

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Saturday, May 10, 2025; Mothers and Others Standing Against Fascism, Lincoln Park, 1200 Starkweather Ave: A protester asks that we "Defend Due Process".

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CLEVELAND, OHIO  
PERMIT 1354

FREE

Vol. 52, No.6 June 2025

# Plain Press

Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

## Mothers and Others rally against fascism in Lincoln Park

by Chuck Hoven

The over five hundred people gathered for the Mothers and Others Standing Against Fascism Cleveland rally in Lincoln Park on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Those attending the event enjoyed pleasant weather while joining in what organizers dubbed as an "inspirational rally in standing

up and speaking out against fascism".

Participants in the rally were asked to bring hygiene products for families in need such as deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers, and wipes.

Ann Hill and Linda Whitman staffed a table for Americans Making Immigrants Safe and signed up volunteers to

help with the cause.

The rally held on the Saturday before Mother's Day had a joyous atmosphere which included local musicians performing as Musicians Against Dictators (MAD). Many of those in attendance picked up song sheets with the lyrics by German poet Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller to sing to the tune of Beethoven's Ode to Joy played by MAD. Schiller's poem addresses the unity of all mankind.

Many of the speakers at the rally along with urging actions by participants, sang their favorite protest songs. In addition to being urged to write letters to their congressional representatives and senators, those in attendance also heard renditions of songs such as Sam Cooke's *A Change is Gonna Come*.

Speakers also offered information on federal policies and how they would impact families and children. A young mother held her child with Down's syndrome while she spoke of the importance of Medicaid to families with children who have special needs.

Meryl Johnson, who taught for forty years in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, talked about the Project 2025 initiated plan to eliminate the Federal Department of Education. She spoke about the importance of the federal Education Department in providing financial support for low-income students, special needs students, and

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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 10, 2025; Mothers and Others Standing Against Fascism, Lincoln Park, 1200 Starkweather Ave: Standing on the gazebo in front of the sign for Musicians Against Dictators, Meryl Johnson speaks to the crowd about Project 2025's agenda to eliminate the Federal Department of Education. Johnson taught for 40 years in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, served on the State School Board, and currently hosts the WRUW radio show *Its About Justice*.

## Rooted in faith, growing in action: West Side churches embrace creation care

by Ronaldo Rodriguez Jr.

As the world mourns the passing of Pope Francis, his legacy endures here in Cleveland. Among the Pontiff's most profound achievements was *Laudato Si'*, an encyclical on caring for our common home. It was addressed to every person on Earth, highlighting the interconnectedness of all humanity and called for a global dialogue on environmental concerns, the precarious future of our planet, and a commitment to protecting it for future generations.

The 184-page letter, first published in 2015, planted seeds in hearts locally, ultimately leading to the formation of the West Side Creation Care Team (WSCCT) — a unique interdenominational alliance that brings together faith and environmental activism.

After spending a year studying the text of *Laudato Si'*, Judy Slivka and a group of laypeople from St. Malachi Parish on W. 25th Street felt inspired to act. They recognized that Pope Francis' message wasn't a theological reflection, it was a call to mobilize.

Determined to bring his vision to

life and galvanize other people of faith to respond to environmental degradation, they began reaching out to other churches across Cleveland's West Side.

The group's first major initiative was an educational gathering in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the Saint regarded as the patron of ecology. From there, WSCCT began to grow, blossoming into a full church ministry, grounded in four pillars: prayer, education, advocacy, and collaboration.

As a priority within their faith, the group today serves as a moral and spiritual voice in Cleveland's broader environmental movement.

"Because we believe in God as the Creator, we can immediately see how great He is through creation," said Rev. Dean Van Faroe of Calvary Reformed Church in the city's Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood. "Our scripture mandates that we care for creation."

For Pastor Dean, creation care is also personal. His wife and son suffer from asthma. According to the Amer-

## The greening of Cleveland: coalition says "let there be trees"

by Gregory Cznadel

April Showers bring May flowers. This year it was trees: lots of trees, tree plantings, and tree give aways. God decided this was the year to help renew his green earth by increasing our tree canopy to scrub the carbon out of the air, bring shade back to city streets; and care for the often forgotten old, loving,

trees.

In 2015, the City of Cleveland, [Cleveland Neighborhood Progress](#).

[Holden Forests & Gardens](#), [LAND Studio](#), and the [Western Reserve Land Conservancy](#) funded the creation of the Cleveland Tree Plan. Out of this plan,

by Cleveland Tree Coalition members: 1,170 trees have been given away. 517 trees planted!

Yes, God did his part also. On a rainy, May 3rd Day, Pastor Dean Van Faroe from the Evangelical Environmental Network, had a *Trees of Life for Cleveland* tree care workshop at Lake Pool Park. While under tents shedding water, reminiscent of the forty days and nights, there was a brief study of trees

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PHOTO BY MARYANN COYNE ROSENBERG  
Monday, April 21, 2025; Dingus Day Celebration in the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood: (Left to Right) Janelle Rakha, Lauren Rosenberg, Cori Harris, and Patti Longoria join in the Dingus Day festivities.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 10, 2025; 325 Superior Avenue, The Curious Garden Party, Cleveland Public Library's the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Main Library's architectural and cultural legacy: Adrianna Rodriguez and Kendall Davis (age 9) took a trip downtown to join in this whimsical Alice in Wonderland-themed celebration.

## ARTS

## GET GRAPHIC! COMICS DISCUSSION:

Join us on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at Bookhouse Brewing (1526 W 25 St.) for this free book club focused on comics and graphic novels. This month, we will meet on Thursday, June 5 to discuss *Year of the Rabbit* by Tian Veasna, which tells the true story of one family's desperate struggle to survive the murderous reign of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Next month, we will meet on Thursday, July 3 to discuss *The Underwater Welder*, a fictional comic that focuses on underwater welder Jack Joseph as he handles the pressure of deep-sea work on an oil rig off the coast of Nova Scotia as well as the pressures of impending fatherhood.

## GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN:

Cuyahoga Arts and Culture invites nonprofit organizations producing, presenting, or creating arts

and cultural programs in Cuyahoga County to apply for funding in 2026. Visit [cacgrants.org/apply](http://cacgrants.org/apply) to start your application today. Need help? Contact us at [info@cacgrants.org](mailto:info@cacgrants.org) or 216-515-8303. You can also visit [cacgrants.org/grants/events-deadlines](http://cacgrants.org/grants/events-deadlines) for a list of upcoming virtual workshops and office hours designed to help you through the process. The deadline to apply is July 31 at 4:30 pm.

**ST. PAUL'S STREET STUDIO**, 1-3 pm on Saturday, June 21 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](mailto:heisey2140@sbcglobal.net) or at 216-973-1486.



## COMMUNITY

## FREE GENEALOGY CLINIC:

The Cleveland Public Library's Genealogy Clinics are informal sessions that allow you to drop in to receive help with your family history and genealogy projects from library staff and expert volunteers from the African American Genealogical Society of Cleveland. Join us anytime between 10:30 am and 1:30 pm on select dates on the 6th floor of the Louis Stokes wing of the Main Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (525 Superior Ave). Free and open to all! Those new to genealogy, please arrive by 10:45 to take advantage of our group instruction for beginners. The next clinic will be Saturday, June 14.

**FAMILY MOVIE FRIDAYS:** Join us for a free screening of a family-friendly movie on the last Friday of each month from 3 pm to 5 pm at the Eastman Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (11602 Lorain Ave). We will be showing *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* on June 27, *Toy Story* on July 25, and *A Wrinkle in Time* on August 29.

## EDUCATION

**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: [ohioimaginationlibrary.org](http://ohioimaginationlibrary.org).

**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 [seedsoliteracy.org](http://seedsoliteracy.org) to enroll.

## ENVIRONMENT

**MASTER GARDENERS OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY**, a group of volunteers trained by Ohio State University, offers free informative presentations on select Saturdays at the Eastman Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (11602 Lorain Ave). Join them for "Butterfly Gardening", which will discuss why butterflies matter, why they're in trouble, and what we can do in our yards to help, on Saturday, June 28, 11 am - 12 pm. Next month, "Native Plants" will cover trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses that are native to our area that you can plant in your yard, Saturday, July 26, 11 am-12 pm.

**WARD 14 DUMPSTER DAYS:** In an effort to keep our neighborhoods clean, Dumpsters will be placed in Ward 14 neighborhoods for residents to discard trash from their yards, garages, and streets on select days. (Dumpsters are for residents only. No commercial debris please!) The Dumpsters will be available in Clark-Fulton (at W. 30th & Meyer Ave.) on May 31, July 26, and

September 6, in Brooklyn Center (at 4322 Denison Ave.) on June 14, August 9, and September 20, in Stockyards (at 3358 W. 46th St.) on June 28 and August 23, and in West Boulevard (at W. 73rd & Neville Ave.) on May 17 and July 12. All Dumpsters will be available from 8 am-2:30 pm.

## EVENTS

**CASE BOOK SALE:** The ACE Annual Book Sale is held each year during the 1st weekend after Memorial Day. One of the region's largest book sales, it has 10s of thousands of books, DVDs, CDs, vinyl records, rare and collectible books available for purchase. The sale will be held at 3631 Perkins Ave. this year, on Saturday, May 31 from noon to 5 pm and on Sunday, June 1 from noon to 5 pm. Discount day, Monday, June 2, will feature reduced prices, and Tuesday, June 3 will feature a \$5 per box deal.

**FATHERHOOD CONFERENCE:** Save the date for the 19th Annual Fatherhood Conference! On Friday, June 13, join the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative for this free event, which features a resource fair, fatherhood awards luncheon, town hall meeting, informational workshops, and more.

8 am to 4 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (1260 Euclid Ave). The keynote speaker for this year's Awards Luncheon is retired Cleveland Municipal Court Judge Ronald B. Adrine. Harry Boomer, a news anchor from Channel 19 News, will be the moderator of the Town Hall Meeting and Wayne Dawson, a news anchor from Channel 8 News, will be the Master of Ceremonies for the Awards Luncheon. Register now at [hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov/fatherhood](http://hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov/fatherhood). Questions? Call 216-348-3967.

**JUNETEENTH FREEDOM FEST:** Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery on June 19, 1865 - the day when all African Americans were freed from slavery. Set to take place on Saturday, June 14 from 11 am to 8 pm on Mall C in the heart of Downtown Cleveland, this family-friendly celebration and commemoration of Juneteenth is one you don't want to miss. Visit [juneeteenthcleveland.com](http://juneeteenthcleveland.com) for more information.

**PARADE THE CIRCLE:** The 33rd annual Parade the Circle and Circle Village will kick off summer on Saturday, June 14. The Circle Village, featuring a variety of crafts, activities, and live music, runs from 10 am to 4 pm. The parade will begin at noon at the north entrance of the Cleveland Museum of Art. For more information, visit [clevelandart.org/events/parade-circle](http://clevelandart.org/events/parade-circle).

**PRIDE IN THE CLE:** Cleveland's annual gay pride parade and festival will take place this year on Saturday, June 7. The parade will begin at 11 am, starting at Public Square in the center of

downtown and marching over to its final destination, Mall B. After the parade, the festivities will continue on Mall B, with free live music, food trucks, vendors, and more. Visit [lgbtcleveland.org](http://lgbtcleveland.org) for more information.

**REDISCOVER VETERANS MEMORIAL BRIDGE:** Visitors can experience the historic streetcar level of the Veterans Memorial Bridge for a glimpse into our region's history and unparalleled views of the industrial valley, downtown Cleveland, and Lake Erie on Saturday, June 21 from 10 am to 6 pm. Admission is free. All visitors must sign a release before entering the bridge tour.

**SLOW ROLL CLEVELAND** is a mass happening, a leisurely paced parade of bikes through the nooks and corners of our city. Our 10-mile rides each Monday night throughout the warmer months attract hundreds of riders of diverse backgrounds and experience levels. We're fully supported by Slow Roll's one and only Squad: a crack unit of yellow-shirted volunteers who keep the ride safe and running smoothly each week. This month's rides include: June 9 at Edgewater Park, June 16 in Hough, June 23 in Shaker Square, and June 30 in Old Brooklyn. Visit [slowrollcleveland.org](http://slowrollcleveland.org) for more information.

**TRI-C JAZZ FEST:** The 46th annual Tri-C Jazz Festival will take place from Thursday, June 26 through Saturday, June 28 in and around Playhouse Square. The event includes various free outdoor performances underneath the chandelier outside of Playhouse Square on Euclid Ave. throughout the festival weekend.

## HEALTH

**CLEVELAND CARE CALLS** is a free service offered by Cleveland's Department of Aging and Public Safety that provides free, automatic calls to check on a person's well being. The program is open to residents aged 60 or older or to adults with disabilities aged 18-59. You can select the date and time of the call, between 7 am and 11 am, Monday thru Friday. The automatic system will make several attempts to

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**Plain Press**  
P.O. Box 602453  
Cleveland, OH 44102

News room phone:  
(216) 621-3060

Advertising phone:  
216-978-2361

email:  
[plainpress@gmail.com](mailto:plainpress@gmail.com)

Advertising email:  
[plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Checfsky & Erik Ault;

Photographer: Greg Rosenberg

Advertising Sales: Ed Tishel

Graphic Artist: David Myers

Distribution: Ahmed Morad

Mailing: David Myers

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## MOTHERS' RALLY

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in providing free lunch and breakfasts for children. Johnson noted that on Fridays during the school year teachers in Cleveland often hand out food bags for children to take home so they will have food when schools are closed over the weekend. She pointed out the importance of food distribution that took place at Cleveland schools during the pandemic when schools were closed. She lamented the Trump Administration's layoffs of staff in the Department of Education's Civil Rights Office which handles thousands of complaints each year when students' rights are violated.

Johnson, along with other speakers, urged those in attendance to sign a petition being circulated to place an initiative on the Ohio ballot to repeal Senate Bill 1 which bans Diversity, Equity and Inclusion on Ohio college campuses and enacts other educational reforms.

Following the speakers, Cleveland musician Alex Bevan led the crowd in singing Woodie Guthrie's *This Land is Your Land*.

Mothers and Others gathered at the rally, then began a march around

## New law ends driver's license suspensions for unpaid court fines or fees

by Tonya Sams

For years, thousands of Ohioans who were unable to pay back court-imposed fines or fees were penalized by having their driver's license suspended. With the signing of House Bill 29 (HB 29) in January (effective April 9), people that were impacted by debt-related driver's license suspensions may be able to get their licenses back with no reinstatement fees.

"The passing of HB 29 is important because this type of driver's license suspension – called a license forfeiture – is not because of dangerous driving but debt or failure to pay a court fine or fee," said Michael Russell, a Senior Attorney in the Community Engagement Practice Group at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. "Taking away a person's license has a ripple effect – they may not be able to legally drive to work, medical appointments, take their children to and from school or childcare. The new law provides some relief for those who can't legally drive simply because they owed money to a court."

Legal Aid became interested in debt-related driver's license suspensions when the organization noticed that its client community was experiencing an increase in these types of suspensions. Legal Aid and Brian Mikelbank, an Associate Professor of Urban Studies at Cleveland State University and Legal Aid Visting Scholar, started to collect data from the BMV. The data revealed that debt-related suspensions disproportionately impacted communi-

ties that had high rates of poverty and higher percentages of people of color. Legal Aid's resulting report, "Road to Nowhere: Debt Related Driver's License Suspensions in Ohio," played a key role in the statewide advocacy to eliminate debt-related driver's license suspensions.

"This work fits into Legal Aid's broader effort to remove legal barriers to peoples' success and a debt-related license suspension is one such barrier," Russell emphasized.

Drivers who are affected by court-imposed license forfeiture suspensions for failure to pay a court fine or fee should have those suspensions lifted automatically. The new law does not affect other types of suspensions, like those related to DUI's or other dangerous driving.

"The BMV and the courts are still working out exactly how to do this," Russell said. "The law gives them 30 days from April 9, 2025, but it may take more time than that. The BMV should send out notices to drivers who've had suspensions lifted. Therefore, it's extremely important that drivers go to the [BMV website](#) to make sure that their address is current."

Russell emphasized the importance of getting confirmation from the BMV that a suspension had been lifted before getting behind the wheel again or stop-

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and lying prevalent in the Trump Administration. Some of the messages were: "Threats to Annex Countries, This is Tyranny", "Protect Trans Folks", "PBS Didn't Become Woke, You Grew Up to Be a Bad Person", "Make America Kind Again", "Make Lying Wrong Again", and "Jesus said I was hungry and you cut off food aid, I was a stranger and you sent me to secret prisons".

There were also messages from Moms such as "Mom for Kindness, Peace, Equality, Love, Inclusion, Hope, Diversity", and "It is Okay to Say Trans and Gay, Our Kids will Not be Erased."

Many signs contained messages against budget cuts such as "Do Not Cut Medicaid, We Need it to Survive", "Hands Off Education", "Hands Off Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid", and "Hands Off Public Schools, Health Care, Our National Parks, Voting Rights".

The Mothers and Others Standing Against Fascism Cleveland rally was hosted by Mobilize the Vote NEO, Cuyahoga Democratic Women's Caucus, Grass Roots Resistance (GRR), Grass Roots Activism Bay (GRAB), Indivisible NEO, and Americans Making Immigrants Safe (AMIS).

Other signs addressed the bullying



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 10, 2025; Mothers and Others Standing Against Fascism, Lincoln Park, 1200 Starkweather Ave: Cleveland musician Alex Bevan leads the crowd in singing Woodie Guthrie's *This Land Is Your Land*.

license suspension? Come to a Legal Aid Brief Advice Clinic. For a full list of dates and times go to: [lasclev.org/events](#).

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

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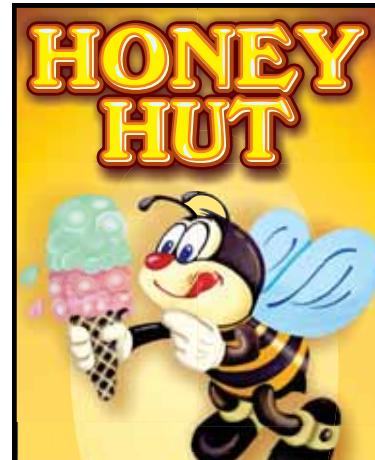
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PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, May 10, 2025; Northern Ohio Blanket Mills building, 3466 St. Rocco Drive: The City of Cleveland Department of Public Health plans to move its west side clinic to this recently rehabilitated building.

## John Marshall students' efforts lead to Cleveland City Council resolution creating new Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Students from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District presented a proposal for a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights to Cleveland City Council's Workforce, Education, Training, & Youth Development Committee at its April meeting. The CMSD high school students, and Advanced Placement Environmental Science scholars from John Marshall's School of Civic & Business Leadership, collaborated with City Council, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and the National League of Cities to help advance this initiative.

On Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> Cleveland City Council approved a resolution adopting the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, which seeks to ensure that all children in Cleveland have safe and equitable access to meaningful

outdoor experiences that support their health, education, and overall well-being. The resolution was sponsored by Council Members Brian Kazy, Stephanie Howse-Jones, Jasmin Santana, Deborah Gray, Joseph Jones, Charles Slife, Jenny Spencer, and Richard Starr.

Adopting the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights acknowledges that every child in Cleveland has the right to: Breathe fresh and clean air. Recreate safely on the beaches and in the waters of Lake Erie. Play in clean parks, green spaces, rivers, and streams. Bike on safe trails in parks that connect the community. Hike and explore safely in nature. Walk along tree-lined streets in their neighborhood. Play in the snow, build a snowman, ride a sled, and

throw a snowball. Dig in soil, plant, nurture a seed, and watch it grow. Engage and connect with their community at events in parks and green spaces. Bond with family and friends over an outdoor meal. Watch the stars shine bright during a peaceful night of camping. Learn in nature, building confidence to be stewards of our natural world.

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## City of Cleveland will relocate west side clinic to Clark Fulton neighborhood

In response to the growing demand for health care services in the Clark-Fulton neighborhood, as well as the need for additional affordable housing in the Ohio City neighborhood, the Department of Public Health will relocate its existing west side clinic, currently housed at the McCafferty Health Center, to the new site at Northern Ohio Blanket Mills.

At its April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, Cleveland

City Council approved legislation authorizing the City to enter into a lease agreement for space within the Northern Ohio Blanket Mills building, located at 3466 St. Rocco's Court. The lease will be with Blanket Mills Prime Tenant, LLC, or its designee, for a term of ten (10) years. The space will be used for the public purpose of establishing and operating a health care clinic.

## Cuyahoga Job and Family Services Bridge Beyond Benefits Program helps low-wage workers

Cuyahoga Job and Family Services (CJFS) has renamed the Benefit Bridge program to **Bridge Beyond Benefits** and is launching new online tools to help low-wage workers to build their bridge to financial freedom. The rebranded program includes coaching, planning, personal finance education, and other incentives to help workers succeed. The new program campaign features an informational video, social media campaign, online application, and printed marketing materials to help people better understand and access the program.

When low-wage workers are offered promotions or raises, some may turn them down for fear of losing their public assistance benefits, including assistance for food through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and/or Publicly Funded Child Care.

In these situations, the increase in wages for low-wage workers does not off-set the high cost of providing food for their families nor paying for childcare, plus it puts families at risk of ending up worse in the short term, otherwise known as the benefit cliff.

"The Bridge Beyond Benefits is a great opportunity for individuals who are on the path to financial stability, as they progress away from government assistance. Through the program, enrollees are given the supports needed to climb higher in a career and enhance their ability to provide for their fami-

lies," said Paul Bounds, Deputy Administrator of Career and Work Programs at CJFS.

Bridge Beyond Benefits is an 18-month program that provides a bridge of support to help individuals safely transition off public assistance to financial self-reliance. If you are among these groups, you might be eligible and should consider applying: employed and SNAP or Child Care decreased recently or closed in the past 60 days because of higher earned income; or unemployed and in a short-term training program; or a non-custodial parent paying or trying to pay child support.

For more information about the Bridge Beyond Benefits program visit: <https://hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov/programs/detail/benefit-bridge-program>.

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## YWCA offers shelter and continuum of care when a woman needs a place to stay

by Edie Le Bouton

Two women's shelters, the YWCA's Norma Herr Women's Center at 2227 Payne Avenue and additional space at 2010 Walton Avenue, house 150+ women every night between the ages of 18-80. Combined beds for the two shelters are 234. If more beds are needed, St. Paul's Community Church houses the overflow.

In May 2018 the YWCA, headquartered at 4019 Prospect Avenue, became the operator of the shelter.

The YMCA Prospect Avenue building houses the administrative offices of the Norma Herr Women's Center. The YWCA president and CEO, Helen Forbes Fields, and her team, reside here. There is an Early Learning Center at the YMCA building servicing children aged 3-5 years old. It is funded through HUD and the USDA. Twenty Head Start vouchers pay for 20 of the children, and "wrap around" services provided by the Early Learning Center help parents or care givers of the children.

The administration building has 23 apartments on the top floor for young women 18-24 years old. These women have aged out of foster care or have left a troubling situation. They are taught life skills and given care for trauma.

All barriers are eliminated when a

woman needs a place to stay. She may be addicted to drugs or alcohol or have a criminal background. It doesn't matter. A coordinated intake is conducted and processes them through a Continuum of Care through the Office of Homeless Services. There is no time limit on how long a woman can stay at the shelter.

The Norma Herr Women's Center building on Payne Avenue is currently undergoing a major renovation. The renovation came about because of COVID. The shelter is being revamped according to the new way to define a shelter, with space and not crowded conditions. The Eden Group and the Office of Homeland Services funded the renovation.

Some of the resources the shelter provides are help in finding housing, assistance with vouchers, and help with landlords.

Help to find work through the Employment Workforce program doesn't stop once a woman is employed. Support is offered to her weekly.

Metro Health comes to the shelters as well as Care Alliance, Front Line Services, and Momentum Behavior Health.

Volunteers help to serve meals and at health screenings.

The shelters rely on donations of hygiene items, cleaning products, de-



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday May 10, 2025; 2710 Walton Avenue: The YWCA is using this former Volunteers of America shelter as a temporary home for its women's shelter while its Norma Herr Women's Center on Payne Avenue is being rehabilitated.

tergent pods and pull ups for all sizes as well as everything that will help a woman set up her new apartment. Go to <https://www.ywcafcleveland.org/> to donate. There is even an option to adopt a family.

The YWCA gets part of its funding

from events. On Wednesday, June 4, 2025, an event at the Severance Music Center, beginning at 5:00 p.m., will honor nine remarkable women whose leadership and service have made a lasting impact in Northeast Ohio. Tickets to the event are available at [www.ywcafcleveland.org/](http://www.ywcafcleveland.org/) or by calling 216-881-6878.

For more information about the YWCA's Norma Herr Women's Center, its services, or volunteer opportunities, please call 216-479-0020, or email [info@ywcafcleveland.org](mailto:info@ywcafcleveland.org).

## Three historic homes to be demolished to make way for townhomes

The developer of Ferrante Village on W. 14<sup>th</sup> plans to demolish three historic houses to make way for new townhomes. The houses to be removed are at 2915, 2929 and 2937 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Bob Gardin, who served on the City of Cleveland's Near West Design Review Committee when the project was under review, said he and others on the committee opposed the demolition of the houses.

Gardin believes the houses have historic value. However, Gardin notes that the houses are not within the boundaries of the Tremont Historic District, so no protection can be sought from the Cleveland Landmarks Commission to prevent the demolition of the houses. Thus, the owner of the property has the right to demolish the houses to make way for Ferrante Village and little can be done to prevent their demolition, says Gardin.

Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC) Director of Real Estate and Economic Development Donna Grigonis-Bailey speaking for TWDC said, "We recognize and share the disappointment felt by many regarding the planned demolition of the three existing homes at 2915, 2929, and 2937 W. 14th. While these homes lie outside the official boundaries of the Tremont Historic District and do not fall under the protections of the Landmarks Commission, they contribute to the architectural and historic character of the street. Unfortunately, as the property owner has chosen to move forward with demolition—and has the legal right to do so—the community development corporation has no regulatory authority to prevent it."

Grigonis-Bailey said the role of TWDC in this case "has been to convene dialogue, advocate for thoughtful design, and encourage the developers to continue refining the project in ways that enhance the neighborhood."

Speaking of the results of the dialogue convened by TWDC between the developer and neighborhood stakeholders, Grigonis-Bailey said, "Over the past few months, the developers have made several changes to the proposal in response to community feedback, including removing several curb cuts along W. 14th Street and adjusting the overall site plan. These changes have eliminated the need for variances, which

significantly limits the ability of the City or the community to formally influence the project through typical approval processes."

Grigonis-Bailey added that TWDC will "continue to ask that the final design contributes meaningfully to Tremont's built environment without replicating the past, but in a way that acknowledges the value of what is being lost."

Visit the Plain Press online at: <https://plain-press.blog>

## Cleveland welcomes climate refugees: live where you can save for a rainy day

by Cameron Mays

Well, it's finally here. The day you've been dreading. You were warned for years, and even though you believed it true, part of you hoped it was an anxious myth. All those efforts to slow it down, the electric car, the raised foundation, the meatless Mondays. All those ways to cool down, the air conditioners, the heat pumps, the evaporative coolers. Nothing stopped it.

The heat's too hot, the seawater's too high, the reservoir's too low. That old Carolina home and that beautiful Brooklyn brownstone, the Arizona golf course, and the California almond farm, all stuck in the swamp, seized by the ocean, caked in dusty dirt, and felled by Mother Nature made wicked by man.

Great grandpa left Oklahoma because of the Dust Bowl. You're leaving for a water bowl, five big ones by the name of Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie, and Ontario. The jokes flash through your head. You'd never live in a flyover state, you'd jape. Probably wishing they were low-carbon-emitting-mass-rail-pass-through states now as you strap the last of your belongings atop your crossover. But where are you going to live?

Canada is off the table. That's a logistical headache. Besides, you've never been one for hockey. Minnesota is practically Canada, same with the upper peninsula. You need a big city, sorry Sheboygan! Pride is your detriment, continued on page 8



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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OLD BROOKLYN

One of the most prominent structures in the "South Brooklyn Commercial District" is the Pearl Broadview Building on the southeast corner of Pearl Rd. and Broadview Rd. After it was built in 1928, Hagedorn's Drug was in the storefront at the corner, a jewelry store was next to it, and medical offices (doctors and dentists) were on the second floor. The large building wraps around the corner, with four storefronts on the Pearl facade and six on the Broadview facade. This photo is from 2005 and was one of many which accompanied the application for this part of Old Brooklyn to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation's current Memphis Pearl redevelopment plan includes demolishing four buildings in the Historic District.

## More information comes to light this past month concerning the Pearl and Memphis project

by Lynette Filips

It's been a busy month for folks following the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation's (OBCDC's) Memphis Pearl Project. This past month featured definitive information brought to light by a local researcher; community survey results; two TV interviews about the project on WEWS News 5; an informational meeting at Pearl Road United Methodist Church (PRUMC); more conversation at Ward 13 Councilman Harsh's monthly neighborhood meeting; another official okay from the City; an online article announcing an almost \$15 million dollar funding gap with online comments responding to that article; and 90-days to vacate letters reportedly on their way to Greenline Building tenants.

### 3430 Memphis

The current news updates portion of my May article ended with preliminary findings about the residential property at 3430 Memphis Ave. (rear) which is one of the four buildings OBCDC has slated for demolition. This month, thanks to research by Old Brooklyn architectural historian Craig Bobby, we have the answers that no one else has been able to come up with. Below is the summary

Craig Bobby wrote about the old house (with photocopied documentation to back it all up) that he placed in the appropriate file cabinet at the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn's Museum.

*Close examination of historical records, particularly property tax records, indicates that this house was built no earlier than 1857 and no later than 1860 for Adam Pallion, a tinsmith. Pallion was residing here according to the 1860 census. Pallion had purchased the property (i.e., the land) in 1857 from Alexander S. Palmer, a physician and Brighton Village resident who was investing heavily in unimproved Brighton real estate.*

*Property tax records alone indicate that the house was built in either 1859 or 1860, but the 1858 Cuyahoga County map shows the house. Property tax evaluation by the County relied considerably upon owners informing them that they had built structures on their properties. Did Pallion neglect to do so at first?*

*Pallion sold the property in 1869 to Jacob Boesch, a stone mason, who also resided there (although he is not in the 1870 census.) Boesch had the house extensively remodeled in 1908, which*



about having sufficient parking spaces. Apparently, the City of Cleveland is not concerned about that. As long as there is nearby parking for half of the units, the City of Cleveland is okay with the parking plan. Here is part of a Facebook comment from one "Living in Old Brooklyn member": "The building plan was the

hot topic at last week's City Council meeting with Kris Harsh. The conversation became very heated with many unhappy long-time residents of Old Brooklyn..." The commenter was referring to the May Ward 13 meeting at Estabrook.

### PHOTO BY CRAIG BOBBY

**May 2025:** This house at 3430 Memphis (rear) was built no earlier than 1857 and no later than 1860 for Adam Pallion, a tinsmith. The house is one of four buildings that Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation has slated for demolition.

included the addition of a front porch.

This house is currently used for storage by Rocco Sutera, the owner of A Reliable Construction. Rocco also has his company's office on the second floor of the Greenline Building -- another one of the buildings OBCDC intends to demolish.

### Survey

The survey referenced in this month's article's opening paragraph concerns what Old Brooklyn residents would like to see built in a community space in the basement level of Pearl Road United Methodist Church (PRUMC). Participants could complete the survey in person or online via specific pages OBCDC set up for the Memphis Pearl project. Although the survey was attributed to PRUMC, the church had major help from OBCDC and Tipping Point, a real estate development and management company from Wheeling, W. Virginia, in bringing it to life.

The survey was offered early this year and a total of 231 people responded to it. The two largest groups who participated were: (Twenty-nine percent) people who were in the 35-44 years of age range; and (twenty percent) people who were in the over age 65 years of age range. The activities which respondents want to see happen in PRUMC's future remodeled area are: youth programs and educational spaces; a community kitchen; a worship space; community and social events; and fitness, arts/cultural events. Respondents were also

hoping for an affordable and accessible space for private gatherings. Forty-eight percent preferred a room for 25-50 people; twenty-three percent preferred a room for 50-100 people.

### WEWS News 5

Journalist Remi Murray of WEWS News 5 returned to the Greenline Building twice last month to continue with her initial March 27th news story about the Memphis Pearl Project. On Wednesday, May 7th, Remi again interviewed Historical Society of Old Brooklyn (HSOB) President Constance (Connie) Ewazen and Councilman Kris Harsh, in addition to OBCDC's Interim Executive Director Amber Jones and Tipping Point President Jim Ambrose. The airing of that segment preceded a meeting OBCDC was conducting about the project that same evening.

Then on Saturday, May 24th, after being informed that tenants in the Greenline Building had received their "90-day notice to vacate the building" letters, Remi Murray again interviewed Connie Ewazen as well as Maria Rodriguez, the proprietress of the barbershop next to the HSOB's museum. (Some clips from previous interviews were also included.) None of the tenants had received their evacuation letters yet, so Remi Murray herself became the bearer of the bad news. All three News 5 interviews can be viewed online, and Remi Murray promised to return for more coverage of the story.

up with the deficit. \$27,489,638 (via grants and loans) is committed to the project; \$14,814,671 is still needed.

I noticed the *NEOtrans* article after someone posted it in the Facebook group — *CLEVELAND STREETS — Then and Now, News and Nostalgia*. I then promptly shared it to the "Living in Old Brooklyn" and "Old Brooklyn Crime Watch" Facebook groups. Although there were a few positive comments about the project, far more were against it in its current format. The first comment I read, submitted by Brian Heaton, and the one which got the most "likes" — stated: "Fix up what's there at a fraction of the cost and quit trying to gentrify the neighborhood." The reference Heaton made to a "fraction of the costs" is definitely a true statement. Another developer's estimated cost to rejuvenate the corner with adaptive reuse of existing buildings rather than demolition and building from scratch was \$12 - 13 million dollars. Historic preservation tax credits and other incentives would have paid for most, if not all of it.

Although the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is involved in the Memphis Pearl Project, the one- and two-bedroom apartments will not be affordable to low-income residents. Kris Harsh didn't know the size of the units, but he did say that monthly rent will be about \$2,000.

Many questions have been raised

### Informational meeting

Unfortunately, the May 7th meeting which OBCDC sponsored at PRUMC was sparsely attended. Perhaps that's because people who've previously attended knew that the meeting would be very structured timewise (i.e., little or no opportunities for questions) and that they could complete the online survey without going to the meeting. The meeting was also structured so those attending were assigned to specific tables moderated by specific OBCDC staff members. The light attendance was especially disappointing because many of the big names in the project were present, including Tipping Point President Jim Ambrose, OBCDC Interim Executive Director Amber Jones, Ward 13 Councilman Kris Harsh, and PRUMC Pastor Rev. Matt Whisenhut.

### NEOtrans article

No project renderings were shown at the meeting, but one could gain a lot of information from reading Ken Prendergast's online article for *NEOtrans* the next week. Apparently both the Near West Design Review Committee and the City of Cleveland approved the project the week of May 12th, even though the original four-story building increased to six stories, the number of apartments increased to 84, and the construction cost increased from the original \$30 million dollars to \$42.3 million dollars. The *NEOtrans* article included a box which listed the funding sources individually, as well as where OBCDC hopes to come

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last week's City Council meeting with Kris Harsh. The conversation became very heated with many unhappy long-time residents of Old Brooklyn..." The commenter was referring to the May Ward 13 meeting at Estabrook.

### Hope for Preservation

As we begin another month in Old Brooklyn, we still don't know the fate of the buildings on the corner of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave. As long as the buildings are still standing, there is hope of preserving them. Cleveland History Days will be celebrated this month, from Thursday, June 19th through Sunday, June 29th. A number of the Cleveland History Day events are in the neighborhoods served by the *Plain Press*. One of them will again be at Metropolitan Coffee, 4744 Broadview Rd. in Old Brooklyn on Monday, June 23rd; from 5:30-7:30 pm. The topic is *Preservation Advocacy: Preserving History & Heritage*. The presentation will feature a panel discussion with Tom Yablonsky, Tim Donovan, Rick Sicha, and Stephanie Ryberg-Webster. Admission is free, but registration is required. Visit [canalwaypartners.com](http://canalwaypartners.com) to register for this presentation and to view the complete schedule of almost 50 events.

**More on Pearl & Memphis:** You can read the past articles in this series online at the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn's website, [www.oldbrooklynhistory.org](http://www.oldbrooklynhistory.org), or on the *Plain Press*'s website at <https://plainpress.blog>.

## GREENING OF CLE

continued from page one

in the bible, e.g. Genesis 2:9 "Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food."

Amanda Wood from the Holden Forests & Gardens told of how trees clean rainwater, prevent erosion, provide habitat, even help pavement longevity and energy reduction. She showed the percentage of tree canopy in Cleveland in relation to historic red-lining maps. There is a correlation between areas where people were denied loans (often black, indigenous, and people of color) and lower tree canopies today. She then led training for the planting of two black gum trees.

Julia Van Wagenen of Neighborly Tree Care LLC led us through the maintenance of trees. The most important tip: gently bend the exposed wires of the deer fencing when wrapping fencing around the tree, as you want to be able to easily access the trees each year to pull weeds, prune, and add mulch.

Last month St. James Lutheran Church had three Dogwood trees planted from Old Brooklyn's Tree Planting Program. According to legend, after the crucifixion of Christ, God cursed the tree by making it smaller and twisting its branches, ensuring it would never again be large enough for another cross. At the same time, God blessed the tree with four petals of its flower to represent the cross, and the small red dots or notches on the petals are believed to represent the nail holes, the central part of the flower said to resemble the crown of thorns.

The courtyard is also being blessed with a Fig tree. According to Luke 21:29-31 He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near."

### Cleveland Tree Coalition meeting

Six presentations were given at the May meeting of the Cleveland Tree Coalition (CTC). The Cleveland Metroparks, Downtown Cleveland, Inc., Slavic Village, Friends of the Jefferson Neighborhood, the Holden Forests & Gardens, and Western Reserve Land Conservancy, presented projects they have been working on.

## COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

call you in a thirty minute period. If there is no response, the department will contact anyone you have designated as an emergency contact, who can then decide if they want to do a home visit to check on you. You must complete an application to participate in this program. Contact the program's director to sign up at 216-664-6316 or 216-664-2833.

**OHIO COMMISSION ON MINORITY HEALTH** announces the availability of Request for Proposals (RFP) for Minority Health Month 2026. The RFP outlining grant requirements and pre-recorded technical assistance sessions will be available on our website, [www.mih.ohio.gov](http://www.mih.ohio.gov), on June 9. The deadline for funding application submission is July 21. Questions? Contact us at 614-466-4000.

### SUMMER PROGRAMS

**BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS** will be offering free summer programming for youth ages 6-18 at locations throughout Northeast Ohio, including Bridge City Church (3381 Fulton Rd). Summer session will start June 10 and end August 15. Tentative times will be 8 am to 4 pm, on weekdays. Free transportation may be available to and from some Clubs. Visit [bgcneo.org/find-a-club/join-us-for-the-summer/](http://bgcneo.org/find-a-club/join-us-for-the-summer/) to sign up. There is no charge to join a Club!

**FREE SUMMER ART CAMPS:** This summer, Art House Inc. is once again offering FREE art-centered day camps at their campus at 3119 Denison Ave. The fun begins June 23 with camps Monday – Thursday from 10:00 AM – 11:30AM and 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM. 2nd graders and up are welcome to attend

### Tree Pits

Drew Crawford, Senior Director of Planning for Downtown Cleveland Inc., spoke on the Downtown tree canopy coverage, currently at 4.15% compared with 28.5% for Lakewood. Drew explained the challenge with the tree "pits" along the sidewalks in Cleveland where trees fail to survive. Many pits are not legal, trees keep dying after planting, city won't permit new tree plantings based on tree pit size, compacted soil. They have already replaced 11 trees on Superior, 20 trees on Public Square, and 6 in commercial corridors. Tree Pit retrofits cost two thousand dollars each including the 6' x 12' tree pit, tree soil and excavation. Cleveland has a 10,000-tree backlog.

### Senior Trees

Jen Reiser from the Natural Resource Division of the Cleveland Metroparks spoke about their effort to save our oldest trees. The most recognizable one was the willow at Edgewater Park. For each tree soil aeration and fertilization was done. A mulch ring placed around them. Root trimming and pruning was done in December. Each tree was ID'd with a silver dollar sized tag. During the project Jen kept talking about lessons learned. Cost: 299 trees at \$50,000.

### Read Directions First

Roger Tokar from Friends of the Jefferson Neighborhood talked to two residents under the guise starting a block club, but the plan was to plant trees. Surveyed residents: 10% of residents were "trees, no way" another 10%, "I've been waiting for this." Roger bought 20 pin oaks from Home Depots at W. 117th and at Steel Yard Commons to hopefully replace some of the old, majestic pin oaks in his neighborhood. He did not realize all the rules and requirements for planting trees on tree lawns for your property: calling 811, depth planted, size of hole, prepping roots. He eventually applied for a grant from CTC, received \$4,000 dollars. Spent \$110 per tree, 200 for delivery, and the rest for an arborist. The CTC commended him, the attendees applauded.

### Personalization

To make people feel a connection to the trees planted in their neighborhood, the idea of "owning" a tree has arisen.

To this purpose, Old Brooklyn Tree Stewards had volunteers, after a day of weeding, pruning, mulching, and fence-

independently. Children younger than 2nd grade should be accompanied by an adult for assistance. Please register in advance so the teaching artist can plan accordingly for supplies and activities! To see a full list of available sessions and to sign up, visit [arthouseinc.org](http://arthouseinc.org). Questions? Call 216-398-8556 or email us at: [eraby@arthouseinc.org](mailto:eraby@arthouseinc.org) or [lvoss@arthouseinc.org](mailto:lvoss@arthouseinc.org).

**KIDS NATURE LUNCH AND LEARN:** Join Cleveland Metroparks this summer to explore, learn, and play games while visiting our mobile nature center every Friday (except July 4) from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Lower Edgewater, near the Edgewater Beach House, from June 6 to August 8. Free lunches are provided for youth ages 18 and under by the Greater Cleveland Food Bank (while supplies last). Books for youth are provided by the Kids' Book Bank. Each week's session will have a different theme, including Migration (on June 6), Squirrels (on June 13), Dragonflies and Damselflies (on June 20), and Turkeys (on June 27).

### UTILITIES

**HEAP SUMMER CRISIS PROGRAM** is accepting applications now thru September 30. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Summer Crisis Program is a one-time benefit that can help pay electric utility bills (up to \$500), purchase air conditioners or fans, or repair central air conditioning units during the summer months. For more information and to see if you qualify, contact the Department of Senior Adult Services (DSAS) Information Services Unit at 216-420-670 or visit [energyhelp.ohio.gov](http://energyhelp.ohio.gov).

**SEWER DISTRICT SATURDAY OFFICE HOURS:** The Northeast



PHOTO BY RONALDO RODRIGUEZ JR.

June 2024; Seeds of Love Community Garden on W. 14th Street: Members of the West Side Creation Care Team gather for a Litter Pilgrimage in the Tremont neighborhood.

## ROOTED IN FAITH

continued from page one

ican Lung Association's 2025 State of the Air report, Cleveland ranks as the 9th worst metropolitan area in the country for annual particle pollution.

«We can see the effects of the lack of stewardship of creation,» he said. «Living in the city has sharpened my sense of urgency and the necessity of taking care of green space and air quality.»

One-way WSCT weaves faith into environmental action is through a Lenten Lament for Creation, now in its fifth year. Adapted from Scriptural Stations of the Cross, community members gathered this April at Calvary to reflect on the suffering of Christ alongside the suffering of the Earth. Each station became a moment of prayer, grief, and renewed commitment.

The group also writes letters to the editor, engages with elected officials, and collaborates with national organizations like the Catholic Climate

Covenant and the Evangelical Environmental Network.

One of the team's most visible activities are ongoing community cleanups called Litter Pilgrimages, blending prayer and litter removal. More recently, the group has become active in supporting Cleveland's tree canopy by planting a tree at the Edna House in Cleveland and supporting Trees of Life for Cleveland - a series of faith-based tree care workshops.

«Trees are God's best carbon capturers,» said Pastor Dean. «They are not an extra. They are essential infrastructure.»

The West Side Creation Care Team hopes to expand to more churches and welcomes new participants. They meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM at St. Paul's Community Church - 4427 Franklin Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44113. Follow WSCT on Facebook, or email [westsidecreationcare@gmail.com](mailto:westsidecreationcare@gmail.com) to join their Listserv.

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**THE KIDS' BOOK BANK**, a local nonprofit that gives high-quality, gently used children's books to organizations of all sizes that can distribute them to children and families in need, has a variety of volunteer opportunities available. Help us sort, process and package books in our warehouse, host a book drive in your community, assist families in choosing free books to take home at various events, and more. Visit [kidsbookbank.org](http://kidsbookbank.org) for more info or contact us at [volunteer@kidsbookbank.org](mailto:volunteer@kidsbookbank.org) or 216-417-1803.

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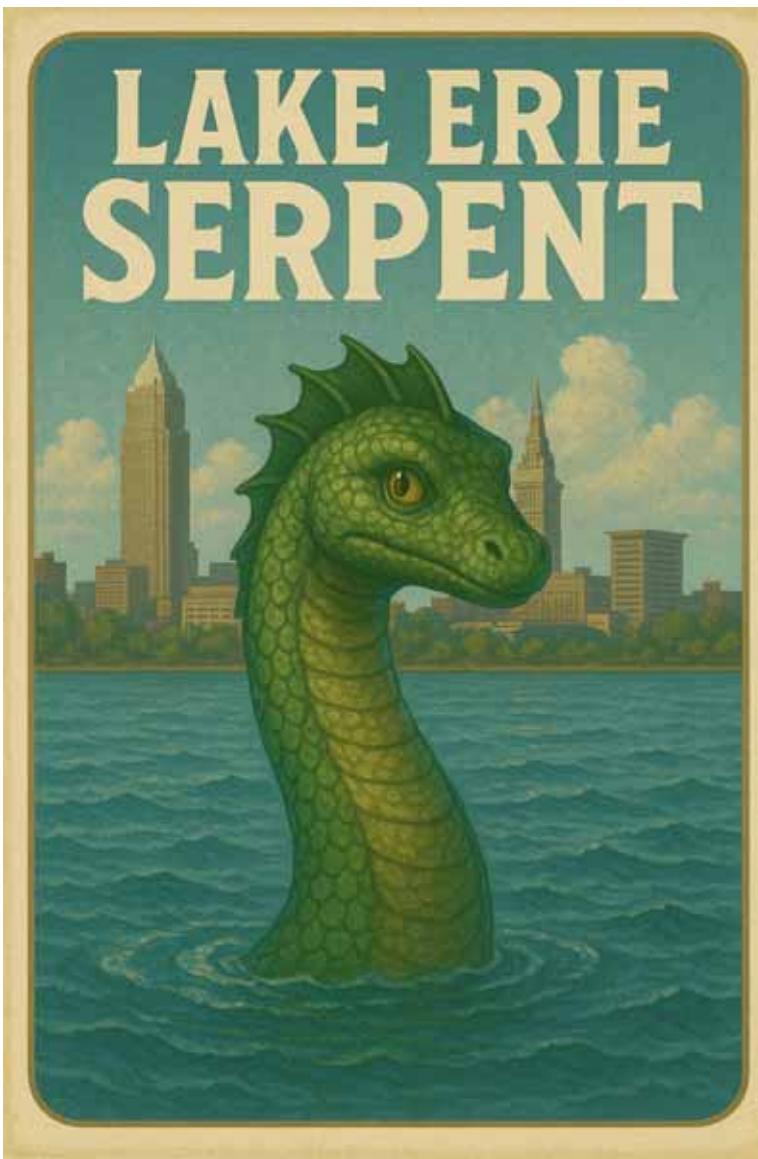


IMAGE CREATED BY KEVIN KELLY

A documentary on the *Legend of the Lake Erie Monster*, can be seen Monday nights at 9:PM on Cleveland Spectrum, Channel 1025.

## CLIMATE REFUGEES

continued from page 5

too much for Detroit and too little for Chicago. There's Buffalo, but that's New York taxes without New York City ketamine.

You need a middle road. Neither great nor horrible. Somewhere with blue moons and red mornings. Not a fixer-upper, but not exactly move-in ready. A paint-by-numbers town, where the skilet's good but needs a little grease. You need somewhere that would be happy just to have you. You need Cleveland.

They call Ohio the heart of it all. They ought to call Cleveland the start of it all. It being the climate crisis, which has displaced you and millions of others. Yes, it was John Rockefeller, our most famous son, that commodified oil. And although you won't see the site of his first refinery or his Euclid Avenue mansion, two casualties of progress, he left behind a wonderful little obelisk atop a nice little hill.

It's a perfectly reasonable obelisk. It wouldn't win any awards at an obelisk convention, but it's still damn good. It juts rather handsomely off its hill. You're going to be thrilled to walk past on it on your Sunday afternoon strolls. It's an obelisk you won't forget, especially since it's not in the floodplain of rising seawater.

Or consider the Cuyahoga River, another area of perfect reasonability in a perfectly reasonable town like Cleveland. They call it the Burning River; get used to seeing that moniker around. Don't worry, though. It's not on fire anymore. In fact, it's rather clean. Feel free to kayak on it; global weather fluctuations permitting. The river kickstarted the American environmental movement. Just not with enough momentum to keep you living where you want to live. Now, you're here.

You're coming for Lake Erie. It isn't the deepest Great Lake, or the coldest, or cleanest, or most scenic. It is, however, one of them. It gets algal blooms, bad ones. Don't judge a book by its cover. That isn't because the lake is dirty. That's because our farms are mostly unregulated in the amount of nitrogen fertilizer they use. Think of it as a glass half full situation, or lake half full, if you will. One man's algal bloom is another man's dystopic food source.

Water is cheap here. Everything is. We still got vending machines selling cans of Pepsi for fifty cents. Think

you're going to find that in Chicago? Fat chance! We don't have all the big city amenities, but enough of the good ones. We don't need everything because we've got heart. Heart doctors -- the best in the world over at the Cleveland Clinic. You might need them after the post-evacuation stress.

Here's something sweet to lighten the load, our special moving offer. BYOT or Bring Your Own Team. Buy a house in Cleveland and we will relocate your respective sports franchise here at taxpayers' expense. We'll move anything. Team names, logos, players, even the stadium! We can probably squeeze it somewhere off Opportunity Corridor. That's the opportunity we've been hoping for, anyways.

We got a special offer for renters, too. Anyone signing a lease with a valid Sun Belt photo ID will be entered in a raffle

## Documentary to explore legend of the Lake Erie Monster

Has anyone heard of the Lake Erie Monster? The latest reported sighting was not too long ago. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources confirmed a report of an unknown serpent seen in Lake Erie. In 2021, visitors from Johnson City, Tennessee were lounging on the lake front patio of the Collision Bend Brewing Company when they noticed, just to the right of them in the water, a mysterious shadow slowly moving just below the surface. They claimed that the shadow was the length of a long Kayak, and it made them very unsettled.

Believe it or not, some Ohioans still have never heard of the "Lake Erie Monster", aka "Bessie". Over the years, there have been alcohol beverages, sports teams, businesses and even a comic book dedicated to the elusive beast. The fame of the monster has even reached international news, such as Japan's *Daily Yomiuri* and was reported on in Belfast, Ireland.

In the 1980's, the weekly newspaper in Port Clinton, *The Beacon*, even held a contest to name the monster. The name chosen was "Besse", which was named after the Davis Besse-Nuclear Power Plant in Ottawa County.

This summer, the "Arts Center" in Conneaut, Ohio will have its 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Lake Erie Monster Show". The event is to inspire local artists to create their version of the Lake Erie Monster through their art.

Stories of the lake serpent originated long ago with the Seneca Indians, who claimed the creature also had the capability to crawl up on land with its appendages in search of food. It was 230

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years ago when the first written account of the monster reached the papers. A French Captain of the ship "Felicity" was docked at Middle Bass Island in 1793, when he reported being chased by a long serpentine monster for more than 100 yards before it disappeared into the lake. Since then, sightings seem to continuously stream in. An artist, in the 1800's, was commissioned to paint a composite of the creature by descriptions taken from eyewitness accounts. It was on display at a wax museum located somewhere in downtown Cleveland, Ohio, and it was supposedly reported to be a big attraction at that time.

Then in 1918, a captain of a schooner reported that he sighted a serpentine monster in Lake Erie. In the year 1985, the creature was spotted by several people within a couple of weeks from each other, from Lorain to Vermilion, Ohio. Around this period, a Huron, Ohio, businessman offered a reward of over \$100,000, for the live capture of the lake monster.

Over the years, scientists have weighed in on what the creature could possibly be. Experts have speculated that it could be anything from an oversized sturgeon to a large, crazed carp. In August of 2001, three people were bitten by an unknown fish while swimming in Lake Erie. The doctor, who treated the victims' wounds, could not determine what lake fish could have caused the bites, but it was concluded that it was "a big honking fish".

Whatever the Lake Erie Monster could possibly be, maybe you will have a chance to spot Ohio's oldest legend for yourself this summer. To learn more about this Lake Erie Legend, a documentary on the *Legend of the Lake Erie Monster*, can be seen Monday nights at 9:PM on Cleveland Spectrum, Channel 1025. The documentary can also be seen on Cox Cable Channel 45, Sundays at 9 p.m. For more information, you can email: [Kevin@Shockerenterprises.com](mailto:Kevin@Shockerenterprises.com) or call: 216 230-1840.

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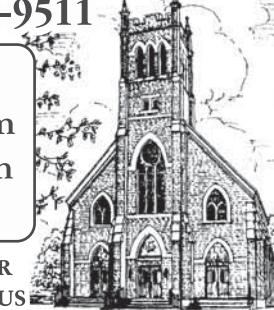
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