rich. He also lives and spends most of his time in Bratenahl. These factors make him a totally neutral party, possessing no financial incentive or emotional attachment to Cleveland or Brook Park. Think of him as our eunuch advisor that will guide us to the best decision. Besides, is there really a better way to invest a billion dollars in Northeast Ohio? No, but let's entertain some possibilities.

Build a mass transit rail system

Dumb. No need to go anywhere when there's no game. No need to go to a game when it's in a crummy

old lakefront stadium.

Next.

Bail out Cleveland State and Baldwin Wallace

If they need money, maybe they should ask their six-figure presidents to chip in. Better yet, try their season ticket holders. They don't have any money? Exactly. Don't dredge sunk ships.

Investments in public health

Cuyahoga County has one of the highest rates of infant mortality. I don't blame them for clocking out early. The kids' zone at the stadium is laughably unfun.

No good? How's this. Part of the money goes towards feeding the dog. You know Rufus, that big mastiff shown after commercial breaks. You love that dog. He's been looking rather skinny as of late. You don't want that poor dog to starve to death, do you? Of course not. You want him to be big and happy and to cheer on the team in his own doggy way.

When we raise that big silver trophy in our new stadium, Rufus is going to be there. He's going to lick that shiny trophy with his giant, slobbery tongue and the owners

and coaches and players and fans are going to be so happy, they won't even care. They'll all just laugh and in unison say, "Oh, Rufus!"

But that won't happen if he's dead. Don't kill Rufus. Don't kill the stadium. You hurt them once before. Don't do it again. Please.

CLASSIFIED

PLAIN PRESS CLASSIFIED: \$12 for 15 words and 50¢ for each additional word. To advertise count the words and mail a check or money order with your ad to the Plain Press, P.O. Box 602453, Cleveland, OH 44102.

FOR SALE

2300 W. 14TH STREET: Built by a master builder named Soto in 1880. Prime location. Tremont. Near downtown. Easy Freeway access. Close to towpath trail. 15-year tax abatement available for property rehabilitation. Contact Listing Agent Bruce Trammell at 440-888-6800.

HOME REPAIRS

JIM'S MASONRY: Touch up. Front steps need work? Brick missing on outside foundation? Senior discount. Very Reasonable. Free estimate. Call Jim: 216-233-4645.

SEEKING RENTAL

SEEKING A 2 BEDROOM: I need a landlord to accept Section 8. I work. I have a deposit. No evictions. East. West. No bad credit. jmissy64@aol.com

TENANTS AVAILABLE

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.

ISRAEL PROTEST

continued from page one

Shame on you Ronayne"; "Money for War, Not the Poor - Divest \$16 million"; "Cleveland Divest from Israeli Bonds"; "Fight the Rich, not their wars"; "Cleveland Free Palestine"; "Glory to our Martyrs"; "The Blood of 16,000 + kids is on your hands too"; "We will dance on the ashes of colonialism"; and "Free Layan Nasser: Locked up in the West Bank for simply existing: Free Palestine!"

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

representation, you may be referred to The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland or another service provider. Need help now? Legal Aid is open 24/7 online, taking intake applications at lascleve.org/contact. Questions? Call 1-888-817-3777 or visit lascleve.org.

RECREATION

FLOOR HOCKEY CLINICS: The Monsters, Cleveland's minor league hockey team, will be visiting several schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District during the 2024-25 season to introduce a floor hockey curriculum and host a clinic. After the first visit led by members of the Monsters staff, the school will receive all the equipment in addition to a lesson plan to allow floor hockey to be incorporated into their physical education programs. To have your school considered for future involvement in this program, please reach out to the Monsters Community Relations team at monsterscommunity@clevelandmonsters.com.

FREE SKI TRIP FOR KIDS: Children aged 6 to 17 years old are welcome to join Merrick House staff for a fun, safe, and FREE ski trip this winter to Alpine Valley in Chesterland, Ohio. We will be hosting trips every Tuesday from January 14 through February 18. To sign up, contact Ms. Yonna at 216-771-5077 or grab a paper application from the front desk of Merrick House (1050 Starkweather Ave).

Along the way the protesters chanted slogans such as, "Free, Free Palestine", "Chris Ronayne you can't hide, we charge you with genocide" and "Israel bombs, Ronayne Pays, how many kids have you killed today?", "Every time Ronayne lies, a neighborhood in Gaza dies," and "Cleveland, Cleveland, can't you see, Israel is on a killing spree."

Arriving at Ronayne's house the protesters observed about a dozen Cuyahoga County Sheriff's deputies at the site. Nine of them were standing in front of the entire length of Ronayne's front lawn guarding his house. Also on the scene were a contingent of Cleveland Police officers from a special unit that responds to issues citywide.

While the Cleveland Police escorting the protesters blocked traffic on Lake Avenue, the protesters gathered in the

street in front of Chris Ronayne's house with the nine Sheriff's deputies still standing on Ronayne's front lawn just beyond the sidewalk. The protesters held up their signs and continued their chants.

Shortly after they began their chants, members of the citywide Cleveland Police Unit, joined by some of the Sheriff's deputies pulled five students from the group and cited them under City of Cleveland Ordinance 605.10--Unnecessary Noise.

Four of the protesters that were cited and pulled out of the assembly were those using megaphones. One was cited for use of a drum. One young woman cited by police, was placed in handcuffs for a time.

Some protesters questioned the police officers regarding their First Amend-

ment rights, but officers said they were following orders from City of Cleveland Police Chief Dorothy Todd.

When Police Chief Todd arrived at the scene of the protest, she indicated that she had given the order to cite the protesters for use of megaphones. She said that while Cleveland Police had a duty to protect the rights of protesters, they also had a duty to residents of the neighborhood to be free to enjoy peace and quiet in their houses.

[Editor's Note: The *Plain Press* later contacted Chief of Police Dorothy Todd's office for further clarification but has not received a response as of this publication]

Protesters called the charges "bogus" and said they believed the citations were designed to intimidate them.

FRANKLIN CIRCLE

continued from page one

glish classes for immigrant families to providing meals and shelter for those in need in partnership with several local non-profits like the Metanoia Project. Franklin Circle expresses its faith through action.

Adapting to Change

In 2023, the Franklin Circle congregation made the decision to sell the historic building it has called home since 1874. This step allows FCCC to focus resources into impactful ministry and support for the community. "We remain dedicated to the Ohio City community and see this as an opportunity to focus on our connections and service," said Pastor Richard Hinkelman.

Franklin Circle is forming a collaborative ministry model with two Ohio City Churches —Harbor and Bridge (UMC) and St. Paul's Community Church (UCC). Together, these three congregations are creating a shared, cross-denominational collaboration focused on faith, service and outreach. "In a time when division is so pervasive, we believe collaboration is a step

toward broader healing," said Hinkelman, "this is the first step of many in the direction of deeper partnership."

FCCC will continue to meet for service at their Fulton Road location until officially transitioning to St. Paul's Community Church on Franklin Blvd in the first quarter of 2025. Official details will be shared on their website, newsletter, and at Sunday service.

Honoring the Legacy

The commemorative service will celebrate Franklin Circle's legacy while looking to the future. Former pastor Rev. Allen Harris will deliver a special message commemorating the church's rich history, while celebrating the continuation of its special connection to the community. Attendees will have the opportunity to share stories of how the church has impacted their lives and the community. The congregation invites everyone, from longtime members to Ohio City residents, to attend this celebration of service, reinvention, and renewal.

Opportunities for Engagement

Franklin Circle is committed to remaining an active presence in Ohio City and expanding its vital role as an affirming space for all, no matter their background. As part of its new direc-

tion, the congregation will collaborate with Harbor and Bridge and St. Paul's on outreach initiatives, worship services, and community events, while continuing to engage with Ohio City non-profits aimed at actively supporting marginalized community members.

Individuals can engage with the Collaborative Ministry by attending services, volunteering at their monthly Community Breakfast, or participating in various groups like Contemplative Prayer, Mindfulness Club, Yoga, and Collective Thoughts Discussion group. These initiatives offer meaningful ways for community members of all backgrounds to connect and serve together.

For more information about ways to get involved, visit: www.franklincirclechurch.org, www.harborandbridge.com, www.stpaulscommunityucc.org.

Editor's Note: The Commemorative Service will be held on Sunday, January 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Franklin Circle Christian Church, 1688 Fulton Road, Ohio City. For more information, email communications@franklincirclechurch.org.

Business Directory

Real Estate

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

WILL BUY

Your Home, Double,
Small Apartment,
Storefront, Vacant Lot...
regardless of Condition for
CASH or Terms
Call ART KNIGHT
Red's Reality LLC
(216) 570-2742
email: artfla@msn.com



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, December 13, 2024; Ward 14 Holiday Party at CentroVilla25, 3140 W. 25th: King Ford, age 5, poses for a picture with the Grinch and Bluey.

Local governments violate Constitutional rights of protesters

by Chuck Hoven

Powerful interests seem to be at work to suppress the First Amendment rights of protesters engaged in bringing attention to Cuyahoga County's \$16 million investment in Israel Bonds that support a government in Israel which Amnesty International says is engaged in a genocide in Gaza.

Protest March

At a November 24th protest described in another article in this issue of the *Plain Press*, five protesters were subjected to a premeditated attack on their First Amendment Constitutional rights to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and their right to petition the government for redress of grievances.

COMMENTARY

Protesters, who had obtained a proper permit and secured a Cleveland Police escort, marched peacefully from Baltic Children's Park to County Chief Executive Chris Ronayne's house on Lake Avenue. When they arrived at Ronayne's house, the protesters were met by about a dozen Cuyahoga County Sheriff's deputies guarding the house, as well as members of a Cleveland Police special citywide unit. The Cleveland Police unit promptly pulled five protesters from the group and cited them under Cleveland Ordinance 605.10 for Unnecessary Noise. The officers said the order came from Chief of Police Dorothy Todd. Four of the protesters were cited under the ordinance for use of megaphones

and one for playing a drum.

Protesters also reported that they were under surveillance by a police drone during the protest.

Teri Wang, a member of the Cleveland Police Commission at the time of the protest, has some serious concerns about the use of drones to monitor protests.

Wang speaks of the Cleveland Police Commission meeting where drones were discussed, "At the November 20th Community Police Commission meeting, the public and I opposed a secretive police drone policy, championed by Commissioner Piet van Lier and Professor Brian Ray of CSU. The Commission dismissed calls for public dialogue and a thorough revision, passing a policy still riddled with language ripe for Constitutional abuse. While we succeeded in removing provisions that clearly targeted protesters, dangerous and exploitable language remains. I cast the lone dissenting vote."

Wang then notes her concerns of the use of drones to monitor protesters marching to County Executive Chris Ronayne's house on November 24th. She says, "By November 24th, the policy's true purpose became evident. Police deployed a drone to surveil citizens protesting the county's \$16 million purchase of Israeli war bonds. Police Chief Dorothy Todd claimed the drone was launched for 'training' purposes, yet five protesters received noise violations amid a heavily militarized response, including dozens of officers, a circling helicopter, and an unblinking surveillance camera. This excessive and calculated use of force by Cleveland police underscores the urgent need for clear limits on state power to protect the community's right to protest and assemble free from intimidation."

County Council

Another instance of rights violations occurred at the Cuyahoga County Council meeting on December 3rd, when protesters seeking disinvestment from Israel Bonds again found little regard was given to their First Amendment rights. Paper signs were posted on the Cuyahoga County Council doors saying no signs were allowed in the chambers (a policy that Cleveland City Council once adhered to but ended when challenged on Constitution grounds).

Many of the protesters urging Cuyahoga County to divest from Israel Bonds were watching the proceedings on a large screen just outside of the

County Council Chamber because the Council Chamber was full. When the public comments concluded and County Council went into executive session, the protesters began to chant slogans such as "Israel Bonds, Ronayne pays, how many kids have you killed today?"

About fifteen Sheriff's deputies came out from the County Council Chambers and tried to push the crowd toward the elevators demanding that they get on the elevators and leave the building. About seventy protesters were pushed toward the elevators. The elevators in the building are slow and the pushing continued without many people being able to exit. The protesters finally convinced the Sheriff's deputies to let them go out by another exit. The deputies lined up and ushered the crowd out the back exit and then flowed them out of the building pushing their bodies against the stragglers.

This action by the Sheriff's deputies is another example of suppression of First Amendment right to freedom of assembly. Those in attendance at a public meeting in a public building should have been allowed to stay and chant to their heart's content while addressing their grievances to the Cuyahoga County government.

It is a shame that our local officials and institutions have so little regard for Constitutional rights. Other sanctions inflicted on those protesting the Israeli government's actions in Gaza include students being suspended from Case Western Reserve University, loss of employment, and a person being banned from testifying at County Council meetings. It is sad that these mostly young protesters are having such a negative experience concerning the exercise of their Constitutional rights.

The City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County should apologize to the protesters for violating their Constitutional rights and drop the charges they have issued to those exercising their rights to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom to petition the government for redress of grievances. Any fines, or court costs incurred by protesters for their lawful actions should be reimbursed. Our City and County governments should practice enforcing and protecting Constitutional rights and not be in the business of violating those rights enshrined in our Federal Constitution.

Cleveland Police Commission urges protesters to file formal complaints

The Cleveland Police Commission (CPC) issued the following statement urging those who feel their first amendment rights to peacefully protest have been violated to file a formal complaint:

Earlier this month, at a joint community event with the Cleveland Monitoring Team, the CPC heard from at least two community members who said that CDP officers infringed on their First Amendment right to peacefully protest.

We take these allegations seriously and implore anyone who believes they were unfairly targeted, cited, or even arrested to file a complaint with the Office of Professional Standards. This will initiate an investigation into the officers' conduct and help determine whether or not they violated department policy.

Anyone requiring assistance in filing an OPS complaint can reach out to us directly for help at 216-505-5920. If you do not feel comfortable filing a complaint but would like to have your experience documented, you can also reach out to us. These claims will help the CPC gain a better understanding of potential retaliatory or unconstitutional police practices and will inform us on how best to address these concerns moving forward.

With a new commission expected to be sworn in early next year, we hope to take a closer look at these claims soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email or call us.

Local documentary explores 1977 disappearance of local teen

With all the missing children over the years, you probably have never heard about this one. Yvonne Regler, a 17-year-old girl, disappeared on August 8th, 1977, while working at a Sunoco gas station on Lorain Road, not far from the Fairview Park / Lorain Bridge, just west of Kamms Corner. It was believed that the disappearance took place around 1:30pm, leaving no trace of a struggle. The teenager's purse, makeup, change, and \$300 in the cash register were left undisturbed. At first, it was believed by authorities that Yvonne left on her own.

However, as the years passed, they concluded that she was abducted, possibly while pumping gas for a customer. That would explain the lack of evidence left inside the gas station.

Fairview Park Police say they do have a person of interest and this person has done similar crimes in the past. They do stop short, however, of naming the suspect. Authorities are asking the public for help in solving the disappearance of this missing teen and that they should call them at 440-333-1234 if they have any information about

the case. In 2016, authorities did broadcast an age progression photo of what Yvonne Regler would look like today if she was still alive.

To learn more about this missing teen, a documentary produced by a local video company "Shocker Enterprises", will air in the month of January, at 9 pm. Mondays on Cleveland Spectrum, channel 1025, and Cox Cable Channel 45, Wednesdays at 8 pm.

Plain Press:
To advertise
Contact Ed Tishel
at
plainpressads@
yahoo.com

St. Paul's Community United Church of Christ



4427 Franklin Blvd. 216-651-6250

Worship Service

Sundays at 10:30am

Food Pantry

Tues, Weds, Thurs. from 9am until 2pm

Thrift Store

Wednesdays 1pm to 3pm
1st Saturday of the Month
10am to 12pm Clothes \$1 a bag

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2928 Scranton Rd. • 216-781-9511

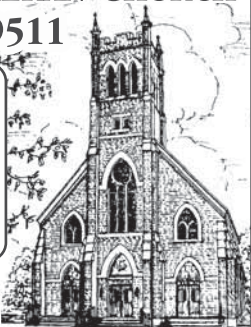
SUNDAY SERVICES:

German service..... 9:00 am

English service.....10:30 am

Serving God's People Since 1880

REV. JERRY WITT-JABLONSKI, PASTOR
REV. HORST HOYER, PASTOR EMERITUS



Saint Ignatius Of Antioch Church

10205 Lorain Avenue (at West Boulevard)

216-251-0300 • SIOAPARISH.ORG

Rev. Kevin Estabrook, M.Div., M.A. - Pastor

Mass Times:

MTWF: 9AM

SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL: 5:00PM

SUNDAY: 9AM AND 11AM

Eucharistic Adoration:

SATURDAYS: 3:30-4:30PM

1ST FRIDAYS: 7PM

Confession:

SATURDAYS: 3:30-4:30PM

SUNDAYS: 10AM-10:45AM

Anointing of the Sick and Last Rites:
Available upon Request

Inquiries about Baptism, Marriage, or becoming Catholic: Call Church Office

ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH CATHOLIC SCHOOL (K-8)

ADMITS STUDENTS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, ETHNIC OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

FREE TUITION THROUGH CLEVELAND SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOOL PHONE:
216-671-0535



HISTORIC ST. ROCCO CHURCH & SCHOOL

3205 Fulton Road, Cleveland OH 44109

Ph: 216-961-8331 • Web: Saintroccoparish

Come worship with us!

Sunday Masses:

Saturday 4pm, Sunday 7:30am, 9:30am & 12noon (Latin)

Weekday:

Monday thru Saturday 6:45am/ Monday thru Friday 6:30pm

Confessions before all Sunday Masses and daily 6pm-6:20pm

ST. ROCCO SCHOOL Pre-k 4 to 8th

Ph: 216-961-8557

Free Tuition with Cleveland Voucher

Accepting EdChoice and

Jon Peterson Scholarship for children with IEP's

New and state of art facility as of Fall 24'



ST. AUGUSTINE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHURCH SCHEDULE

MASS

Saturday Vigil:

4:15 PM (Interpreted for the Deaf)

Sunday:

8:30 AM (Interpreted for the Deaf)

11:00 AM (Fully Signed for the Deaf)

CONFESSIONS

Saturday:

3:30 - 4:00 PM

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

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

ST. AUGUSTINE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
staugustinecleveland.org



2486 W. 14th Street, Cleveland, OH 44113 • (216)-781-5530