



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Tuesday, December 9, 2025; Cleveland Board of Education Meeting, Max Hayes High School, 2211 W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street: Hispanic Roundtable Chairman José Feliciano urges the Board of Education and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to be mindful of the needs of bilingual English language learners, to retain sufficient properly trained bilingual teachers, and to provide information to Hispanic families in both English and Spanish. See related article on page 1.

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

FREE

Vol. 53, No.1 January 2026

# Plain Press

Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

## Public school funding under attack by Ohio lawmakers

by Bruce Checefsky

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) unanimously approved a plan in December to close 23 buildings and operate 29 fewer schools next academic year to cut a looming \$150 million deficit. CEO Warren Morgan says the consolidation is the best way to provide a better education for all students with more academic and extracurricular options.

Sara Elaquad, the CMSD school board chair, said in a press conference following the decision that they approved the plan and would implement

it next.

"The difficulty is part of the plan. We have a responsibility to the students. We have to charge ahead as reasonable adults in a sobering situation about the reality of our city population and what we have or have not delivered to our students."

The board chair asked CEO Morgan to present a plan to minimize discomfort and challenges. "We understand the challenges," she said, "and we're looking to meet families every step of the way.

Programmatic and staffing changes

could save \$36 million a year. Enrollment numbers will determine teacher layoffs; the administration could expect a reduction in staff.

"The number one thing that needs to happen is that families have to make choices [where to send their children]. Come January, the portal will be open until February 27; that will help us determine our staffing," said Morgan.

CMSD enrollment declined by 51% or more from 2004 to 2024, even as the city's overall population declined by 24%, while specific areas like Ohio City, Tremont, and downtown have seen an influx of residents and new housing construction.

The expansion of charter schools can also cause a decline in enrollment. Cleveland has more than 50 public charter schools serving over 15,000 students, playing an important role alongside traditional public schools. Charter schools receive public funds on a per-student basis, so when a student leaves a traditional public school, some of that school's funding follows the student, siphoning resources and creating budget shortfalls. As charter schools grew, CMSD lost thousands of students and millions in funding.

To further complicate state funding issues, Gov. DeWine's policy changes involve increased state and federal investment to expand and improve charter schools as a core part of Ohio's public education landscape. Ohio will receive nearly \$105 million over five years to open new charter schools and expand existing ones deemed

## Board of Education adopts Building Brighter Futures Plan

by Chuck Hoven

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Board of Education adopted the Building Brighter Futures Plan with a unanimous 9-0 vote at its December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting held at Max Hayes High School at W. 65<sup>th</sup> and Clark Avenue. The Board of Education voted on the Building Brighter Futures Plan as a package. There were just minor changes in the plan since it was first



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN  
Saturday, December 13, 2025; Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center's Parrandón Navideño, 2800 Archwood Avenue: Members of the Julia de Burgos youth dance team, Grupo Coquí, offer entertainment to children and families awaiting a visit from Santa and The Three Kings.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, December 9, 2025; Cleveland Board of Education Meeting, Max Hayes High School, 2211 W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street: Cleveland Board of Education Chairperson Sara Elaquad explains the Board of Education's role in monitoring the implementation of the Building Brighter Futures plan.

## Sisters Haven opens in Cudell neighborhood and will offer a welcoming home to pregnant & parenting women experiencing homelessness or a crisis

Cleveland's newest home for pregnant and parenting women experiencing homelessness or crisis, Sisters Haven, hosted an open house and house blessing on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The event featured the completely rehabilitated seven-bedroom Sisters Haven house at 1986 W. 99<sup>th</sup> Street. Sisters Haven Co-founders Julie Mallett, Shena Maddox and Yvonne Murchison greeted the many guests attending the open house.

Sisters Haven's Co-Founders used the Open House to launch the Dream Bedroom Makeover competition. Community partners called Dream Teams worked to each fully design one of the seven bedrooms in the house. Those visiting the Open House and community members viewing online photos of the rooms were invited to vote on the best bedroom design. Each person casting a vote was asked to donate to support Sisters Haven. The web-

site message to donors was "Where creativity meets compassion - make a difference one vote at a time."

The bedrooms featured a bed, a crib, various colorful bedspreads and pillows, decorative art, and some rooms even had diaper changing tables. The Dream Team winning the bedroom design competition was OH So Delta Designs. They received 5,213 votes.

The other six Dream Teams were: RE/MAX Crossroads (Mary Frances Weir and Sophia Hanson); C& S Foundation; RE/MAX Crossroads (Kristine Kerber); Lovely Paperie & Gifts; Sapphire Pear Interior Design Studio; and MetroHealth Nurse Family Partnership.

The three co-founders will be involved in the operation of Sisters Haven. Jullie Mallett will serve as Director of Development. Shena Maddox will serve as Executive Director of Management. Yvonne

continued on page 5

introduced to the public on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

In the lead up to the vote, the Board of Education and CMSD Chief Executive Officer Warren Morgan listened to a great deal of testimony from Teacher's Union President Shari Obrenski, students, parents, teachers, school staff, and community members. Despite moving testimony, no schools slated to close, or merge, were spared from

that fate.

Board Chair Sara Elaquad cited the overall health of the entire district as a reason for not giving in and sparing individual schools. She noted if one school was spared, others would say how about us. The most recent five-year projection of the CMSD budget predicted a negative fund balance of \$150 million if cuts in

continued on page 6



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG  
Friday, December 12, 2025; Sisters Haven Open House, 1986 W. 99<sup>th</sup> Street: Sisters Haven's founders Shena Maddox, Yvonne Murchison, and Julie Mallett are prepared to greet guests at the Open House for Sisters House, a residential home for pregnant or parenting women experiencing homelessness or crisis.



IMAGE CREATED BY KEVIN KELLY

This January marks the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Shocker Theater where Ernie Anderson as the host “Ghoulardi” offered commentary on featured horror shows from 1963 to 1966 on WJW-TV8 in Cleveland.

**AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS HOMEWORK HELP AT THE LIBRARY:** 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-5:30pm, Mondays thru Thursdays. Tutoring is generally scheduled in 1-hour sessions. Contact your nearest tutoring location for availability.

**MERRICK HOUSE FREE YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM** for Cleveland residents, Monday thru Friday 3:30 pm to 6 pm at 1050 Starkweather Ave. in the Tremont neighborhood for students ages 6-17. The 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, call 216-771-5077.

**TUTORING AT ONE HOPE NEO:** Need extra support for your child’s learning? Come in to One Hope NEO (3202 Fulton Rd.) for personalized help every Tuesday from 3:30 pm to 5 pm. Our caring tutors provide homework help, reading support, and fun learning activities in a safe and encouraging environment. Our program will be expanding to 8th grade starting this month. Visit [onehopeneo.org](http://onehopeneo.org) for more information.

**ART ECHO OPEN CALL:** SPACES Gallery’s Echo Artists in Residence Program invites two artists each quarter to experiment and create on-site projects for our galleries and the greater Cleveland community. This call for proposals is open to artists and cultural producers who are 21 years and older. We accept applications from creative professionals at all stages of their careers who engage experimental practices with strong conceptual foundations. To learn more, and to apply, please visit [spacesgallery.submittable.com/submit](http://spacesgallery.submittable.com/submit). Applications will be accepted now until February 10 at 11:59 PM. Questions may be directed to SPACES’ Curatorial Coordinator: [thea@spacescle.org](mailto:thea@spacescle.org).

**FREE MUSIC LESSONS:** The Center for Arts Inspired Learning will offer FREE beginner and intermediate music lessons to children grades 3 thru 12 at Cudell Recreation Center (1910 West Blvd) from January 5 to March

6, Tuesdays thru Thursdays. Tuesdays: violin. Wednesdays: percussion. Thursdays: guitar. Each session runs from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. To qualify, participants must live in Cleveland or attend a school within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Instruments are provided. For any questions about the program, please reach out to Julia Zaborszki, Community Programs Coordinator, via [julia@arts-inspired-learning.org](mailto:julia@arts-inspired-learning.org) or 216-561-5005 x21. Or sign up now at [arts-inspiredlearning.org/inspiration-through-music](http://arts-inspiredlearning.org/inspiration-through-music).

**FRIENDS AND FAMILY OPEN STUDIO:** Art House Inc. (3119 Denison Ave.) offers a free, family-friendly workshop on the third Saturday of each month from 1 pm-3 pm. This month’s workshop, entitled “New Year Reflection Journals”, will be on Saturday, January 17, and offers the opportunity to create a journal reflecting on last year and planning for the new one. You’ll be led in a reflection activity and have many art supplies and collage materials to decorate your personal journal to take home. Gather some of your friends and family to reflect on what you want out of the new year with us! Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Visit [arthouseinc.org](http://arthouseinc.org) to sign up or call 216-398-8556 for more information.

Stop the Hate Youth Speak Out Writing Contest

**“STOP THE HATE” YOUTH WRITING CONTEST:** For the 18th year, the Maltz Museum is hosting the Stop the Hate Youth Speak Out Writing Contest. This gives 6-12th grade students in Northeast Ohio a platform to share their stories and inspire positive change in their schools and communities, all while competing for the chance to win recognition, awards, and scholarships. Each year 2,000+ students enter the writing contest in two categories (Personal Essay and Poetry), and with the help of 400 volunteer readers, 30 finalists are named. Since the contest started, over 50,000 students across Northeast Ohio have participated and \$1.7 million has been awarded to students and schools. Essay submissions are due by January 15 and poetry submissions are due by January 22. For more information, visit [maltzmuseum.org/stop-the-hate/students](http://maltzmuseum.org/stop-the-hate/students).

**TRES REYES FAMILY WORKSHOP:** Keep the holiday celebrations going into the new year with a creative afternoon inspired by *Día de los Reyes* (Three Kings Day) traditions for all ages to enjoy. Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center (2800 Archwood Ave.), Saturday, January 3 from 2 pm to 4 pm. **STREET STUDIO:** This month’s

## Documentary airs in recognition of Cleveland’s “Shock Theater”

January 18, 2026, marks the 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Shock Theater. The show aired in 1963, at 11:20 at night, during one of the coldest and snowiest winters. However, because the WJW-TV8 station had not decided on a name for the host of the show, the powers that be decided to hold a public contest at the up-coming Cleveland Boat Show on January 26, 1963. The name of the contest was called “choose the name” of the host. The TV network set up a booth and received 17,000 entries out of 100,000 people that attended the Boat Show that year. The name chosen was, “Ghoulardi”.

Ghoulardi made his first appearance on WJW-TV 8 in Cleveland, Ohio. His name was Ernie Anderson, and he was a Cleveland

sensation, from 1963 to 1966. The show aired 1950’s horror movies. It included intermissions of Ghoulardi’s sly comments on how bad the movie actually was, as jazz music played in the background.

**Many do not know that, when Ernie Anderson first appeared as “Ghoulardi”, on Shock Theater, he had a faucet attached to the side of his head. Due to it leaving a nasty red mark they discontinued that prop.**

Many adults loathed him, but the teenagers worshiped him. Unfortunately, what younger minds perceived from his message was that it was cool to be rebellious and make fun of others. Because the Friday night show was live, the TV 8 station manager was constantly worried about what Ghoulardi would say

next. Eventually, towards the end of 1966, Ernie Anderson headed out to Hollywood to break into the entertainment business. Others have come and gone since, trying to gain the same high status that Ghoulardi gripped Northeastern Ohio with, but no one would ever come close to the same unique style that helped him gain such popularity.

Because of popular demand, the “Ghoulardi” documentary will air once again on the Spectrum Tri-C Channel 1025 through the month of January 2026, Monday nights at 9PM. The video can also be seen on COX Cable Channel 45, Saturdays at 6pm. For more information, you can contact Kevin@shockerenterprises.com or call 440-888-8327. Please check out: ShockerEnterprises.com.



Street Studio will be Saturday, January 17 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. For more information contact Ian Heisey at [heisey2140@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heisey2140@sbcglobal.net) or Trennell Garrison at [sapphire1497@yahoo.com](mailto:sapphire1497@yahoo.com).

**CELEBRATIONS ART MUSEUM’S MLK DAY CELEBRATION:** Join us on Monday, January 19, any time between 10 am and 4 pm, when the Cleveland Museum of Art (11150 East Blvd.) opens its doors for a free daylong celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Explore how the moving passages of Dr. King’s writings and speeches shed light on the museum’s collection and create a work of art inspired by his legacy. Visit [clevelandart.org](http://clevelandart.org) for more information.

**CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA MLK CONCERT:** The Cleveland Orchestra’s 46th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Concert will feature soprano Latonia Moore and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Chorus, an all-volunteer community chorus. The program takes the audience on a journey through Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s evolution as a prominent servant leader. Although the concert is free, tickets are required and available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning on Saturday, January 3, at 10 am. The concert will take place on Sunday, January 11 at 7 pm at Mandel Concert Hall (11001 Euclid Ave). Get your tickets either at the Severance Hall box office, by phone at 216-231-1111, or online at [clevelandorchestra.com](http://clevelandorchestra.com). There is a limit of four tickets per household.

**SEVERANCE HALL MLK OPEN HOUSE:** Come in from the cold and immerse your family in music, art, and community at Severance Music Center on Monday, January 19. Join us for a festive and inspiring celebration of Dr. King’s legacy, featuring a full day of diverse, dynamic performances and interactive activities suitable for all ages. Visit [clevelandorchestra.com](http://clevelandorchestra.com) for more information.

**FREE ADMISSION** to a variety of local museums is available Monday, January 19, in honor of MLK Day during normal visiting hours. This includes the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame ([rockhall.com](http://rockhall.com)), the Cleveland Museum of Natural History ([cmnh.org](http://cmnh.org)), and the Maltz Museum ([maltzmuseum.org](http://maltzmuseum.org)). The Cleveland Museum of Art ([clevelandart.org](http://clevelandart.org)), which normally has free admission, will offer a variety of special programming in honor of MLK Day. **TRI-C MARTIN LUTHER KING**

**CELEBRATION:** Cuyahoga Community College is proud to present its 49th annual celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, January 18 at 2:30 pm at the KeyBank State Theater at Playhouse Square. Featuring a musical performance by The Clark Sisters, the event will honor Tri-C scholarship winners who embody the work of Dr. King and include impassioned student presentations and inspiring performances by students from the Tri-C Creative Arts Academy. To get your free tickets or to watch a free livestream of the event, please visit [tri-c.edu/MLK2026](http://tri-c.edu/MLK2026).

**COMMUNITY FREE CHORE SERVICE:** During the winter months, staff members from Cleveland’s Department of Aging are available to do limited indoor chores for Cleveland seniors and adults with disabilities. The appointments are one hour in duration. There is no charge for this service, but we ask that you provide your own cleaning supplies and equipment. Some tasks we can help with: sweeping, mopping, and vacuuming, cleaning the stove or refrigerator, dusting, and cleaning the bathroom. Some things we don’t do: fold laundry, change bed linens or clean bedrooms, painting, or electrical work. This is not an exhaustive list. To learn more, call 216-664-3998 or 216-664-4694.

**JULIA DE BURGOS BOOK CLUB:** Join the Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center for bi-monthly, in-person book discussions for adults – presented in partnership with Literary Cleveland and led by Nahomy Ortiz of @NahomysLibrary – at 2804 Archwood Ave. For our first meeting this year, we will discuss *Ander and Santi Were Here* by Jonny Garza Villa on Wednesday, January 28 at 6:30 pm. In our second meeting, we will discuss *My Chicano Heart* by Daniel A. Olivias on Wednesday, March 25th at 6:30 pm. Visit [juliadeburgos.org/calendar](http://juliadeburgos.org/calendar) to register. Questions? Contact us at [info@juliadeburgos.org](mailto:info@juliadeburgos.org) or (216) 894-5664.

**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 nonprofit 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](mailto:plainpress@gmail.com), or leave a phone message at 216-621-3060.

**EMPLOYMENT EL BARRIO WORKFORCE PROGRAM:** The Centers’ free workforce

programs are open to anyone 18+ and include short-term career training, specialized industry certifications, professional certificates, and job placement services. Our vast network of corporate partners teach in our classrooms, provide career assistance, and hire from our program. Some of our trainings are also available in Spanish. To get started, call us at 216-325-WORK (9675) or visit [thecentersohio.org/workforce-development](http://thecentersohio.org/workforce-development).

**JOB SEEKERS APPLICATIONS CLINICS:** Join Jumpstart Inc. at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (8216 Lorain Ave.) for a series of free workshops designed to help jumpstart your job search. Thursdays from 10 am to 11 am. Join us for “Resume Revival” on January 8, “Social Media Basics” on February 5, and “Canva for Careers” on March 5. Also, stop by after class for on-the-spot support. We’re here to help with resumes, cover letters, job searches, and more – available 11 am-5 pm on class days.

**HEALTH 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](http://jasonfoundation.com).

**SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING FAMILIES,** a program from Cleveland’s Department of Public Health, consists of weekly family sessions designed to help family members and friends of individuals living with

**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](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 Karp;  
Copy Editor: Craig Bobby;  
Photo Editor: Coriana Close;  
Reporters: Bruce Chechfsky & Edie Le Bouton  
Photographer: Greg Rosenberg  
Advertising Sales: Ed Tishel  
Graphic Artist: David Myers  
Mailing: David Myers  
Distribution: Ahmed Morad  
Board of Trustees: Keith Brown, Peggy Davenport, David Gamble, Dr. Leo Jeffers, Joe Narkin, and Helen K. Smith.

**Ohio hemp law designed to ramp up incarceration rates for private prisons**

by Daryl Davis

Governor Michael DeWine and the Ohio Republican majority in the legislature have attacked the hemp industry in Ohio with legislation that will re-criminalize hemp products such as hemp beverages, gummies, chocolates and vapes and place additional restrictions on recreational marijuana use. Promoting this legislation looks like a cynical attempt to ramp up incarceration rates for the private prison industry in Ohio.

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

Philena Farley, Co-chair of the Ohio Green Party and Ohio delegate to the National Green Party, explains the incentives built into the State of Ohio's prison contracts to increase the number of prisoners sent to private prisons. She says efforts to re-criminalize hemp products are about profit, not public safety.

Farley offers five points to bolster her position

**1). Private prisons are contractually guaranteed occupancy:** Major private prisons corporations (CoreCivic, GEO Group) have "lockup quotas" in their state contracts – typically 90-100% bed occupancy. If states fail to fill these beds, they owe millions in penalties. Example: Arizona paid CoreCivic \$3 million in 2011 for empty beds. (Source: *In the Public Interest*, 2013). Example: Colorado paid GEO Group \$2 million in 2016 for underfilled prisons. (Source: *The Sentinel*).

**2. Crime has plummeted – but prison profits haven't:** Violent crime is down about 30% since 1991 (Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Rate data). Drug arrests (especially nonviolent) are the only incarceration driver. Cannabis legalization correlates with lower crime: States with legal cannabis saw 4-12% drop in violent crime (Cato Institute, 2021). Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) – the main psychoactive

compound in marijuana reduces impulsivity and aggression (via serotonin modulation). (Journal of Psychoactive Drugs, 2019)

**3. The 2018 Federal Farm Bill threatened the prison pipeline:** The Farm Bill legalized hemp-derived ^8-THC (THC levels of 0.3% or less), creating a legal gray market. ^8 is less intoxicating than ^9 (THC levels of 0.3% or more) but still reduces demand for harder drugs (and related violence). Private prison stocks dipped 20-40% post-2018 as states began depopulating prisons. (Bloomberg Terminal data).

**4. The crackdown is manufactured – not evidence based:** Ohio: After Issue 1 (2023) legalized cannabis, the Republican (GOP) legislature immediately gutted home grow and banned ^8 – citing "public safety" despite zero spike in crime. According to the Ohio Department of Public Safety Ohio's violent crime rate is down 8% since 2020. The Federal Senate Bill 1098 (2024) seeks to re-criminalize all intoxicating hemp cannabinoids – pushed by the same lobbyists who fund the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). No data shows ^8 increases violence. In fact, Emergency Room visits for ^8 are < 1% of ^9. (Poison Control Data, 2023)

**5. The real agenda: reverse de-incarceration:** Private prisons need bodies. Legal cannabis = fewer arrests = empty beds=lawsuits against states. CoreCivic sued Ohio in 2022 for \$10 million over low occupancy (Case 1:22-cv-00321). The solution? Manufacture a crisis around "intoxicating hemp" to re-criminalize a plant that's already reduced incarceration by 20% in legal states. (ACLU, 2024).

Speaking of the legislation to re-criminalize the use of hemp

products in Ohio, Farley says, "This isn't about public safety. It's about profit."

Not only should private prisons not be dictating drug policy in Ohio, but they should not be awarded a "bonus" in the form of a contractually guaranteed profit. Just because this is done in other states, does not mean Ohio should do it. And, if that would result in "losing" a bid for a private prison, "So what?"

It should mean that taxpayers don't have to support a corrupt private prison industry, and maybe if legislators wanted to spend that amount of money anyway, they could appropriate it to improve the conditions for incarcerated persons that cause misery and violence at the state prisons, public and private.

Instead of looking for effective prison policy and making decisions that will mitigate violence, the majority party in the Ohio House of Representatives in Columbus passed House Bill 338 that will result in increased incarceration to fill prisons if it becomes law. This ignores the named purpose of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections and is happening despite opposition from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Office of the Public Defender, the Ohio Justice and Policy Center, and even the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB).

HB338 passed to the Senate but no hearings have been scheduled in the Senate Judiciary Committee at the time of this publication.

Contact your State Representative and State Senator to express your view and urge civic organizations to help address HB338. Urge candidates for State offices to take a position on this issue.

On December 15, 2025, SB56 revising the law legalizing marijuana became an Act. SB56, anticipates the Federal law, prohibiting "intoxicating Hemp" set to take effect on December 31, 2026, revokes many of the provisions of the original law



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG  
Friday, December 12, 2025; **UNSILENT NIGHT** sponsored by Pilgrim Church, Lincoln Park Gazebo: Clevelanders gathered at the gazebo in Lincoln Park in Tremont to participate in a walk through the neighborhood while listening to composer Phil Kline's *Unsilent Night* on their cell phones. Participants each selected a track to stream on their phone and simultaneously hit the play button as they started a 45-minute walk through the neighborhood.

passed in 2023, and contains provisions for criminal charges. Conspicuously, the greatest potential for felony charges falls on the unwary consumer who grows more than 12 plants per household or 6 plants per person or who is found with more than the specified limited product. For a summary of criminalization provisions in SB56 see *The Marijuana Herald - Marijuana news and information*, (December 9, 2025).

*information* or read the Legislative Services analysis for House Bill (HB) 56 at [www.lsc.ohio.gov](http://www.lsc.ohio.gov).

Under S.B. 56, anyone who knowingly grows more than 12 plants per household or six per person can be charged with illegal cultivation of marijuana, which can range from a minor misdemeanor to felony charges. *The Marijuana Herald - Marijuana news and information*, (December 9, 2025).

**Enough is Enough: People Before Profits!**

To the editor:

Here we go again spending gobs of taxpayer money with high-priced consultants to decide how Cleveland's lakefront might be developed. And like ravenous hogs at the overflowing trough of public money, private interests are scrambling breathlessly to find ever more creative and clandestine ways to gorge themselves with taxpayer largesse any way they can.

**LETTER**

Our history in Cleveland has defined the term "public private partnership" as a crudely brutal mechanism to socialize business costs and privatize business profits, i.e. using public funds to fuel private fortunes. "Trickle-down" economic development has been nothing but a cruel, cosmic lie in Cleveland, Ohio. We remain one of the poorest big cities in the United States, despite decades of massive public subsidies to the private sector.

Which raises a pertinent question. Should Cleveland develop its lakefront? Well, that depends. It depends on what is meant by "develop." It depends on exactly who benefits, and who pays.

The answer is a resounding "NO!" to more public subsidies for swank hotels, expensive restaurants and bars, gambling parlors, sports facilities, abandoned meeting spaces, tax-abated luxury apartments and anything that expands the deep income and wealth chasm that exists in this community. Anything that perpetuates or increases the endemic racism, inequality, inequity and gentrification we have witnessed, tolerated and in many ways promoted in this city in the last 50 years must not be entertained.

Anything that predominantly delivers more cash to the already rich while ignoring the chronically needy in our community must be rejected. The idea of even more lavish public subsidies to

the private sector must be expunged at the concept stage of this project.

The answer is "Yes, of course!" to development if the lakefront can benefit everyone, and especially those who now cannot access it or afford it.

So, what would lakefront development for everyone look like? It could look like a lot of things.

Great cities have an abundance of large parks and gardens, with huge swaths of public land solely devoted to public enjoyment, not private profit. Obvious examples jump to mind in cities like Paris, New York and San Diego.

Cleveland's lakefront should be a peo-

ple's lakefront, family-friendly and natural as much as possible, easily accessible by RTA, with FREE transportation from all areas of the city. Expansive PUBLIC land. And perhaps most critical: lakefront amenities and attractions must be AFFORDABLE, and for the most part, ENTIRELY FREE.

The possibilities for the public are endless, energetic and can address the concept of the lakefront being a place for healing.

How about foresting the lakefront? A

huge forest. I'm no arborist and not sure if pines would thrive here, but imagine what that would be like and how healing that would be? A beautiful tall pine forest. A massive Park for the People.

How about a bird sanctuary, engineered wetlands, walking and biking paths, fishing piers, more public beach area, fields for sports like soccer and softball, picnic areas, a free music open pavilion, an outdoor theatre for free plays and movies, outdoor nature classrooms, **continued on page 4**

**OHIO ANTIQUE PICKERS**  
**\$\$\$\$ WANTED \$\$\$\$ (216) 673-3358**  
 Old Toys - tin windup cast iron • Sports Cards and Any Sports Memorabilia – baseball, basketball, football, hockey – any sports cards • Comic Books • Posters • Signs, • Telephones • Advertising Items • Motorcycles • Old Movies Posters • Bicycles • Cap Guns • Oil Paintings • Gold and Silver Coins

**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. 71<sup>st</sup> St. (South of Clark)**  
**961-4477**  
**Toll Free: 800-333-2818**

8:00-5:00 Mon. - Fri.  
 MasterCard, VISA, Discover, American Express  
 Best in the West!

**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

**WIPE OUT WARRANTS RIGHT NOW!**  
 from your smartphone

Use your tax return debit card

Settle old CLE tickets in full at [cmcoh.org](http://cmcoh.org) / pay a ticket

Earle B. Tuner  
 Cleveland Clerk of Courts



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG

Saturday, November 22, 2025, *IlluminateHER: A Photo Narrative Gallery*, 78<sup>th</sup> Street Studios, 1300 W. 78<sup>th</sup> Street: Genesis Gaines is one of six girls from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio's Broadway Club who displayed their photography, collage, and mixed media art at the *IlluminateHER* exhibit.

### IlluminateHER showcase features art & photos by Boys & Girls Club members

Six girls from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio's Broadway Club exhibited their artwork consisting of photography, collage and mixed-media art at a November 22<sup>nd</sup> show titled *IlluminateHER: A Photo Narrative Gallery* at 78<sup>th</sup> Street Studios. Assistant Club Director Bee Puthoff joined the young artists and participated in the project.

At the exhibit at 78<sup>th</sup> Street Studios, 1300 W. 78<sup>th</sup> Street, the seven artists shared with the public stories and images from a seven-week photo narrative project in a partnership between the Boys and Girls Clubs and nonprofit True Beauty Discovery. The Boys and Girls Club members participating in the project along with Broadway Assistant Club Director Bee Purhoff were: Peighton Briggs, Amani Walker, Storm Potts, Aaliyah Hall, Genesis Gaines, and Ma'khai Al-Amin.

During the seven-week project, True Beauty Discovery's founder, Lakewood actress and writer Holly Fulger, led twice weekly sessions with the girls. The sessions were designed to help the girls explore their identities through photos and captions, express their voices, and understand their "legendary" qualities. Through weekly themes – The Image of Me, Family, The Mask I Wear, Joy and My Power, and My Voice – the girls shared their stories and self-discovery through photog-

raphy, collage and mixed-media art. Each piece they created reflects their courage, creativity and unique "legend" that guides them.

The goal of True Beauty Discovery is to rewrite the rules about what it means to be beautiful, powerful and capable. Its movement empowers girls ages 11-19 to lead with authenticity and strength, guiding them from "how do I look?" to "who am I becoming?" This is done through storytelling, mentorship, and the Seven Legends Identity Framework. True Beauty Discovery thrives to create brave spaces where girls can embrace their identities, amplify their voices and step into leadership.

At the exhibit at 78<sup>th</sup> Street Studios each girl had an opportunity to present her curated photos and an artist statement. "This project has been inspiring. It is designed to empower the girls to see themselves – and the world – through a new lens," said Fulger.

Guests at the show had an opportunity to support the artists and True Beauty Discovery's mission by purchasing raffle tickets or donating to receive greeting cards featuring the girls' original artwork.

Sponsors of *IlluminateHER* include Studiothink, Creative Duality, Ronald Bolender, Impressia Bank and 78<sup>th</sup> Street Studios.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio (BGCNEO) provide

## Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Coalition gives green teams across city chance to write their own headlines

by Greg Cznadel

Cleveland Parks and Greenspace Coalition held its 2025 Park Advocate Night December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the ThirdSpace Action Lab, 1464 E. 105<sup>th</sup> Street. Tait Ferguson (Trust of Public Land), Erika Hood (Syatt), and India Hobbs led the group in an eventful night with twelve Cleveland neighborhoods and over 14 community led park and greenspace groups represented.

Bingo cards with action squares were passed out. Each square had an action item: Planted a tree, led a cleanup, bought or leased land, had been to a Park Advocate Night, used a fire hydrant to water plants. You had to circulate finding people who had met one of those requirements. Five in a row and you got a second chance lottery ticket. Greenspace Action Kits were given to the winners.

After this wonderful network breaker every group was then given a large post it to create a front-page headline and article shouting out their achievements for 2025. Their imaginations went wild. "Brooklyn Center Olympics," "2025

Peter Rabbit Project", "EXtra EXtra Read all about it! Coit Park Cleanup!" Hopefully, some to appear in local papers, like perhaps "Old Brooklyn Branches Out."

The "Slavic Village Gardeners Take Over Fleet Avenue" headline boasted how The Slavic Village Gardeners take an hour every week during the summer and go into a flowerbed along Fleet Ave. and weed it.

Friends of Cudell Park prevented the murder of over 80 trees, had the second annual dog costume contest (King Regis won), and had the first ever Crush event where they crushed live Lantern Flies to live local music.

The artist attendees showed up. Brooklyn Center Olympics front page had flowers, trash bags, stacked boxes and a Lego hill with Lego cars. Old Brooklyn's tree with branches and roots (idea by Tree Steward Josh Maxwell), told of their 2025 achievements. Each group presented their "Headline" with a story. Erich Hooper, founder of Hooper Farm in the Tremont neighborhood, from memory, recited part of a poem

he had written for their group.

For 2026, "Old Brooklyn Branches Out" will be different from things they did in this previous year.

As trees in most of the parks are now three years old and maintenance, pruning, and mulching will still be needed, watering, a major task throughout the summer, will not be consistent. And as many residents, mostly spread out, have already obtained a tree from our "Free Residential Tree" program, it was decided to branch off in a different direction.

Hope Fierro, head Tree Steward Coordinator, interviewed the stewards one on one to get input on where we have been and where we should go. It was decided to form action teams. A team to spearhead communications, a Facebook Page: taking pictures at different events. To inventory and map the trees in each park, clean and maintain tools. Our main focus will still be on planting trees, increasing our canopy coverage.

Being difficult to spread the word across all the homes in Old Brooklyn, it was decided to pick one street, Witchita. On that street, tree stewards plan to go door to door selling our wares: who we are, why we need to increase our canopy coverage, and then ask if residents would like a tree.

The "trunk" of the project will be to help in the purchase and planting of 54 trees on Broadview Road next year. In the past we did not plant on city tree lawns (could with city permission) but focused on private properties because there was a huge gap to be filled. But as Cleveland, led by Phil Kidd, is working on a de-paving project along City streets (remove the concrete near the curbs of the street), it was agreed to have the Stewards help plant trees in the new tree lawns along either side of the road, then water and maintain them. Phil Kidd works for the Mayor's Office of Capital Projects managing the Complete & Green Streets program.

Also, with the help of Steward and Master Gardener Barbara Caldwell, planters will be installed throughout the tree lawn with native plants. As long as While stewards are watering the trees, they might as well pull the weeds. Instructional tree talks and walks will still be a part of our program.



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG

Saturday, November 22, 2025, *IlluminateHER: A Photo Narrative Gallery*, 78<sup>th</sup> Street Studios, 1300 W. 78<sup>th</sup> Street: Holly Fulger, Lakewood actress, writer and founder of the nonprofit organization True Beauty Discovery joined with girls from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Northeast Ohio's Broadway Club in twice weekly sessions to help the girls explore their identities through photography and writing captions to describe what the photos mean to them.

safe, fun places for youth ages 6-18 to go after school, with an emphasis on academic success, healthy lifestyles, character and leadership development and life and workforce readiness. There is no charge to join a Club. BGCNEO operates 30 Clubs in six counties.

**Plain Press:**  
For advertising rates --  
email Ed Tishel at:  
[plainpressads@yahoo.com](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)  
or call  
216-978-2361

### PEOPLE BEFORE PROFITS

continued from page 3

a toboggan run, a cross country ski trail, a downhill ski hill, a skating rink, skateboarding decks, playgrounds, rock climbing areas, a miniature golf course, a fairgrounds area for arts and crafts fairs, a dog park, a sculpture garden, a public vegetable, flower garden and greenhouse, an exercise and fitness course, a Ferris wheel, a kite flying field, tennis, pickleball and squash courts or a roller blading and running course and walking meditation paths, to identify just a handful of people-centric, family-oriented possibilities.

Unlike many public areas in the city, public restrooms MUST be provided in close proximity to all spaces.

The point is the lakefront must not be myopically focused on commercialism and making money for a few. We have plenty of that now in downtown Cleveland, and a lot more is planned and on the way. The lakefront can be FOR THE PEOPLE, ALL THE PEOPLE and as such, we need to find ways for ALL the

people to be able to easily access it, use it, profit and learn from it and be able to AFFORD it.

To the extent commercial ventures are launched, they must be accessible and affordable to use and THEY MUST PAY LIVING WAGES WITH BENEFITS TO CLEVELAND RESIDENTS.

With that said, can business and manufacturers be induced to locate on the lakefront to finally deliver ample family supporting salaries to Cleveland's endemically poor urban population?

The massive construction needed to make this all happen must be awarded to preferentially minority and women-owned businesses, domiciled in the City of Cleveland. It's time to bring to an end the obscene economic extraction that outside entities enjoy; plundering the fiscal vitality of our city's heritage and natural resources to benefit an elite few.

To the extent housing is contemplated, it must be predominantly affordable and workforce, and there must be ample housing that people can purchase

and own. We have more than enough fancy high-end, rental palaces that are making investors, property owners and managers, developers, bankers and landlords fabulously wealthy, feasting on the "can't lose" backstop of cheap land, extravagant tax abatements, Opportunity Zone and other tax advantages and sky-high rents driven up by their supply side market manipulation.

The "bottom line" or "net net" is simply this: lakefront development must be as natural as possible, family-oriented and benefit all the people, especially those that have suffered the insidious indignities in this community of forced segregation, racism and poverty. The key is affordable attractions and leisure pursuits as well as ample high-quality, full-time jobs with benefits for Cleveland's chronically disenfranchised residents.

It's finally time to invest heavily in Cleveland's people, rather than catering doggedly to developers' profit and investors' profit demands.

Arthur Hargate  
Ward 6, Little Italy

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](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)

Plain Press  
Community  
Guide  
Be There!  
Buy a Square!

## Legal Aid may be able to help with estate planning and administration

by **Tonya Sams**

We all hope to live long, healthy lives, but it is also important to plan ahead to protect our assets. This means ensuring that loved ones will reap the benefits of our hard work and efforts in this life. This can be made possible through estate planning.

The first thing that people should be aware of is that there is a difference between estate planning and administration.

“Estate planning means putting plans in place so that when someone dies, things go the way they want them to go. Their belongings will go to the people that they want to have them and they’re able to put somebody in charge of who’s going to handle the estate,” said Helen Rapp, a Staff Attorney in the Economic Justice Group at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Estate administration happens as the result of somebody dying with probate assets. This is when the family of the deceased wants those assets distributed, so they open a case in probate court.

“If you do really good estate planning, probate court and estate administration can often be avoided,” said Rapp. “Probate court is a time-consuming process. There are fees associated with it and because it’s filed in court, everything becomes public record.”

When starting an estate plan, the person should establish a last will and testament. The last will and testament declares who the executor will be. The executor is the person who will oversee the estate after the person dies. The executor has a number of duties including paying

for the funeral, paying debts and distributing the assets of the estate in the way that the deceased person requested in their will.

The estate plan also names the beneficiaries, or those who will eventually receive the person’s assets.

“Any asset you have that has a beneficiary on it is not a probate asset - it will not be required to go through probate court,” Helen said. “An example of this is life insurance and retirement accounts. These accounts are transferred to the beneficiary upon death. You can name a beneficiary on just about everything. If it involves your home, you can do a Transfer on Death Designation Affidavit (TODDA), which allows you to name a beneficiary on real estate.”

In addition to making sure your wishes are followed, an estate plan should include Power of Attorney (POA) documents that let you appoint agents to act on your behalf while you are living. These agents can make decisions for you anytime you cannot make them for yourself. This includes a financial POA and a healthcare POA. An estate plan should also include a living will which documents your thoughts about end-of-life matters.

For Legal Aid’s estate planning brochure, go to: [lascleve.org/EstatePlanning](https://lascleve.org/EstatePlanning).

Need help with estate planning? Legal Aid may be able to help! To apply for free legal services, call 888-817-3777 or apply online: [lascleve.org/apply](https://lascleve.org/apply).

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



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG

Friday, December 12, 2025; Sisters Haven Open House, 1986 W. 99<sup>th</sup> Street: Nurses from MetroHealth Medical Center sit on the bed in one of seven bedrooms in Sisters Haven. MetroHealth Medical Center sponsored the fully designed makeover of this bedroom.

## SISTERS HAVEN

continued from page one

Murchison will serve as Executive Director of Operations.

Co-Founder and Director of Development Julie Mallett said, “Opening Sisters Haven is a milestone made possible by love, prayer, and a community that believes in the dignity of every mother and child. The Dream Bedroom Makeover provides a beautiful way for people to participate. Every vote is a welcome gift to the moms and babies who will soon call this place home.”

The Co-Founders noted the community-built transformation of the house on W. 99<sup>th</sup> Street in the Cudell neighborhood. A statement from Sisters Haven said, “Local con-

tractors, businesses, churches, and volunteers have poured their time and talent into creating this healing home, showcased through seven stunning Dream Bedroom Makeover designs.”

Sisters Haven plans to be open before Christmas of 2025 to begin serving pregnant and parenting women experiencing homelessness or crisis.

Sisters Haven founders say the home will help fill a critical gap in services in Cleveland where there are “very few housing options for pregnant women in crisis. Sisters Haven offers dignity, stability and hope to women who urgently need support.”

Chris Knestrick, Executive Director, Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless, confirms that statement

saying: “Sadly, there are too few housing options for pregnant women experiencing homelessness in our community. The arrival of Sisters Haven will be a lifesaving option for pregnant women who are sleeping on the streets of Cleveland. Providing a therapeutic and caring space for these women brings us one step closer to ending homelessness.”

Sisters Haven describes itself as a Cleveland-based nonprofit providing safe housing and a supportive community for pregnant and parenting women experiencing homelessness or lacking a reliable support system. Rooted in dignity, love, and community, Sisters Haven empowers mothers to build stable, thriving futures for themselves and their children. Learn more at [www.sisters-haven.org](https://www.sisters-haven.org).

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

**Support Our Advertisers!**  
**They Support the Plain Press!**

# Fixer Upper Home Repair Loan

# 2.99% APR

**Borrow \$9,900 and pay only \$53 per month.\***

### With the Third Federal Fixer Upper Loan you get:

- 2.99% APR is fixed for the life of the loan
- 12-month draw period with 20-year repayment period
- No hidden fees or upfront costs
- No minimum draw
- No annual fee



Scan to learn more and apply!

**ThirdFederal**  
SAVINGS & LOAN

**1-833-853-7334**  
[thirdfederal.com/community](https://thirdfederal.com/community)

\*Actual 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 8/29/2025 and are subject to change. Fixed 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. ©2025 Third Federal.





PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, December 9, 2025; Cleveland Board of Education Meeting, Max Hayes High School, 2211 W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street: Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) Chief Operating Officer Warren Morgan urges families with children whose schools will be transitioning to another building to visit the CMSD School Choice portal between January 5<sup>th</sup> and February 27<sup>th</sup> to indicate if they are accepting CMSD's placement offer or are making another school choice. The School Choice portal will be on the CMSD website at: [www.clevelandmetroschools.org](http://www.clevelandmetroschools.org).

**BUILDING BRIGHTER**  
continued from page one

expenses were not made. With both State and Federal education funding declining and any growth from local property taxes being diverted from the School District via 15-year tax abatements, CMSD is faced with little choice but to dramatically reduce expenses. The school closings and consolidations are expected to reduce expenses for the School District by about \$30 million per year.

Both the Board of Education and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Warren Morgan offered a whole range of benefits they believe the consolidation of schools will provide. They say the new facilities plan will allow for more students to be in higher quality buildings. The increased size of student bodies and teaching staffs will allow for more academic course offerings and extracurricular activities in each school. They believe the consolidation of schools will also

allow the School District to maximize the use of its limited resources.

They cited some grim academic performance statistics that they hope to be able to improve by means of the Building Brighter Futures Plan. The Plan calls for progress toward the following District goals: "1) Early Literacy Goal: The percentage of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who are proficient in English Language Arts will increase from 35% in August 2024 to 60% by August 2030; Math Proficiency Goal: The percentage of first-time test takers proficient in Algebra 1 will increase from 26% in August 2024 to 50% by August 2030; and 3) College Readiness Goal: The percentage of the 4-year graduation cohort who will meet at least one college-ready indicator – American College Testing (ACT)/Stanford Achievement Test (SAT) College Ready, Honors Diploma, Advanced Placement (AP)/Individualized Program (IP) College Ready,

or 12+ college credits – will increase from 8.2% in August 2024 to 25% by August 2030."

CEO Warren Morgan said many of the issues brought up by students, teachers, parents, staff members and the public will be addressed in the implementation of the Building Brighter Futures Plan. Some of the concerns raised included size of buildings, available parking for teachers, longer distances for students to travel, provisions for English learners and bilingual education, retention of Hispanic educators, and dissemination of information to families in Spanish and other languages.

While the plan calls for transitioning schools to move to welcoming schools, it became evident from public testimony that there may not be space to accommodate all Special Education students in the welcoming schools – testimony indicated that this was upsetting

to parents, teachers and students. Special Education teachers testifying before the Board of Education say that while enrollment in CMSD has declined overall, the number of Special Education students has remained relatively the same over the past 20 years. Currently over 8,000 CMSD students qualify as Special Education students. Board Chair Sara Elaqaq says 27% of CMSD students are students with disabilities. She said public schools are required to accommodate students with disabilities. She also stressed that CMSD could not function properly without meeting the needs of students who make up such a large portion of the student population.

CEO Morgan explained that Special Education students have three different educational settings – students in regular education, students in small group room settings, and students in separate Special Education classroom. The settings students learn in are determined by the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). He said Special Education students in regular education classrooms and in small group settings will be moving with the student body from their current school to a welcoming school for next school year. The uncertainty lies with the students requiring separate Special Education classrooms as to whether there will be space in the welcoming school building.

CEO Morgan said that the District would have a better idea as to being able to have sufficient space for the Special Education students who require separate classrooms when families complete the process of choosing their school for next school year. He said the Family Choice window will be from January 5<sup>th</sup> to February 27<sup>th</sup> of 2026. He urged all families impacted by school changes to make a choice during that period. Students can choose their welcoming school or another school as CMSD is an open enrollment district. CEO Morgan stressed the importance of families picking a school during the Family Choice window. He said this will allow the School District to properly staff buildings and offer space to special programs.

If there is not space for the Special Education students in the welcoming school that their current school is moving to, they will be assigned to another school. As CMSD is an open enrollment school district, parents will be able to exercise other choices where appropriate special education classrooms are located. Morgan said letters will go out to families with Special Education students with notifications of assigned schools.

CMSD staff will also follow up with phone calls beginning on January 12th to discuss further options that may be available.

Another facility space issue was brought up in testimony by CMSD School Psychologists. They stressed the need for private spaces in the school buildings where they can have private meetings with students. CEO Morgan again said the District would be looking at filling that need during the implementation of the Building Brighter Futures Plan.

Students also expressed some concerns about the continuity of academic plans and the class rankings of students when merging with another high school. This was of particular concern to students in the Campus International High School International Baccalaureate (IB) Program that will be merged into John Hay High School.

**High School Consolidations**


The Building Brighter Futures Plan calls for several high schools already located in the same building to consolidated into one high school. Other high schools will be closed and merged into welcoming schools.

The three high schools housed in the John Marshall building at 3952 W. 140<sup>th</sup> Street – John Marshall School of Engineering, John Marshall School of Civic and Business Leadership, and John MarschII School of Information Technology -- will become one school, John Marshall High School.


The two high schools now housed in the Lincoln West building – Lincoln West School of Global Studies and Lincoln West School of Science and Health – will be merged to become Lincoln West High School. Next school year, Lincoln West High School will be housed in a swing school site at 4016 Woodbine Avenue. It will remain there until a new Lincoln West High School is built at 3202 W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street.


Two high schools now in the James Ford Rhodes building at 5100 Biddulph Avenue – the James Ford Rhodes School of Environmental Studies and the James Ford Rhodes College and Career Academy will be merged to become James Ford Rhodes High School. In addition, James Ford Rhodes will become the welcoming school for two high schools that are slated to close – New Tech West High School at 11801 Worthington Avenue and Facing History New Tech High School at 3213 Montclair Avenue.

Garrett Morgan School of Leadership and Innovation and Garrett Morgan School of Engineering and Innovation will be merged to become Garrett Morgan High School and re-continued on page 7



**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.*



## 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](http://www.lhshealth.com)

**BUILDING BRIGHTER**

continued from page 6

main at the current location at 4600 Detroit Avenue.

Three schools now housed in the John Hay building at 2075 Stokes Boulevard – Cleveland School of Science and Medicine, Cleveland School of Architecture and Design and Cleveland Early College High School will be merged to become John Hay High School. In addition, John Hay will become the welcoming school for Campus International High School which is now at 3100 Chester Avenue.

Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School and Cleveland High School for Digital Arts will be merged to become Benjamin O. Davis Jr. High School and remain in the same building at 1440 Lakeside Avenue.

East Technical High School at 2439 E. 55<sup>th</sup> Street will become the welcoming school for the MC2 STEM High School now housed at three locations in downtown Cleveland.

Collinwood High School at 15210 St. Clair Avenue and will close and merged into Glenville High School at 650 E. 113<sup>th</sup> Street. The School of One in the Collinwood building will also move to be housed in the Glenville High School building.

**Pre-K to Grade Eight Schools**

Next school year, all the CMSD elementary schools will be pre-kindergarten to grade eight schools except Campus International which will not serve pre-kindergarten students.

On the West Side of Cleveland several elementary schools will be closing and transitioning to another welcoming school building for next school year.

Louisa May Alcott (Kindergarten to Grade 5) at 10308 Baltic and Waverly School at 1805 W. 57<sup>th</sup> will be merging with Joseph M. Gallagher School at 6601 Franklin Boulevard.

Tremont Montessori School at 2409 W. 10<sup>th</sup> will be moving to the Waverly School building at 1807 W. 57<sup>th</sup>. The name of the school will be changed to Waverly Montessori.

Mary Church Terrell School at 3595 Bosworth Road will be closing and merging with Wilbur Wright School at 11005 Parkhurst Drive. The merged school will be called Wilbur Wright School of the Arts.

Charles A. Mooney School at 3212 Montclair Avenue will be closing and merging with Denison School at 3799 Denison Avenue.

Valley View Boys Leadership Academy at 17200 Valleyview Avenue will close and along with the Kenneth W. Clement Boys' Leadership Academy at 14311 Woodworth will move to the former Mary Bethune building at 11815 Moulton Avenue in the Glenville neighborhood on the East Side of Cleveland. The merged schools will be called Kenneth W. Clement Boys'

Leadership Academy.

On the East Side of Cleveland ten additional school buildings will be closed while the students transition to a welcoming school.

Hannah Gibbons-Nottingham at 1401 Larchmont Road will close and merge with Memorial School at 410 W. 152<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Euclid Park School at 17914 Euclid Avenue will close and merge with East Clark School at 885 E. 146<sup>th</sup> Street.

Stephanie Tubbs Jones at 11901 Durant Avenue will close and merge with Franklin D. Roosevelt at 800 Linn Drive. The merged school will be called Stephanie Tubs Jones School.

The vacated Stephanie Tubbs Jones School building at 11901 Durant Avenue will become the Michael R. White Montessori School. Relocating to that building will be the Stonebrook-White Montessori School which will be vacating two buildings, the Michael R. White building at 1000 E. 92<sup>nd</sup> and the Stonebrook Building at 975 East Boulevard.

Mary McLeod Bethune School at 11815 Moulton Ave will move and merge with Daniel E. Morgan at 8912 Morris Court. As mentioned above the Mary Bethune School Building will become the new Kenneth W. Clement Boys' Leadership Academy.

Mary B. Martin School at 8200 Brookline Avenue will close and merge with Wade Park School at 7600 Wade Park Avenue.

Alfred A. Benesch School at 5393 Quincy Avenue will close and merge with George Washington Carver School at 2200 E. 55<sup>th</sup> Street.

Bolton School at 9803 Quebec Avenue will close and merge with Harvey Rice School at 2730 E. 116<sup>th</sup> Street.

Charles Dickens school at 13013 Corlett Avenue will close and merge with Andrew J. Rickoff School at 3500 E. 147<sup>th</sup> Street.

Adlai Stevenson School at 18300 Woda Avenue will close and merge with Whitney M. Young Leadership Academy at 17900 Harvard Avenue.

Miles School at 11918 Miles Avenue will close and merge with Robert H. Jamison at 4092 W. 146<sup>th</sup> Street.

Dike School of the Arts at 2501 W. 61<sup>st</sup> Street will close and merge with Mound School at 5935 Ackley Road. The merged school will be called Mound School of the Arts.

In addition to all the movement and merging of schools, two schools, although not moving or merging, will be renamed. The Warner Girls' Leadership Academy at 8313 Jeffers Avenue will be renamed the Mary B. Martin Girls' Leadership Academy. The Douglas MacArthur Girls' Leadership Academy at 4401 Valleyside Road will be renamed the Mary McLeod Bethune Girls' Leadership Academy.

Step Forward, our county's community action agency, is now the only provider of HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) in Cuyahoga County. Phone number: 216-480-4327. Locations: 1801 Superior Ave. and 2203 Superior Ave. Step Forward welcomes walk-ins Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 12 pm. For more information, visit [stepforwardtoday.org](http://stepforwardtoday.org).

**HEAP WINTER CRISIS PROGRAM:** Is your power disconnected or about to be shut off? The Home Energy Assistance Program's Winter Crisis Program, administered by Step Forward, may be able to help! This program provides a one-time benefit per heating season to help eligible Cuyahoga County households restore or maintain heat and electric service during the winter months. Households at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (about \$52,500 for a family of four) may qualify if their service has been disconnected, they have received a disconnection notice, or they have 25% or less bulk fuel remaining in their tank. Assistance is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call our 24/7 hotline at 216-480-HEAP (4327) to schedule an appointment, or visit [stepforwardtoday.org](http://stepforwardtoday.org).

**SCHOOL FUNDING**

continued from page one

high-quality by state officials. It's part of the \$500 million the Trump administration will allocate to charter school grant programs this fiscal year. U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon made the announcement at the Center for Christian Virtue's offices during a press conference with Gov. DeWine and U.S. Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-OH).

"Secretary McMahon's dedication to empowering parents over bureaucrats to make the best educational choices for their children inspires hope for Ohio families. Her commitment to practical, community-rooted education shines brightly in the heartland, and I'm grateful she joined me in Ohio," said Moreno during the press conference in September.

Ohio Senate lawmakers closed tax loopholes to offset the cost of a \$1.68 billion tax cut that primarily benefits the highest-paid 20% of Ohioans. According to Policy Matters Ohio, prioritizing tax cuts over school funding directly reduces the resources available to meet community educational needs. In 2027, the income tax cut will eliminate about \$1.1 billion annually. This reduction limits the state's capacity to meet constitutional obligations to fund public education. Under the Ohio Senate budget plan, 73% of Ohio's school districts would receive less than the amounts recommended by the Fair School Funding Plan for adequate education.

The Ohio legislature has passed bills focusing on property tax relief and reform. These actions, such as abolishing or heavily cutting property taxes, could significantly reduce public school funding, as schools rely on property tax revenue. Expanded voucher programs could also divert more funds to private schools. These bills are now awaiting the governor's signature, and their implementation could further shift funding away from traditional public schools.

As part of CMSD's plan, Tremont Montessori, Cleveland's sole public Montessori school (PreK-8), will move to Waverly Montessori next fiscal year. Tremont Montessori was the first public elementary Montessori school in Ohio to earn national accreditation from the American Montessori Society. Current students will continue to receive district-wide transportation to the Waverly building at 1805 E 57<sup>th</sup> Street.

Several Tremont residents spoke out against the plan on social media, calling it an awful idea and saying extensive repairs were the cause for the move. Someone described the building as a pizza oven.

In 2019, the CMSD board considered building a new Tremont Montessori school, but the plan failed to gain enough support. The decision last month will effectively close the building, leaving residents wondering what might happen next.

[org/winter-crisis-program](http://org/winter-crisis-program) to learn more. The program runs from November 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

**VOLUNTEERS**

**LEAD SAFE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Help protect your neighbors from lead poisoning and raise awareness about the importance of lead-safe housing by volunteering with CLASH (Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing). Volunteer opportunities include canvassing and dropping off literature at CMHA properties where lead risk assessments are scheduled, tabling at community events, and doing online public



PHOTO BY BRUCE CHECEFSKY

Friday, December 12, 2025; Tremont Montessori School building, 2409 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street: The Tremont School building is one of the school buildings that the Cleveland Metropolitan School District has decided to close as part of its Building Brighter Futures plan. The Montessori school in the building now will move to be housed at the Waverly School building at 1805 W. 57<sup>th</sup> Street. The Tremont Montessori School will be renamed Waverly Montessori School.

Because the school district owns and manages the school property, the Ohio Revised Code requires several steps before a public sale. The school district must offer it as a rental property to any interested charter or private school. The district must consider plans for the property that could benefit the community, such as a park, playground, or recreational space, before selling it. Eventually, someone could renovate the building or tear it down to make way for commercial real estate, given the condition.

Executive Director of Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC), Julie Dahlhausen, said that TWDC is not advocating for a specific outcome relative to the property, but she is working with newly elected Ward 7 Councilperson Austin Davis to hold a public forum sometime early next year to discuss the community's needs.

"We have a soft plan for February or March to convene a community-wide conversation," she said. "Our focus is on the immediate needs of the community."

Dahlhausen said she expects CSMD to provide early notification and clear guidelines for public input, with TWDC and Councilperson Davis to provide community engagement. She said that none of the real estate developers had approached her about

the massive property. An acre of land in Tremont is rare, and with property prices skyrocketing in the neighborhood, the 3-acre site could be worth millions.

Tremont lacks a viable grocery store, among other amenities. A recent surge in car break-ins has kept residents wondering about safety.

"The things that make a neighborhood great to live, work, and do business in certainly include things like a grocery store, and I would expect that to be an option to discuss," she added.

**Plain Press**

For Advertising Information, email Ed

Tishel at:

[plainpressads](mailto:plainpressads@yahoo.com)

[@yahoo.com](mailto:@yahoo.com)

or call 216-978-2361

**Business Directory**

Accountant

**QUICK FIX TAX SERVICES**

WE STRAIGHTEN OUT MESSSES

RECORDS IN A MESS?  
IS IRS ON YOUR BACK?  
MAKE CHANGES TO HELP  
LOWER TAXES AND SAVE  
ON TAX PREPARATION.  
KNOW PERSON WHO DOES?  
REFER THEM, EARN CASH  
CALL (216) 400-7117

**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](mailto:artfla@msn.com)

**COMMUNITY BOARD**

continued from page 2

addiction. Join us every Wednesday in January from 4 pm to 5 pm at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (8216 Lorain Ave.) to learn about how to help loved ones experiencing addiction, how to use self care and stress reduction techniques to take care of yourself, and how to access resources to make your lives easier. Call 216-664-3891 to register today! (Participants must register to be included in the giveaway.)

**HOMELESS**

**IF YOU NEED SHELTER,** contact Cuyahoga County's Coordinated Intake office at 216-674-6700. Hours of operation: 8 am – 6 pm, Monday – Friday. After hours and weekends, please call 2-1-1. If it is after hours, women in need of assistance may also go directly to Norma Herr Women's Center, 2227 Payne Ave., and staff will assist you in contacting Coordinated Intake the following day.

**UTILITY ASSISTANCE**  
**IMPORTANT HEAP UPDATE:**

**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.**

**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.

**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.

## Developer of former Broadview Savings/Citizens Bank buildings awarded \$6 million in Cleveland Port Authority bond funds

by Lynette Filips

December has just ten days remaining as this January issue of the *Plain Press* is prepared for the printer. Based on the headline on the article in the *Old Brooklyn News Winter issue*, "Momentum Builds at Memphis & Pearl: REMEDIATION ANTICIPATED TO BEGIN BY THE END OF 2025," I feared that construction fencing (more accurately, demolition fencing) would soon encircle the historic corner.

To my delight, the fencing which has been erected at Pearl and Memphis is on the other side of Pearl Rd. at the two buildings most recently vacated by Citizens Bank; happily, they are on the verge of becoming *Pearl Road Residences*. I wrote about these them in August 2025, in one of my articles about the *South Brooklyn Commercial District on the National Register of Historic Places*. Most older Old Brooklyn residents think of them as the Broadview Savings and Loan buildings, but the news releases describing the historic adaptation project refer to the northern building

as having first been occupied by the South Brooklyn Savings and Loan. They further state that both structures were built in 1930 and that they are connected by a tunnel built in 1949.

The 2004/2005 application to make the buildings part of the National Register states that the first floor of the Broadview Savings and Loan building, 4221 Pearl Rd., was constructed in 1948 and that the building at 4209 Pearl Rd. was constructed in 1930. It refers to the 1930 building as the Broadview Savings and Loan annex and makes no mention of a former bank having been there. It further states that the second floor of the main Broadview Savings building was added in 1955 and that the tunnel connecting the two buildings was a 1963 addition. I am inclined to trust the research done by the individuals who submitted the application for downtown Old Brooklyn's place on the National Register over that of the developer who submitted (conflicting) historical information on his applications for grants and loans.

At any rate, last month the Cleve-

land-Cuyahoga County Port Authority Board of Directors chose the future Pearl Road Residences as one of two recipients of their final funds distribution for 2025. (The redevelopment of Richmond Mall was the other project which received revenue from the Port Authority in this round.) The Residences received \$6 million in capital lease taxable revenue bonds, and in combination with the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits which Pearl Road Residences were previously awarded (in two different rounds), the Beachwood-based Turn Dev company — which specializes in historic rehabilitation and urban redevelopment — is now able to begin their \$8.9 million project in Old Brooklyn. Without altering the exteriors, it will put 5 townhouses and 24 apartments into the historic buildings. The site, which is immediately next to MetroHealth's Old Brooklyn campus, will also include adequate parking, pickleball courts, a dog park and other amenities for the tenants.

Some readers may be wondering how a project this far from the mouth of the Cuyahoga



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, December 13, 2025; Christmas Party with Santa, Story Church, 9900 Madison Avenue: Jordan Nettles, age 7, visits with Santa.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, December 13, 2025; Julia De Burgos Cultural Arts Center's Parrandón Navideño, 2800 Archwood Avenue: Members of the Julia de Burgos youth dance team Sabor Latino offer entertainment to children and families awaiting a visit from Santa and The Three Kings.

### 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 2pm to 4pm  
1st Saturday of the Month  
10am to 12pm Clothes \$1 a bag

River has anything to do with the Port Authority. Since 1993, the Port has expanded from just being interested in the freighters on the Cuyahoga and has also made the economic health of all of Northeast Ohio a priority. To accomplish the second goal, they sell bonds to investors at a higher-than-average rate of return on the dollars invested. Then the Port Authority, a non-profit, loans the money at a

lower-than-average rate to developers. There are also tax advantages to the process. Visit [portofcleveland.com](http://portofcleveland.com) for more specific information about what the entity does.

Now for some updates about the businesses/ organization who have been affected by the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation's (OBCDC's) plans for the extreme makeover of the northwest corner of Pearl Rd. and Memphis Ave. — My article last month "ran off the page" and was thus continued on the *Plain Press* website, [www.plainpress.blog](http://www.plainpress.blog). When my words in the newspaper abruptly stopped, I was relating how employees from Weleski Transfer were packing the contents of the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn's (HSOB) Museum/archives into crates to be stored at the business' facility on Tiedeman Rd. and how the HSOB's relocation committee was hoping to soon be signing a rental lease

for an undisclosed storefront in Old Brooklyn. Unfortunately, nothing has changed. The crates are still in storage and a new lease has not been signed. A lawyer representing the HSOB and a lawyer representing the building owner have been working out the details of a possible lease. The HSOB is still planning on meeting on January 9th (as usual, the second Friday of every other month) but they don't yet know where it will be held.

OBCDC also evicted Maria the Barberette from the shop had she operated for 18 years in the Greenline Building complex at 3432 Memphis Ave. Because she has children and cutting hair is her livelihood, there was no possibility for Maria to put her business into storage.

The two places on Pearl Rd. that OBCDC's agent suggested to her (one next to Pearl Road Tavern and the other across the street from Urban Kutz barber shop) were not acceptable relocation spots. Fortunately, a customer found Maria a place that would work for her. With the help of family and customer-friends, in November Maria moved into a vacant building at 4748 Broadview Rd., next to Metropolitan Coffee. Her two-year lease has already been paid in its entirety with relocation funds. But Maria's rent is now almost three times what she was paying on Memphis Ave. and Maria could not afford to pay it by herself after this lease is over. Because it is a bigger space, Maria is hoping that eventually she will find another barber(s) to rent a chair from her. She's received her license from the State of Ohio and is usually at the shop 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. - 8 p.m. (The missing 45 minutes is for picking her young daughter up from school.) During the week she just cuts men's hair but on Sunday she will cut women's hair as well.

Pearl Road Methodist Church (PRUMC) still doesn't know when they will be told to vacate their building (which technically is no longer their building since they gave it to OBCDC). They were able to celebrate one last Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service in their familiar worship space. Presuming that the vacate date is imminent, they have given away virtually everything in their Fellowship Hall, in the kitchen and throughout the building. And the secretary has the files in the office packed up for the move. They don't have another church/worship space to move to yet, but they have been looking. There is a vacant church on Memphis Ave. in Brooklyn which has drawn some interest, but no lease agreement has been signed. The previous quarter-time pastor, Rev. Matt Whisenhunt, has been gone for months, but a new quarter-time pastor, the Rev. Dr. Lisa Zambarano, officially replaced him in October. Her full-time job is Spiritual Director at the Cleveland Clinic, as well as being the mother of three children of high school and college age. The Zambarano family lives in Fairview Park.

The Community Meals which PRUMC has held in their fellowship hall on various days over the decades ceased at the end of October. At that time the meals were sponsored by the "Brookside Cluster Community Meals" program and were offered on the last two Sundays of the month. The people who regularly attended were subsequently advised of another community meal on Sundays, held at the former Blessed Sacrament Church on Fulton Rd. at Trowbridge. It is called *The Wholeness Project*, doors open at 3:30 p.m. and the meal is served from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

I haven't heard of OBCDC yet securing adequate funding or parking spaces to complete the project they so desperately want to do. The time wasted waiting is all so unnecessary. I have a copy of the 2004 National Register application which speaks to the historical value of each of the buildings. And I have a copy of the November 30, 2022 plans drawn up by Sandvick Architects which Tom Yablonsky submitted to OBCDC. The total cost was projected to be between \$13 and \$14 million and because no historic structures were going to be destroyed, funding was available to cover most — if not all — of the cost. The project had an expected finish date of early 2025 and the most highly respected local preservation architect was behind the design. The historic adaptation teams Tom Yablonsky has brought together in the past have successfully transformed over 70 historic buildings in downtown Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. Why didn't the OBCDC Board select who (to me as well as to many others) was the obvious choice for their Memphis-Pearl Project? What am I missing?

### 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](http://staugustinecleveland.org)



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

### 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



### SCRANTON ROAD BIBLE CHURCH

Worship Service 3095 Scranton Road  
Sundays at 10:45am 216-861-7539

[www.scrantonroad.org](http://www.scrantonroad.org)

### Historic Saint Rocco Catholic Church & School

3205 Fulton Road, Cleveland OH 44109  
Ph: 216-961-8331 • Web: [saintroccoparish.org](http://saintroccoparish.org)

*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

#### Saint Rocco School: K thru 8th Grades

Offering STEM Program beginning Fall 25'

A new, safe and state of art facility for your children!

Ph: 216-961-8557

Free Tuition with Cleveland Voucher

Accepting EdChoice and

Jon Peterson Scholarship for children with IEP's

### Saint Ignatius Of Antioch Church

10205 Lorain Avenue (at West Boulevard)  
216-251-0300 • [SIOAPARISH.ORG](http://SIOAPARISH.ORG)

Jason R. Lewis, Parish Administrator  
Rev. Phill Bernier, OFM Cap., Priest Moderator

#### 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)

ADMITTS STUDENTS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, ETHNIC OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.  
**FREE TUITION THROUGH CLEVELAND SCHOLARSHIP**

SCHOOL PHONE:  
216-671-0535

