



PHOTO BY IAN HEISEY  
Saturday, February 14, 2026; Street Studio, St. Paul's Community Church, 4427 Franklin Avenue: Mike Fiala, a regular attendee at St. Paul's monthly Street Studio, recites some poetry. April's Street Studio will be held on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>. See the Community Board on page 2 for more information.

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

FREE

Vol. 53, No.4 April 2026

# Plain Press

Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

## Refugee Resource Center at St. Colman Parish welcomes families seeking new home in Cleveland

by Chuck Hoven and Debbie Sadlon

The Refugee Resource Center at Saint Colman Parish offers much needed resources to families of refugees residing in neighborhoods near the church. Started by Sister Rita Mary Harwood and Father Rob Reidy in 2022, the Refugee Resource Center now serves eight

hundred and eighty-eight families. Refugee families using the resources at St. Colman come from many countries. Some of those countries mentioned by staff and volunteers included Sudan, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Syria, and Afghanistan. Children and young adults, who have learned the English language in school, often

serve as translators for older community members – translating from languages such as Dari, Pashto, or Arabic.

According to Father Rob Reidy, the Refugee Resource Center provides refugee families with free resources they cannot get through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Family members can come in monthly to receive a bag filled with items such as toilet paper, paper towels, hygiene and bathing products.

In addition to the monthly bag of resources, families can pick up clothing, household items, and baby diapers.

Sister Rita Mary Harwood told the *Plain Press* that each family registers at the center and receives a membership card, "like they do at Costco," she added, "so they don't have to sign in each time they come - they just show their card."

During a tour for a youth group from Sagrada Familia Parish in Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, Father Reidy talked about the mission of Refugee Resource Center and encouraged the youths to read

continued on page 4

## St. Ignatius hosts discussion on criminal justice reform

by Bruce Checefsky

Tony Dipre, director of the Office for Human Life at the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, sat near the entrance to the Hummer Theatre at Saint Ignatius High School, directing people into the auditorium.

Dr. Brian Lovins, president of Justice System Partners, a nonprofit organization that helps the criminal and juvenile justice systems, was about to speak. Saint Ignatius High School and the Cleveland Catholic Diocese Office of Social Action and Office of Prison Ministry hosted his lecture.

"Tonight's event is part of a



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON  
February 2026; Refugee Resource Center, Saint Colman Church Hall: Sister Rita Mary Harwood, SND (Sisters of Notre Dame), talks to guests about the Refugee Resource Center and how it operates.

discussion, a community event around criminal justice reform as it pertains to parole," said Dipre. "My office, under the diocese, covers all life and human dignity issues from conception to natural death. People think of the church as the conception, beginning, and end of life, but life, death, and dignity involve everything in between. This is part of our Catholic social teaching at St. Ignatius."

Lovins, who earned his PhD in criminology from the University of Cincinnati, was standing in the back of the room waiting for people to be seated when he spoke to the

*Plain Press*.

"I do a lot of work with the criminal and juvenile justice systems to improve the effectiveness of the system," he said. "The role of the justice system, for me, is to help those who are struggling in their lives to get back on their feet and find successful paths to work to repair the harms they've done to the community and do great things in their lives."

Lovins explained during his slide presentation that balancing justice with mercy leads to better

continued on page 6



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON  
February 2026; Refugee Resource Center, Saint Colman Church Hall: Sister Rita Mary Harwood, SND, distributes bags of resources.

## Federal government mandates new work requirements for many SNAP recipients

by Che Gadison

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 (House Resolution 1) changed federal policy on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) eligibility that resulted in Ohioans who were formerly free from work requirements to receive SNAP benefits now having to meet those requirements.

Beginning February 1 of this year, some adults aged 18-64 who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are now required to either meet the 20-hour per week (80 hours/month) work requirement, participate in a SNAP E&T training program for at least 20 hours/week or qualify for an exemption. These new policy changes are referred to as the new "Able-Bodied Adults (ABAs) Work Rules."

Adults who previously were free from the work requirement, but must now meet those requirements include the following: Adults who are homeless; Veterans; Former foster youth; Caregivers with a child under 18, is now lowered to 14 years or younger; Adults 65 or older is now lowered to 55 or over

The work activity requirement can be met through paid employment, qualified

training or community service. If someone is NOT exempt and has not fulfilled the mandatory work requirements, then that recipient risks losing their SNAP benefits and will only have 3 months within a 3-year period to renew SNAP benefits back by meeting the work requirement for 30 days or getting an exemption. Otherwise, the recipient will not be eligible for SNAP benefits for three years. The first countable month of the 3-month grace period began on March 1st.

**You may be free from the work requirements for the following reasons:** 1). **Work or School Reasons where the applicant makes \$217.50 or more/week at work, receives or has applied for unemployment benefits or is in school or training program half time or more. A student enrolled at least half time; or Employed or self-employed and working a minimum of thirty hours per week.** 2). **Family Reasons that include:** someone who is a caregiver of a child under 14 (even if the child isn't eligible for SNAP) or they care for a child under 6, or a child or adult is disabled or needs your care (even if not living together or related). If you

continued on page 8

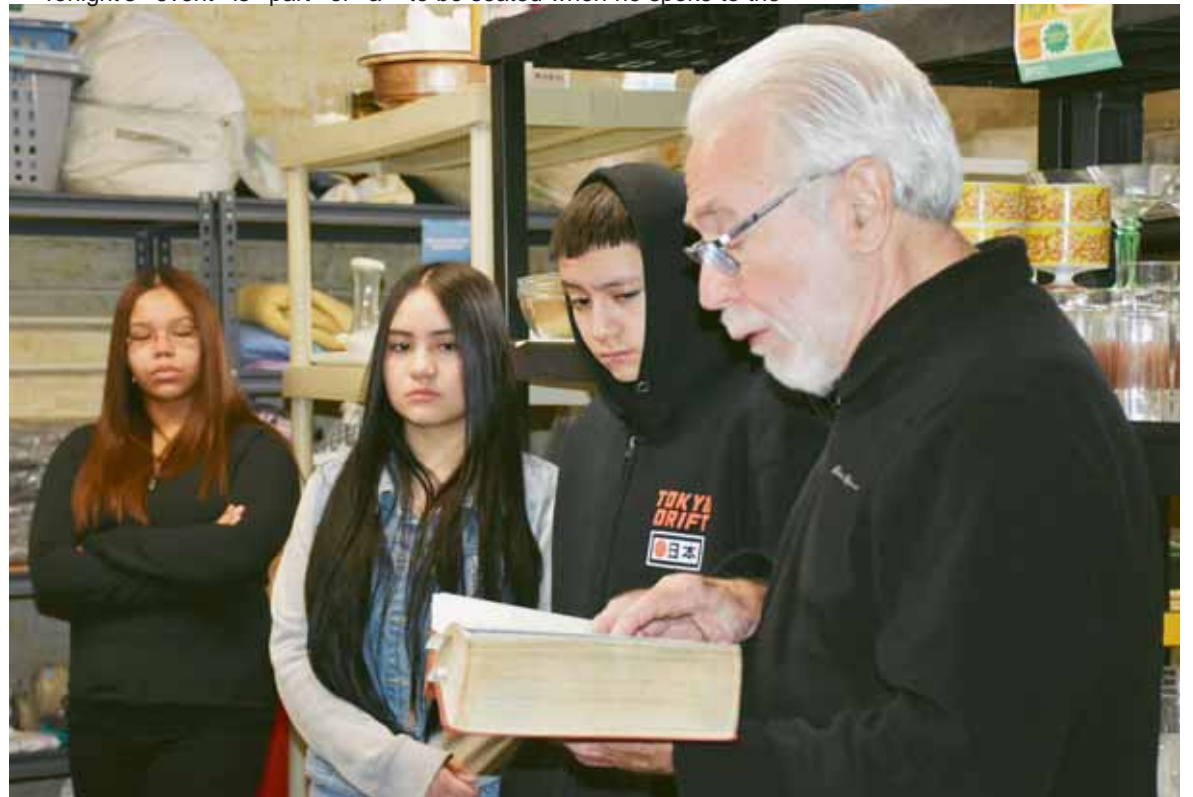


PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON  
February 2026; Refugee Resource Center, Saint Colman Church Hall: While giving a tour of the Refugee Resource Center and Saint Colman Church to a youth group from La Sagrada Familia Parish, Father Rob Reidy reads a bible passage from the Letter of James on the importance that faith be joined by works. Fr. Reidy said, "This is what social justice is all about."



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, March 17, 2026; W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street, just north of Saint Colman Church: Following a Saint Patrick's Day morning mass, members of the West Side Irish American Club stream out of St. Colman Church and head to buses waiting on W. 65<sup>th</sup> to take them downtown to participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

**ARTS**

**GET GRAPHIC! COMICS DISCUSSION (NEW LOCATION):** Join us on the first Thursday of each month at 6 pm at our new meetup spot, Forest City Brewery (2135 Forest City Brewery), for this free book club focused on comics and graphic novels. This year, we're highlighting works by Ohio natives. Our next two meetings will be April 2, featuring *The Toxic Avenger, Volume 1* by Matt Bors, and May 7, featuring *Wonder Woman Historia: The Amazons* by Kelly Sue DeConnick and Phil Jimenez. Copies of each book we discuss are available to check out at the Cleveland Public Library.

**STREET STUDIO:** This month's Street Studio will be Saturday, April 25

from 1 pm to 3 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).

**CONSUMER**

**FIX-IT CLE:** Have a broken item or piece of clothing that needs repair? Come to one of our free workshops where coaches help you fix your damaged item, while also teaching you skills that you can use to make future repairs yourself. This month, join us on Saturday, April 4 and Tuesday, April 14 at Ingenuity Labs (5401 Hamilton Ave.)



between 6 pm and 9 pm, or on Saturday, April 25 at the Carnegie West Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (1900 Fulton Rd.) between 12 pm and 3 pm. Please note that this is a drop-in event. You can drop in at any time during the allotted hours and stay as long as you'd like. For more info, visit [bit.ly/FixitCLE](http://bit.ly/FixitCLE).

**PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT:**

The Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs encourages you to take simple steps now to reduce your risk of identity theft throughout the year: Freeze your credit reports (it's free!) to keep ID thieves from wrecking your credit. (Learn more about credit freezes at: [cuyahogacounty.gov/creditfreeze](http://cuyahogacounty.gov/creditfreeze).) Keep your computer, mobile devices, and social media accounts secure. (Find easy-to-use tips at: [cuyahogacounty.gov/internetsafety](http://cuyahogacounty.gov/internetsafety).) Request free copies of your credit reports annually to spot accounts you didn't open or suspicious inquiries. (Visit [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com) or call 1-877-322-8228.) Never share private information – including passwords, security codes, or account numbers – with anyone who contacts you by phone, email, or text. (Find out the sneaky ways scammers steal personal info -- and how to protect yourself – in our Scam Squad Guide, available at: [cuyahogacounty.gov/scamsquad](http://cuyahogacounty.gov/scamsquad).) Need one-on-one help? Call the Scam Squad line (216-433-7226) to speak to a Cuyahoga County Consumer Affairs investigator.

**EDUCATION**

**FREE BOOKS** for kids ages 0-5: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio mails kids one free book each month until their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. Any child in Ohio between birth and age 5 is eligible for the program. To sign up, visit: [Ohio-ImaginationLibrary.org](http://Ohio-ImaginationLibrary.org).

**FREE K-8 TUTORING:** Need extra

support for your child's learning? Our caring tutors at OneHope NEO provide homework help, reading support, and fun learning activities in a safe and encouraging environment. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 pm to 5 pm at 3202 Fulton Rd. Sign up at [ohneosignup.paperform.co](http://ohneosignup.paperform.co).

**FREE MICROGREENS WORKSHOP:**

Discover the basics of growing in this hands-on introductory class. Learn about seeding, watering, lighting, and harvesting, and explore the best materials to grow healthy microgreens at home. Participants will plant their own mini tray to take home. Saturday, April 11 from 3 pm to 6 pm at the Jefferson Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (850 Jefferson Ave). Sign up at <https://cpl.libcal.com/event/15946981>.

**ELECTION**

**PRIMARY ELECTION:** The deadline to register to vote in the May 5 primary election is April 6. You can register online at <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov> or call the board of elections at (216) 443-8683 (VOTE) to request a voter registration form by mail. You can also visit the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections' new location, 1803 Superior Ave., to register to vote, vote early, and more.

**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 teaches in our classrooms, provides career assistance, and hires 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).

**SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM:** Students between the ages of 14 and 18 years old that are looking for a summer job can register online for the Summer Employment Program, sponsored by Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), at [youthopportunities.org](http://youthopportunities.org). If a student is selected, their work experiences typically start in mid-June and run for six weeks. The pay rate is \$13.50 per hour for 20-25 hours per week. Registration closes on May 1. For more information, call 216-776-3900.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**EARTH DAY ART ACTIVITY:** Art-house Inc. (3119 Denison Ave.) offers a free, family-friendly workshop on the third Saturday of each month from 1 pm to 3 pm. This month's Friends and Family Open Studio, entitled "Earth Day Upcycled Flower Art", will be on Saturday, April 18. 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.

**FREE TREES:** The Trees4CLE Tree Adoption program, from the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, is now open. If you live in Cleveland and want a free tree for your yard, visit <https://wrlandconservancy.org/trees4cle> and fill out our short form to apply. This spring, we'll have a variety of trees to choose from—like small trees with flowers, big trees that give shade, fruit trees, evergreen trees, and trees that grow strong in our city. You can ask for up to 2 trees at your home, but only if you live in Cleveland.

**RIVERSWEEP LITTER CLEAN-UP:** Join Canalway Partners, dozens of other community groups, and hundreds of volunteers on Saturday, May 2 from 9 am to 11 am for this annual litter clean-up, to help keep garbage out of our beloved rivers and lake. Various clean-up sites are located along the

Cuyahoga River and its tributaries. To pick a location and to sign up to volunteer, visit [canalwaypartners.com](http://canalwaypartners.com). Volunteer spots are limited. When you arrive at your chosen clean-up site, the site leader will greet you with an event t-shirt and provide cleaning supplies and further instructions. Please only register at one location. Registered volunteers will receive an email invitation to a Thank You Party after the clean-up event. Don't forget to RSVP to the party! Questions? Contact Canalway Partners at 216-520-1825.

**EVENTS**

**AUTHOR TALK:** Join us at the Martin Luther King Jr. Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (10601 Euclid Ave.) for a conversation with local writer Josh Womack, author of the new book *Sweaty Stories from the Cleveland Schvitz* Saturday, April 18 from noon to 1 pm. A few special guests will be joining him.

**OPENING DAY IN OHIO CITY:** Come celebrate the Cleveland Guardians home-opener at the inaugural Opening Day in Ohio City celebration, featuring live music, an Opening Day Cookout featuring ball-park fare, local food trucks, craft beer and beverages. The Cleveland Guardian Hot Dogs mascots and Slider will make an appearance, and we'll have a 50/50 raffle, yard games and family fun. Friday, April 3 from 10 am to 2 pm at Market Square Park (across from the West Side Market). The inaugural Opening Day parade across the Hope Memorial Bridge to the festivities at Progressive Field, will be led by Parade Grand Marshal, Slider!

**HEALTH**

**CLEVELAND RAPE CRISIS CENTER** offers 24/7 access to free, anonymous support via text, online chat, or phone call. Call or text 216-619-6192 or 440-423-2020. You can also visit our website at [clevelandrapecrisis.org](http://clevelandrapecrisis.org) to learn about preventing sexual violence, developing healthy relationships, supporting a friend who needs help, and more.

**FREE END-OF-LIFE DOULA PRESENTATION:** Saturday, April 18 from 10:30 am to noon, Tina Thonnings will speak about her work as an End of Life Doula at Reserve Care Hospice Services (formerly known as the Hospice of the Western Reserve) in a free Zoom presentation. All are welcome to attend! Visit <https://tinyurl.com/doula-presentation>.

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

**HELP ME GROW,** an initiative of the Ohio Department of Health, offers free home visits to pregnant mothers and parents of young children. Our caring

continued on page 7

# Celebrate New Life this Spring WITH PILGRIM CHURCH

Sunday, April 5

**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE**

10 am

Celebrate the miracle of New Life at Easter in Pilgrim's awe-inspiring sanctuary, which will be filled with beautiful spring flowers and the stirring sounds of brass, organ, and voices.

Sunday, April 26

**JAZZ VESPERS IN CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY**

3 pm

The Oikos Ensemble—which has performed in hundreds of faith communities around the country—will lead a service of jazz vespers with storytelling, readings, and reimagings of scripture about the Creation in celebration of Earth Day. Freewill offering.

TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT [PILGRIMALIVE.ORG](http://PILGRIMALIVE.ORG)



**PILGRIM**  
Congregational  
United Church of Christ

2592 W. 14th St.  
Cleveland, OH 44113



**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 Checelsky & 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.

## Neighborhood Family Practice to host open house at its new Clark Fulton health center

Neighborhood Family Practice will host a Community Open House at its new Ann B. Reichsman Community Health Center on Thursday April 16 from 5-7 p.m. The Community Health Center is located at 3466 St. Rocco Court in the Northern Ohio Blanket Mills building (behind the Lin Omni Center and just north of St. Rocco Church.)

The open house will feature raffle prizes, refreshments, and activities for all ages. Visitors will have an opportunity to meet the health care team and receive free hands-on Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training.

The Neighborhood Family Practice Tremont Clinic on Professor Avenue has closed and has moved to the Blanket Mills location. The Midwifery and Women's Health Services, previously at Ridge and Denison, also has moved to the new Ann B. Reichsman Community Health Center.

Neighborhood Family Practice has also opened a new community pharmacy in the former CVS building at W. 130<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue. That location already houses a Neighborhood Family Practice clinic that moved there last year from W. 117<sup>th</sup> and Lorain Avenue.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, March 20, 2026, Northern Ohio Blanket Mills building, 3466 St. Rocco Court: Neighborhood Family Practice's new Ann B. Reichsman Community Health Center will host an open house on April 16 from 5-7 p.m.

## Department of Energy urged to maintain safety standards for radiation protection

To the editor:

This is what I posted on the Department of Energy's comment page after a dozen rewrites, on the Categorical (Safety) Exclusions for new reactors:

President Trump's Executive Order 14300 prompting the Categorical Exclusion for Advanced Nuclear Reactors calls for abandoning the Linear No Threshold (LNT) standard for radiation protection ignoring established scientific fact that even small doses of radiation can double the risk of cancer for children, women and pregnancies.

In 2021 The NRC reaffirmed the LNT standard but after the publication of Project 2025 President Trump obediently moved to restrict the NRC role of regulation by removing what the Heritage Foundation declared it being, a "...significant cost and regulatory barrier to new nuclear power" and "overly prescriptive rather than outcomes focused." (Mandate for Leadership, Chapter 12, pages 408, 409)

This is a political decision unrelated to scientific information, of which there has been purposeful avoidance by the federal government since the cancellation of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study by the NRC in 2015. Thus, there have been no updated health assessments since the 1990s. However, recently the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health national study of all U.S. counties from 2000-2018 revealed that, controlling for socioeconomic and lifestyle factors, counties closer to operational nuclear reactors were linked to elevated cancer death rates, especially for older adults.

In a notice in the Federal Register, the Energy Department stated that

the new reactors have "key attributes such as safety features, fuel types, and fission product inventory that limit adverse consequences from releases of radioactive or hazardous material from construction, operation, and decommissioning," reflecting the industry's repeated declaration of these reactors' inherent safety. This is a bold assertion since these reactors exist mainly on paper and are just now being built.

The justification for the rush to build these new reactors is that the data centers need the power. It sets that need above citizens' safety. I live in a county where at least one data center has been sited, and where plenty of open industrially zoned land exists. The massive power requirements of data centers threaten the reliability of electricity to residents. This has prompted some data centers to propose building their own power source with small modular reactors. That would not be a beneficial outcome for the communities around it. In my county the provider of electricity is First Energy which has applied to the PUCO for relief from its strict limitations on the length of power outages. The reality of prioritizing the needs of data centers over the safety of communities

should be troubling to everyone.

What does "inherently safe" mean when it is openly acknowledged that these new reactors will still release radioactivity and that there is no safe dose of radiation?

What does "inherently safe" mean when officials at the Idaho National Lab "had extensively rewritten internal rules for the new test reactors?" The new rules softened protections for groundwater and the environment. For example, rules that once said the environment "must" be protected, now say consideration "may be given to avoiding or minimizing, if practical, potential adverse impacts." (Trump exempts new nuclear reactors from environmental review: NPR)

If these new reactors are "inherently safe" why is it necessary to raise the limit of radiation exposure to the public?

Please maintain LNT standards, fund independent research, and restore evidence-based regulation.

Daryl Davis  
Cleveland

## Americans urged to call for modernization and humanization of the Fair Credit Reporting Act

To the editor:

Most Americans believe that, after seven years, their financial "permanent record" is purged. Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), this is true for late payments and bankruptcies- but it's a myth for your career.

Payroll data-miners like Equifax's *The Work Number* maintain indefinite records of every job title, salary change, and home address you've ever had. While the law labels this information "neutral", it is being used as a weapon by Artificial Intelligence (AI) screening tools and insurance underwriters to blacklist or penalize workers for employment gaps and old addresses from decades ago.

Furthermore, an outdated "salary

exception" in the FCRA allows background checkers to dig even deeper for negative information for any job paying over \$75,000, robbing middle-class families- and those striving to join them- of a fresh start. There's nothing "fair" about that.

I have urged our Senators and Representatives to support a mandatory 10-year limit for all information, including payroll, residential and employment data and to eliminate any salary exceptions. I ask every interested citizen to do the same. Our digital past should not be a permanent barrier to our future. It's time to modernize- and humanize- the FCRA.

Erik Ault  
Cleveland, OH

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

**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**

**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

**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

**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

**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. Turner  
Cleveland Clerk of Courts



PHOTO BY IAN HEISEY

Saturday, February 14, 2026; Street Studio, St. Paul's Community Church, 4427 Franklin Avenue: Guitar player Matt Rossman plays some tunes for those attending the Street Studio. For information about April's Street Studio see the Community Board on page 2.

**REFUGEE CENTER**  
continued from page one

the letters from Saint James in their bible where Saint James talks about the importance of prayer with works. Father Reidy said, "That is what social justice is all about."

Father Reidy, also the former pastor at La Sagrada Familia Church,

told the group that volunteers at the center get to know the immigrant families. He introduced some student volunteers from St. Edward High School.

One St. Edward High School student said he enjoys coming to the Refugee Resource Center each week. He enjoyed the experience so much that he recruited ten to fifteen

**Beware of scams targeting personal information and money**

by Tonya Sams

Scammers continually seek new methods to exploit others for financial gain. The best way to avoid being a victim is to know the tactics that scammers use to take advantage of others.

One such tactic is text scams. "A text scam is when a scammer sends a text message to try to create a sense of urgency for you to click a link that's going to put some type of malware on your phone," said Matt Alden, a Supervising Attorney in the Economic Justice Practice Group at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. "They may try to get you to give up your social security number, date of birth, or your bank account information. To help create a sense of urgency, scammers sometimes use

the names of government agencies. They will pick agencies that they think will generate a quick reaction in people such as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)."

Tactics that prey on people who are looking for additional work are known as side hustle scams. They're typically work at home positions, like processing orders or data entry, that claim to offer more money than usually expected for the type of work performed. To make sure that the company is legitimate, verify on the Better Business Bureau, Ohio Attorney General or the Federal Trade Commission websites.

"The first clue that it is a scam is if they're asking you to pay money to get started," said Alden. "A legitimate

company that's hiring someone does not charge you a fee to start doing the work."

Another scam tactic is debt settlement scams. Scammers target those who owe thousands in credit card debt and will have them pay a certain amount of money each month into a fund, promising to reach out to creditors to settle the debt for less than what is owed.

"Some creditors may agree to accept less, but other creditors may sue you," Alden said. "You will then have to worry about your wages being garnished, and you're out of all the money that you paid the debt settlement company. You wind up either having to file bankruptcy or take some action to protect yourself."

continued on page 5

other Saint Edward students to join him and do their community service at St. Colman. The student says the refugees are the kindest people you will ever meet. He spoke about learning of the trauma experienced by a refugee from Syria, and how the Syrian refugee was "open to any conversation."

The St. Edward students help to entertain the children in refugee families while adult family members pick up supplies and secure resources they would like to take home. Under the supervision of the Saint Edward students, the children play in the back of the church hall with a soccer ball or various games and toys that are available.

Fr. Reidy said the children call the St. Edward students "the big boys." He says one child told him that he wished he could come to St. Colman every day and that, "the big boys are so kind."

Sister Rita Mary Hardwood showed the visiting group racks of shoes and coats that refugee family members can try on. Sister Rita said

the center provided over a thousand coats to families of members this winter.

Sister Rita says baby diapers are especially needed. She said the Refugee Resource Center distributes over 8,000 baby diapers per month.

Donations and volunteers are much appreciated by the Refugee Resource Center. The donation wish list on the Center's website includes the following requests: toilet paper and any paper products; hygiene and batching products; baby diapers and formula; gently used or new pots and pans; gently used or new linens, blankets, pillows, etc.; and gently used or new coats.

Donations come from many sources throughout the Greater Cleveland area.

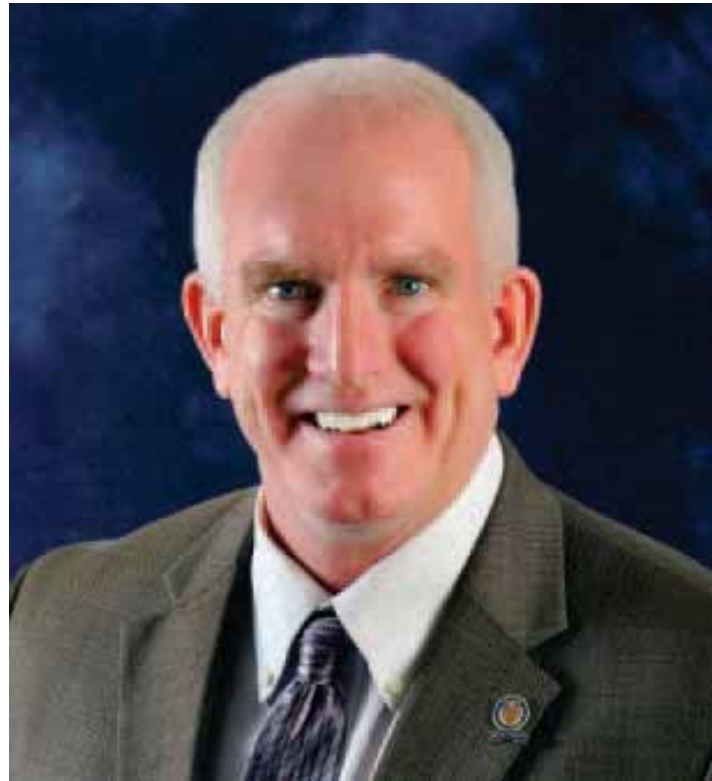
Shawn Witmer, who is the Director of Catholic Commission of Lorain County and coordinates Catholic Relief Services for Lorain and Western Cuyahoga counties, searches near and far in the Greater Cleveland Catholic Diocese for donations for the Refugee Resource

Center. This past winter he ventured to Saint Victor Catholic Church in Richfield Village and encouraged Amie D'Arienzo, Pastoral Assistant, to donate warm winter hats knitted by a member of the parish.

D'Arienzo later organized a group-- Mary Cusack of the Healing Prayer Ministry of Holy Family Church in Stow and Mariana Romano, a Kent State Language Professor from St. Mary's Parish in Hudson, to visit the center with more donations and offer volunteer support for language translation.

Individuals, churches or community groups that would like to volunteer or make donations to the Refugee Resource Center at St. Colman Parish can contact Shawn Witmer who is ready and willing to help coordinate donations and volunteers. Witmer can be reached at his office phone at 440-366-1106. Extension 3321; by cell phone at 216-316-9544; or by email at [Shawn.Witmer@ccdole.org](mailto:Shawn.Witmer@ccdole.org).

# Martin J. Sweeney



**Cuyahoga County Council, District 3**

**Proud Democrat, Proven Leader**

**Re-elect**

**Primary May 5, 2026**

Paid for by the Friends of Martin Sweeney

**DOCTORIN'**

**Getting the most from your Medicare Annual Wellness visit**

by Steve Rothschild

If you are on Medicare, your primary care clinic may reach out to you once a year to schedule one of these often-misunderstood visits. The Annual Wellness Visit was created under the Affordable Care Act to ensure that everyone was offered evidence-based preventive services such as Flu shots, Mammograms, and Diabetes screenings. Some patients are often interested in them because it's the one type of medical visit that doesn't require payment of a deductible or copay. What many people don't realize though is that the Wellness Visit does NOT include a physical exam or the diagnosis or treatment of any illness. The visit is simply an opportunity to review your health risk factors and discuss steps you can take to prevent disease. Although the Wellness visit is, by law, highly structured and can feel perfunctory at times, you can get a tremendous amount of value by identifying a couple of goals ahead of time.

Here are a few examples of Well-

ness goals you might consider for these appointments:

- Identify problems that you have not had a chance to discuss previously with your provider, especially problems that limit your everyday activities. These could include incontinence, mobility challenges, or concerns about your memory. Again, your doctor may not be able to diagnose and treat these problems during the Wellness Visit, but you can use this discussion to identify your priorities for future visits.
- Bring a list of the names and contact details for other doctors you see regularly. Don't assume your primary physician knows who else you are receiving care from and why.
- Improve medication safety by bringing all your medicines, including vitamins and over the counter medicines, to the visit. I prefer to see actual pill bottles, not just a list. This is a great opportunity to prevent dangerous medication interactions.
- Discuss your Advance Care Plans such as a Durable Power of

Attorney for Healthcare or a Living Will. These are legal documents by which you can indicate your preferences for life sustaining treatments in the future, if accident or illness makes it impossible for you to communicate those preferences. If you are not familiar with these documents, you can find more information about them here: [Advance Care Planning: Advance Directives for Health Care | National Institute on Aging](#)

Don't try to do all of these at one visit – one or two of these topics is more than enough. With planning, though, you can add real value to this free Medicare benefit.

Thanks for reading! I welcome your feedback, as well as your questions and ideas for future columns. **Editor's Note:** Doctor Steve Rothschild wrote a column for the *Plain Press* in the early 1980s titled DOCTORIN'. After completing his residency at MetroHealth Medical Center, he moved to Chicago where he is now working in Family Practice at Rush Medical Center.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, March 17, 2026; W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street, just north of Saint Colman Church: Young members of the West Side Irish American Club emerge from the church after morning mass ready to brave the cold at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Cleveland.

**Cleveland moviemaking history begins with the *Giant Coal Dumper* film and continues to evoke its lessons**

by Cameron Mays

It is now probably accepted that the big bang that started our universe was not some great explosion but a simple happening. Thus, it is fitting that which started Cleveland film history was no epic tale but a routine industrial occurrence.

*Giant Coal Dumper* was the first film made in Cleveland. It was made by James White and William Heise, filmmakers for Thomas Edison. By sheer chance they captured the ethos of the city in under a minute.

A gritty genre scene in the world

of smoke and soot, the task of a machine, it is an awkward task, Sysphean in its lumbering attempts, something that must be captured in paradox. Despite this, the workers stand proud and domineer over the Earth they move and the metal they command.

It's an actuality for the city. This ain't no damn train arriving at a station. This is no place for serpent dances, cowboy games, or cock-fights. This is the place where you work hard and be proud. Fred Ott wouldn't last five seconds in this joint. No sneeze from him, he'd

crumble under the intensity.

*Giant coal dumper*, the machine, was a bankable star, and a sequel was inevitable.

Three years later in November 1900, American Mutoscope and Biograph Company released *Showing a Giant Crane Dumping a 40-Ton Car*, featuring the same exact machine depicted in *Giant Coal Dumper*.

The stars of the Midwest are machines; Cleveland is no excep-

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

**BEWARE OF SCAMS**

continued from page 4

Because it's tax season, beware of tax scams. Scammers will file a tax return under someone else's name while also falsifying information such as work history or family size. The person who was scammed usually finds out when they try to file their income tax return and the IRS informs them that a tax return was already filed under their name.

For free legitimate tax preparation services visit [www.refundohio.org/](http://www.refundohio.org/)

[tax-sites.](#)

If you think that your personal information has gotten into the wrong hands, notify your bank and the three main credit bureaus (TransUnion, Equifax, and Experian) immediately.

If you have been scammed, Legal Aid may be able to help! To apply for free legal services, call 888-817-3777 or apply online: [laslev.org/apply](http://laslev.org/apply).

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

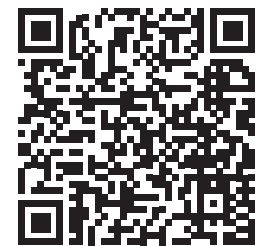
**Own a home and part of your neighborhood.**



**HomeReady Purchase Mortgage**

- 3% down
- Up to \$13,000 down payment assistance

Apply online today!



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

**ThirdFederal**  
SAVINGS & LOAN

[thirdfederal.com](http://thirdfederal.com)

Visit [thirdfederal.com](http://thirdfederal.com) or call 216-441-7345 for details. 3% down is available for loan amounts up to \$300,000 and borrowers must meet certain income, geographic and other requirements to qualify. Product features subject to change without notice. ©2026 Third Federal





PHOTO BY BRUCE CHECEFSKY

Tuesday, March 3, 2026; Hummer Theatre in the Breen Center for Performing Arts at St. Ignatius High School, 2008 W. 30<sup>th</sup> Street: Dr. Brian Lovins, President of Justice System Partners, talks about how criminal and juvenile justice systems can be come more equitable, effective and humane.

**JUSTICE REFORM**

continued from page one

outcomes than harsh treatment. With 93 to 95% of cases resolved through plea bargaining, communities often think they want long

and hard sentences to deter crime, but his research has shown that it leads to worse outcomes.

"There is a bind-over system where 15-year-olds and younger get tried as adults and spend their

life in prison," he said. Lovins, past president of the American Probation and Parole Association, continued, "The Supreme Court recently cut down the death penalty and life without parole for kids under 18 years old tried as adults."

Justice System Partners, funded by federal and state grants and private foundations, is not part of an advocacy group, he said. They work to inform and share their research with judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and probation departments.

Lovins said that 74% of Americans believe the criminal justice system is not effective in reducing crime. Less than 37% of violent crimes get resolved, with the number even less for rape and robbery, and 9 of 10 property offenses go unsolved. For those convicted and sentenced to jail, probation, or prison, between 40 and 60% return within 3 years. Within 5 years, 70% of people released from prison get arrested again, according to his research.

"Not everyone who commits a crime gets caught, charged, or adjudicated. It shrinks the engagement for victims to affect the outcome," said Lovins, explaining that the primary goal for judges, prosecutors, and attorneys is to make sure justice is served. "But what about rehabilitation for the criminals and providing spaces where people get better, not worse?"

The prison population has increased 800% since 1981, with the social costs of prison amounting to more than \$1 trillion a year. While the Ohio prison population decreased by 11.1% over the past decade, it remains above the designed capacity, which is estimated to be around 37,000 to 38,500, meaning prisons are operating at over 120% capacity, according to

the Ohio Legislative Service Commission, a nonpartisan agency providing the Ohio General Assembly with drafting, research, budget and fiscal analysis, training, and other services.

"In a country that believes in second chances and restoration, we created a system that locks people in and blocks them from legitimate pathways back to success," said Lovins. "We have people in our system that truly want to do better, but our systems do not allow them to succeed. They cannot vote in some states or apply for a driver's license."

Thriving people are less likely to commit crimes, and those with better opportunities do not. Rather than creating collateral consequences for those who commit crimes, courts should consider the consequences of sentencing. Strengthening social bonds and connecting with legitimate families through churches, schools, and mentorship programs increases the likelihood of success, he told the audience. Morals and values are a deterrent more than the severity of the sentence.

"Our system of justice is based on a belief that if we just ratchet up the consequences, we have this incredible ability to stop people from engaging in a crime," he said. "The reason we rely on the system is that we cannot catch people easily enough, and without the consistency of catching them, we are going to increase the severity of the penalty."

Judges believe that sentencing people to prison restores the community and that criminals have a better path to success. But his research contradicts the findings: the impartiality of judges is not always restorative. They act as referees when mentorship or coaching is re-

quired.

"However, when we issue justice or respond to crime, the people who take that person from the courtroom to the next phase of their lives need to be connected and engaged, heavily invested in the outcome," said Lovins. "Our system is not for self-correct. The paid employees of this country, charged with the health and care of people to help them find better paths forward, can shift the narrative about our criminal justice system."

"What about the victim?" asked a member of the audience during the question-and-answer period. "The system we have, our structure—we cannot re-victimize them."

Lovins responded that victims of crime, given a choice between punishment or treatment, would rather see the criminals get treatment 78% of the time. "People we know mostly commit crimes. We hurt the people closest to us, and victims do not always want vengeance. They want people to change."

An older man seated in the back commented, "You focus heavily on the criminals and neglect to mention the individuals tasked with this work. You cannot invest in those people when they are high and out of touch with reality. The people you are asking to do this work are burning out at a record rate," he continued. "You have no clue what it is like to be down there, on the ground, as a law enforcement or correctional officer. I did both and survived."

Lovins walked to the edge of the stage. "I was a probation officer and social worker with a caseload of 150 people. I worked on the ground. I ran an organization and residential programs. Our staff retention rate went up 47% when implementing this program."

"I hear you," he said.

**Developments at Pearl and Memphis inch forward as former tenants seek new homes**

by Lynette Filips

Two months have passed since I last addressed the many issues facing the corner of Memphis Ave.

and Pearl Rd. in the heart of Old Brooklyn. Seemingly more and more sidebars have come up while the major issues are still in limbo. To

make processing all of them easier, I've organized this article by using subtitles.

**RELOCATING THE HISTORICAL**

**SOCIETY OF OLD BROOKLYN (HSOB) AFTER IT WAS EVICTED FROM ITS FORMER HOME IN THE GREENLINE BUILDING**

In the Memphis Pearl article in the January *Plain Press*, I stated that the HSOB was seriously looking at renting a nearby neighborhood space which would require considerable time and money to modify before the Society could use it. The HSOB chose not to disclose the address of the space because no rental agreement had yet been signed. As it turned out, the attorneys representing each of the parties never came to an agreement and that space became yet another "no longer a possibility" site for a new museum.

After the Relocation Committee spent more time searching, another potential rental space (which does not require major renovations) became available. At press time, although acquisition of the new site is progressing favorably, the rental agreement has not yet been signed. So again, the announcement of the location of the HSOB's new home is being deferred. In the meantime, the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation is continuing to pay for the storage of the HSOB's artifacts and files in a facility on Tiedeman Rd.

**PEARL ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (PRUMC)**

Also in the January *Plain Press* article, PRUMC was looking at a space which needed some alterations and they, too, hadn't signed a contract. But now a contract has been signed, and they know that their temporary home will be in the former Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 8235 Memphis Ave. in Brooklyn, next to St. Elias Church.

What PRUMC doesn't know at press time is when they will move into it. They hope that it will be by Easter; they will need to move their

altar, lectern, piano and cross there when they go. They will put their pews in storage because they will use the former Good Shepherd's pews for as long as they remain in the rental space. They have already given away everything in their kitchen—offering it first to the members of their congregation and then the rest given to Sachsenheim Hall on Denison Ave.

No one at PRUMC seems to know how much of their church building will be demolished for the new construction at Pearl and Memphis, but since they gave their building to OB-CDC, it's not their decision anymore.

**THE BROADVIEW SAVINGS AND LOAN BUILDINGS CONVERSION INTO APARTMENTS AND TOWNHOUSES**

The headline in an article in the Spring 2026 edition of the *Old Brooklyn News*, "Revitalizing Old Brooklyn; New Life for Historic Buildings", could lead one to believe that OB-CDC supports historic preservation over demolition and new development. It is TurnDev, a Beachwood developer, who has gotten grants for historic preservation from the State of Ohio, in addition to a more recent loan from the Port of Cleveland, to redo these buildings. They have been visibly working on them since last December and could be finished this year. Since the buildings are part of the "South Brooklyn Commercial District" on the National Register of Historic Places, I am especially pleased with the developer's commitment to preserving the exterior of the structures.

**THE SALE OF ONE OF THE COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF BROADVIEW AND PEARL ROADS**

Barely was the building with the iconic angled storefront on the corner listed for \$800,000. last month

continued on page 7

Una líder para el Distrito 3. Stephanie conoce la comunidad y su potencial.

Stephanie Thomas está comprometida a construir un condado de Cuyahoga más seguro, más fuerte y más equitativo para cada vecino.

Defensora, arquitecta y constructora de comunidades de por vida

Vota el cinco de Mayo

Último día para inscribirse en la Primaria: 4/6/2026

La votación anticipada presencial comienza el 4/7/2026

La votación anticipada finaliza el 5/3/2026

Día de las elecciones: 5/5/2026

Stephanie for Cuyahoga County Council District 3

A Leader for District 3. Stephanie Knows the Community and Its Potential

Stephanie Thomas is committed to building a safer, stronger, and more equitable Cuyahoga County for every neighbor.

Advocate, Architect, and Lifelong Community Builder

Vote May 5th!

Last Day to Register for Primary: 4/6/2026

Early In-Person Voting Starts: 4/7/2026

Early Voting Ends: 5/3/2026

Election Day: 5/5/2026

Paid for by Friends of Stephanie K. Thomas

**PEARL AND MEMPHIS**

continued from page 6

than an investor stepped up to purchase it. The online real estate ad still says that it's "under contract" and I don't yet know the actual dollar amount of the sale was. Word has it that the buyer is very interested in historic preservation and plans to refurbish all the upstairs offices in addition to the retail storefronts on both the Broadview Rd. (134') and Pearl Rd. (88') sides of the building. Businesses renting space in the building purchased are: Boost Mobile on the corner, United Hearts Mission Center with windows on both Broadview Rd. and Pearl Rd. but the entrance on Broadview, a barber shop, a beauty shop (The Noun) and a clothing store on Broadview and an airbrush painting place on Pearl.

Since this building is also in the "South Brooklyn Commercial District" on the National Register of Historic Places, I will be speaking about it more in future articles. In the meantime, interested folks can read about it at [loopnet.com](http://loopnet.com). The address to reference for that purpose is 4179 Pearl Rd.

**THE ONLINE AD FOR THE SALE OF THE CVS BUILDING, THE THEO'S/OPAL ON PEARL BUILDING AND THE PARKING LOT AROUND THEM**

**COMMUNITY BOARD**

continued from page 2

and professional visitors can help you plan a healthy pregnancy, share tips to help keep your child healthy and safe, answer your questions, and help you find resources that meet your needs. To learn more or to sign up for this voluntary program, visit [helpmegrow.org/HomeVisiting](http://helpmegrow.org/HomeVisiting).

**MEDWORKS:** Are you struggling to afford health care? Medworks Navigators can help you find solutions! We can help you understand insurance options and benefits, enroll in health insurance, find low-cost health care, access community resources (food, housing, etc.), schedule a COVID-19 vaccine, and more. All our services are 100% free to patients. Contact us at 216-231-5350 or [navteam@medworksusa.org](mailto:navteam@medworksusa.org), or visit [medworksusa.org](http://medworksusa.org) to learn more.

**HOUSING**

**HOME REPAIR ASSISTANCE:** Northwest Neighborhoods works with many partners to help residents meet their housing needs in our diverse, mixed-income communities. If you are a Detroit Shoreway, Cudell, Edgewater, or West Boulevard resident, contact our Healthy Homes Coordinator at 216-961-4242, ext. 223 or by email at [kchappell@nwneighborhoods.org](mailto:kchappell@nwneighborhoods.org) for help choosing and applying for resources or to have printed materials mailed to you. Visit [nwneighborhoods.org/home-resources](http://nwneighborhoods.org/home-resources) for a list of available services.

**HOMELESS**

**IF YOU NEED SHELTER,** contact

**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.

**WANTED**

**SEEKING NEW PLAYERS:** [www.MARapets.com/refer.php?=MzMqravctionaire](http://www.MARapets.com/refer.php?=MzMqravctionaire) Seeking 5000 New Players

Loopnet.com also has limited listing details about 4240 Pearl Rd. (the former CVS building) and 4250 Pearl Rd., (the former Theo's restaurant building) and the parking lot. The map shows that the two buildings and parking lot are to be sold together. The sale became possible because the CVS parking lot rental agreement with the Loizos brothers expired at the end of January. It appears that the for sale package was first listed on February 4th. "Price upon request", but my request phone call has not yet been returned. This is a huge site for someone to redevelop and will certainly bear watching. The potential for the loss of the historic Theo's building, however, is concerning.

**THE FORMER ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

As winter's grip lessened its hold on Cleveland, we preservationists feared that the demolition process would begin. But not so far. Unofficial sources have told me that they've seen what appear to be environmental workers and surveyors on the property, but no bulldozers or wrecking balls.

Till next month, if you want to refer back to any previous Plain Press articles about this historic Old Brooklyn corner, access them on the Plain Press' website, <https://plainpress.blog> or on the HSOB's website, [www.oldbrooklynhistory.org](http://www.oldbrooklynhistory.org).

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

**NEOCH STREET OUTREACH:**

If your business or neighborhood has someone experiencing homelessness and you are concerned, your first call should be to the outreach team at NEOCH (the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless) so they can get skilled, competent outreach to resources and a trusting relationship as they start or continue on a path to being sheltered. This is an alternative to calling law enforcement. We can typically respond within 24 hours, and we can work with the individual to provide shelter, health care, food, blankets, or transportation to a safe place. Call us at 216-432-0540.

**RECREATION**

**FREE ADMISSION AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM:** Every Saturday and Sunday, since January 25, 2025, residents of the City of Cleveland, East Cleveland, Brooklyn, Euclid, Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, and Warrensville Heights can receive FREE admission to the newly renovated Cleveland Museum of Natural History, thanks to the generous support of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Foundation. To receive free admission, reserve tickets on our website and present proof of residency at the Welcome Desk on the day of your visit. Proof of residency should include an address in one of the eligible cities and can be

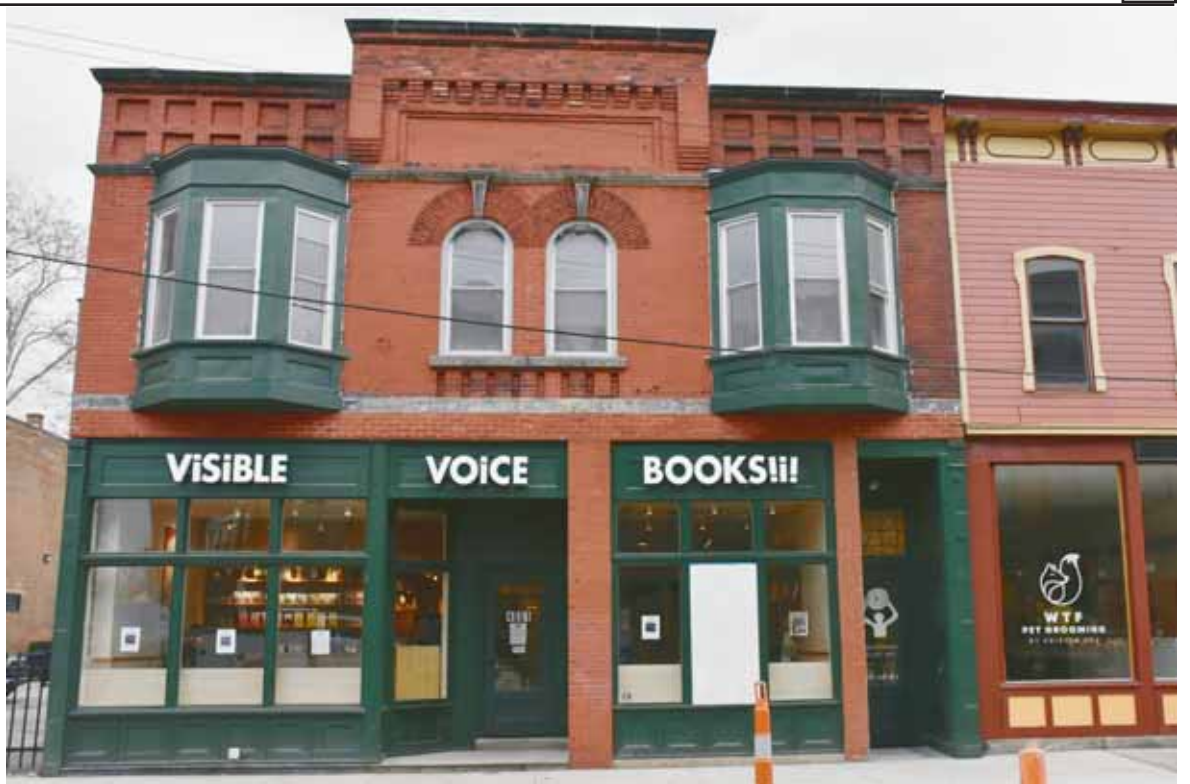


PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Friday, March 20, 2026; Lorain Theater building, 4601 Lorain Avenue: Visible Voice Books, Hausfrau Record Shop in the Lorain Theater building and other nearby businesses are livening up a stretch of Lorain Avenue.

**Stretch of Lorain Ave. adds cluster of new businesses**

Last year's move of Visible Voice Bookstore from Professor Avenue in Tremont to the Lorain Theater building at 4601 Lorain Avenue has added new life to that stretch of Lorain Avenue. The bookstore sells new and used books, wine, beer, coffee and tea. It also hosts book club meetings, live music and other events.

Visible Voice Books website notes the Lorain Theater building is one part of "The Highlands", a duo of buildings that includes its next-door neighbor at 4517 Lorain Avenue. That building houses some vibrant businesses as well – Guitar

Riot, The Guitar Conservatory, Jay Pawar Guitars, and Free Hearts Yoga Studio.

Just West of Visible Voice Books at 4609 Lorain Avenue is another new arrival on the street, WTF Pet Grooming.

The newest addition to "The Highlands" is Hausfrau Record Shop which moved from somewhat cramped quarters on W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street on the east side of the Gordon Square Arcade to a spacious location in the top of the Lorain Theater building. While you need to climb lots of steps to get up to the Hausfrau Record Shop, at the top of the

steps you will reach an oasis where owner Steve Pepper spins records in his spacious well-lit quarters high above Lorain Avenue.

This stretch of Lorain Avenue has also experienced some recent business closures as well with Arsenal Cider House closing its doors at 4507 Lorain and Forest City Shuffleboard across the street at 4506 Lorain also shutting down.

On the west end of the block at 4617 Lorain Avenue the Greek Village Grille has had a sign up for a couple of years promising that it will be coming soon.

any of the following: a current Ohio driver's license or state ID, a utility bill or bank statement, a medical insurance statement, a lease agreement or mortgage statement, or a paystub or W2. (Mandel Community Days give you access to everything covered by a general admission ticket.) To learn more or to reserve your tickets, visit [cmnh.org/visit/mandel-days](http://cmnh.org/visit/mandel-days).

**FREE MONDAYS AT THE ZOO:**

Every Monday, the zoo is FREE for residents of Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township. To confirm your residency, bring your driver's license or state I.D. or a current utility bill with your Cuyahoga Cty. or Hinckley Twp. address along with a photo ID.

**RESOURCES**

**CLEVELAND 311:** To report an issue or request a city service, call 311 or 216-664-2000. You can also report an issue using our revamped web portal by visiting [clevelandohio.gov/311](http://clevelandohio.gov/311). Issues that we can help address include: problems with building and housing, maintenance issues at city-owned cemeteries, broken benches or equipment at city parks, graffiti removal, illegal dumping, potholes, trash and recycling issues, and issues related to vacant properties.

**TAXES**

**FREE TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE:** With the Cuyahoga Earned

Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition, eligible individuals can prepare and file their taxes absolutely free at convenient locations around Northeast Ohio. If you are an individual or family earning up to \$69,000 a year, you qualify for our free services. To learn more or schedule an appointment, visit [refundohio.org](http://refundohio.org) or call 211. The deadline to file your 2025 tax return is Wednesday, April 15.

**FREE ONLINE TAX PREPARATION:**

For a free, 100% virtual tax filing option, visit [getyourrefund.org](http://getyourrefund.org). You'll connect with an IRS-certified tax team from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. They will prepare and file your return and will

make sure you claim all of the benefits you are eligible for. Your tax team will need to get in contact with you along the way and will review your return with you before it's filed. It can take two or three weeks to complete the process. We also offer a do-it-yourself "File Myself" option, which allows you to use our free online software to complete your own taxes. Many people start and finish on the same day, and it is a great option for those with simple tax returns who have access to a computer. PLEASE NOTE: you will have to upload your ID(s), Social Security Card(s), all of your tax documents and sign your return electronically.

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

**ELECT ANISE MAYO**  
For Cuyahoga County Council – District 3  
Putting District 3 First  
A Leader with Healthcare Experience  
Anise Mayo is a Registered Nurse and graduate of nurse practitioner school who has spent her career serving patients and teaching collegiate nursing students. She understands the real challenges families face because she has worked directly in healthcare and education.  
Paid for by Friends of Anise Mayo

**Superb Staffing**  
**JOB OPPORTUNITY**  
Position: Route Riders  
Pay: \$14.50 Hour  
Hours: Mon thru Fri 7am to 5pm  
Requirements: Must be able to carry 50 lbs.  
Must have a Driver's license (No more than 4 points)  
No experience necessary  
Job Description: Will be going out to fertilize customers' properties (company vehicle will be provided for work only)  
6501 Lorain ave (corner of West 65<sup>th</sup>)  
216-400-7353 Mon thru Fri from 9am to 4pm

**St. Patrick, St. Malachi celebrate one-year anniversary of coming together**

St. Patrick Parish with St. Malachi Oratory is holding a Mass of Thanksgiving at 4:30pm on Saturday April 11th, 2026. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Edward Malesic in thanksgiving for the coming together of two Catholic parishes almost 1 year ago. A reception will be held afterward in the parish Club Building at W. 38<sup>th</sup> and Bridge Avenue.

In April of 2025, after 3 years of strategic and collaborative planning, St. Malachi Parish became part of St. Patrick Parish Bridge Ave. In May 2025, St. Malachi was declared to be an Oratory (a place designated for worship). Together they now operate as St. Patrick Parish with St. Malachi Oratory. All parish ministries continue to operate, but staff and other resources have joined together.

July 2025 began a new piece of parish history where members of both campuses formed the Commissions and Councils that guide parish life under the care of one pastor, Fr. Michael Gurnick.

**SNAP RECIPIENTS**

continued from page one

are age 59 or younger and are responsible for the care of an incapacitated person may also be exempt or if you are currently applying for or receiving unemployment compensation benefits. Remember to provide a satisfactory reason why you are not employed like transportation issues, personal or family emergencies, illness etc. 3). **Personal Reasons (Indigenous Tribal)** which includes: Alaska Native, or a member of an American Indian, Native American, Urban Indian, or California Indian tribe (or has a parent or grandparent who is a member). 4). **Health Reasons that include:** Have a short- or long-term health issue (physical or mental) that makes it hard to work 30 or more hours/week, pregnancy, receives disability benefit or payment like SSI, Worker's Compensation, or Paid Family, is on

Due to aging infrastructure, changing neighborhood dynamics, and limited numbers of clergy, many urban parishes are faced with finding new ways to keep their doors open and ministries alive. St. Patrick Parish with St. Malachi Oratory is

a pioneer in urban parish renewal and will be able to more sustainably serve its parishioners and neighbors in Ohio City under this new form of collaboration. We look forward to celebrating a hopeful future serving Cleveland's Near West Side.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

**Tuesday, March 17, 2026; W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street, just north of Saint Colman Church: Following a morning mass at St. Colman Church, members of the West Side Irish American Club Fife and Drum Corps head down W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street to board buses that will take them downtown to the St. Patrick's Day Parade.**

medical leave or is in a substance use treatment program. You may also be exempt if currently participating in a

drug addiction or alcoholic treatment and rehabilitation program.

**You have the right to:** Have the Cuyahoga Job and Family Service (CJFS) act on updates from you before your next SNAP payment, get help from a county caseworker, a SNAP application assister or a Legal Aid attorney; appeal if CJFS incorrectly reduces or ends your SNAP benefits and tell your



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

**Tuesday, March 17, 2026; W. 65<sup>th</sup> Street, just north of Saint Colman Church: This West Side Irish American Club St. Patrick Day drummer says he is multi-tasking – carrying two drums to load onto a bus after attending morning mass at St. Colman Church.**

caseworker if you are exempt or meeting the work rules. Make sure to inform your caseworker of any reasons why you are unable to meet the requirements to increase your chances of receiving SNAP benefits.

To stay updated about benefit status, create an account at [snp.benefits.ohio.gov](http://snp.benefits.ohio.gov) or call EBT Customer Service: 1-866-386-3071.

**Editor's Note:** The author, Che Gadison, is a member of Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NOBLE).

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

**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

**ST. AUGUSTINE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 CHURCH SCHEDULE

<b>MASS</b> 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)	<b>CONFESSIONS</b> 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)

**Saint Ignatius Of Antioch Church**  
 10205 Lorain Avenue (at West Boulevard)  
 216-251-0300 • 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)  
 ADMITS STUDENTS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, ETHNIC OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.  
**FREE TUITION THROUGH CLEVELAND SCHOLARSHIP**  
 SCHOOL PHONE: 216-671-0535

**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

**Historic Saint Rocco Catholic Church & School**  
 3205 Fulton Road, Cleveland OH 44109  
 Ph: 216-961-8331 • Web: [saintroccoparish.com](http://saintroccoparish.com)  
*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