



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG
Friday, April 17, 2026; Adult Clay Class, Cudell Fine Arts, 10013 Detroit Avenue: Hattie Schenk shapes a ceramic vase artwork from red clay.

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Plain Press

Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

Pre-primary endorsements unfairly influence election results

by Bruce Checefsky

The Cuyahoga County Democratic precinct elections on May 5 are the most important primary elections this year, according to Ellen Kubit, who is no stranger to politics. She is running for reelection in Ward 7, Precinct B.

Kubit, a political strategist and former campaign manager for Mohammad Faraj, who ran for the Ward 7 seat on the Cleveland City Council, was also the campaign manager for Matthew Ahn during

the Cuyahoga County prosecutor race in 2023–2024. He ran against Michael O'Malley and lost. So did Faraj.

Precinct leaders are not necessarily public servants, she explained, but they can further the political party's goals, including increasing voter turnout, or, for some players within the party, leveraging the insider game, with politically motivated moves to get some candidates elected and others not.

"What you are really seeing in

this election cycle is the tension of two priorities," she said, describing the priorities as low voter turnout and political positioning within the party.

Some are running for re-election, but looking across the voter landscape, Kubit noticed many of first-time candidates are coming from Michael O'Malley's prosecutors' office.

"It's a fascinating dynamic. People believe precinct leaders try to improve voter turnout, especially with anemic turnout in the city of Cleveland. Others recognize that the executive board is one of the most influential factors in getting elected in Cuyahoga County, and whether elected or appointed to the board," she said.

David Brock is the chair of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party, chosen by central committee members. In 2022, Brock, a 47-year-old nonprofit worker and grassroots Democratic activist from Cleveland's West Park neighborhood, following a surprising comeback victory, won against Representative Kent Smith and three other candidates.

Last year, Councilman Joe

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Tanisha's Law calls for compassionate approach in responding to mental health and behavioral health crises in Cleveland

by Chuck Hoven

After over a decade of community advocacy, the City of Cleveland now has in place a law that calls for a civilian led alternative to police response to calls for help with a mental health or behavioral health crisis. The new City Ordinance (1198-2024) is named for Tanisha Anderson, who died in 2014 when police, responding to a call for help for a mental health crisis, restrained her.

At a February 7th signing ceremony held at Case Western Reserve University's School of Law, Mayor Justin Bibb signed the legislation that marks a change in how the City of Cleveland will respond to mental health crises in the future.



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG
Friday, April 17, 2026; Adult Clay Class, Cudell Fine Arts, 10013 Detroit Avenue: Shellby Kerec etches detail onto her ceramic piece.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, April 9, 2026; Groundbreaking ceremony for second phase of the African American Cultural Gardens, Martin Luther King Jr. Drive: Association of African American Cultural Gardens Executive Director Obie Shelton plays "Lift Up Your Voice" on his violin.

Schools have a deficit while many experience property tax increases - Residents ask, "Why?"

by Chuck Hoven

Many Clevelanders are wondering why the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) is laying off teachers and other staff members during a time when many residents are complaining about property taxes that have increased substantially.

A September 30, 2024, commentary by Zach Schiller of Policy Matters Ohio offers some explanation. In the commentary, titled "For most, the big increases in property values won't translate to a bunch more taxes", Schiller points out the limitations on tax rates brought about by House Bill 920 which passed in 1976 and was later enshrined in the Ohio Constitution.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Schiller says HB920 requires a "decrease in the rate of most property tax levies any time property valuations go up. As a result, existing levies generate the same amount of revenue regardless of property valuations."

However, there are some exceptions that Schiller points out. He says, "Property taxes will not remain entirely flat because HB 920 includes some exceptions. The first 10 mills, which do not require voter approval and are called "inside millage," as well as certain levies such as those created by city charters, aren't covered. That's why taxes are going up."

In his commentary, Schiller points out the amount of increased revenue the Cleveland Municipal School District can expect to see after the new property tax valuations are in place. He says that "for most of the county's school districts, which rely on the property tax and account for the bulk of such taxes, the tax increases are modest, at best. For instance, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is expected to see a \$6.4 million revenue increase if it collects the full amount of additional taxes. In Fiscal 2023, CMSD

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PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG
Friday, April 17, 2026; Adult Clay Class, Cudell Fine Arts, 10013 Detroit Avenue: Steve Vadini is making a platter.

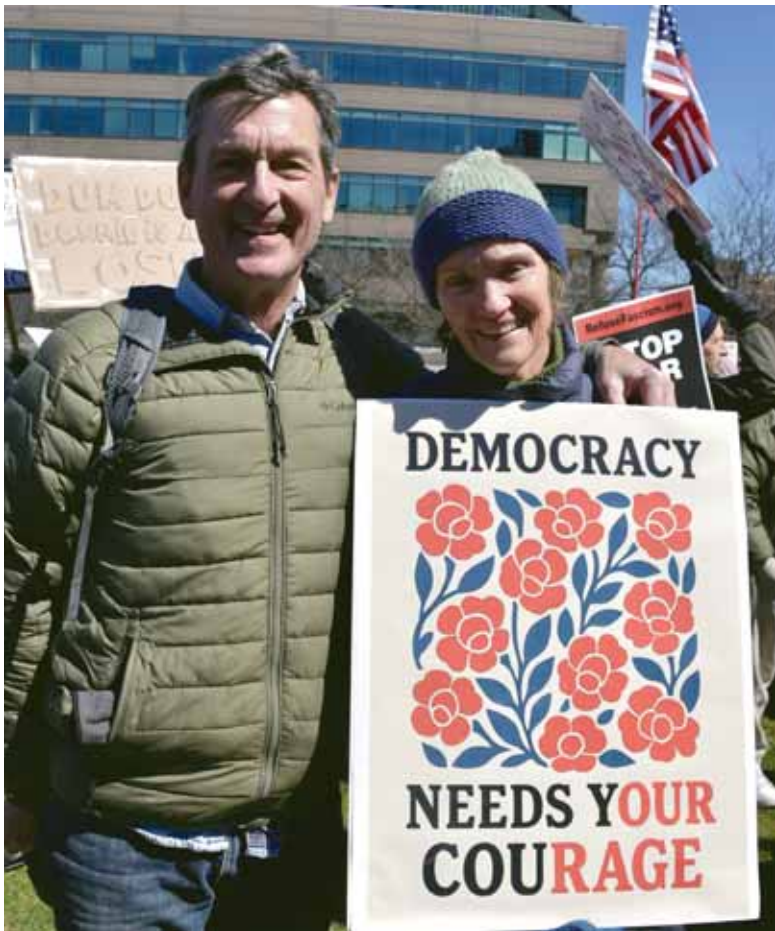


PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, March 28, 2026; No Kings Day rally at Willard Park, E. 9th Street and Lakeside Avenue: John and Deanne Lentz of Cleveland Heights say their primary reason for being at the rally is “the threat to our democracy.”

ARTS CUYAHOGAARTS AND CULTURE GRANTS:

Interested in 2027 Project Support funding from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture (CAC)? Join us for an informative workshop to learn more about CAC, our Project Support grant, and the upcoming application process and requirements – either virtually, on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 3 pm-4 pm, or in person at the Carnegie West Library (1900 Fulton Rd.) on Thursday, May 7, 4 pm-5 pm. To register for a workshop, visit cacgrants.org/grants/events-deadlines. We will start accepting applications in early May, and the deadline to apply is June 25.

THE MOST PROMISING (TMP) is a free creative writing program for teens (ages 13 to 19 years old). Led by Cleveland Arts Prize winner Ali Black, TMP seeks to build some of today’s most promising young writers. The next cohort (10-12 students) will begin in September 2026. Students will meet on a bi-weekly basis, with reading and writing time in between sessions. Each session will last two hours. Meetings

will be scheduled on Sundays at Balance Point Studios (3558 Lee Rd. in Shaker Heights) from noon to 2 pm. Apply now at <https://tinyurl.com/tmpcle>. Questions? Email themostpromising-cle@gmail.com. The deadline to apply is July 6.

STREET STUDIO: This month’s Street Studio will be Saturday, May 23 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 or Trennell Garrison at sapphire1497@yahoo.com.

ADULT SPELLING BEE: Grab some friends and join us for an adult spelling bee for fun, friendly competition and bragging rights! Open to ages 18 and up. Free and open to the public. Saturday, May 16 from 12 pm to 2 pm at the Main Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (525 Superior Ave., in the Social Sciences Department, on the fifth floor



of the Louis Stokes Wing).

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. 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.

POLICING COMMITTEE MEETINGS are an opportunity to regularly engage with local Cleveland police commanders and officers to identify problems, learn about available resources, and discuss ways to improve your community. The First District Policing Committee hosts its meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6 pm at St. Ignatius of Antioch (10205 Lorain Ave.), in the cafeteria. It will host its next meeting on Thursday, May 7. The Second District Policing Committee meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 pm at Bridge CLE at 3389 Fulton Rd. (on the northeast corner of Trowbridge and Fulton). It will host its next meeting on Tuesday, May 12.

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

FREE COMPUTER SKILLS CLASSES: Esperanza, Inc. is offering free computer skills classes through our Tri-C Access Center (3104 W. 25th St, first floor). From beginners to more advanced users, participants will receive hands-on training in essential computer skills that support success in school, workforce pathways, and daily life. Space is limited, so we encourage interested participants to sign up soon. To register or learn more, contact martin@esperanzainc.org or call 216-586-6996.

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES: Aspire Greater Cleveland offers FREE beginner, intermediate and advanced-level English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 am at the Fulton Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (3545 Fulton Rd.). Students must attend an orientation session before beginning classes and must register to attend orientation. Call 833-277-4732 to register.

YOUNG SCHOLARS’ ACADEMY is a free, weekly kindergarten readiness program for children ages 3–6 and their parents or caregivers. Each in-person session offers playful, hands-on learning aligned with Ohio’s Learning Standards and Every Child Ready to Read. Parents are active partners, gaining confidence and evidence-based tools to support literacy at home. Families receive high-quality books, materials, and tips to continue learning together. Wednesdays at the Eastman Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (11602 Lorain Ave). Visit cpl.org/young-scholars-academy for more information, or call us at 216-623-7114.

ELECTION PRIMARY ELECTION: Polls will be open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm on election day, Tuesday, May 5. Please note that, due to recent changes in Cleveland’s ward map, your polling location may have changed. To check your polling location, visit boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/voters/get-your-voting-information. You must have a valid ID to vote in Ohio.

EVENTS

THE CLEVELAND ASIAN FESTIVAL, an annual celebration of Northeast Ohio’s diverse and rich Asian culture, returns to Cleveland’s AsiaTown neighborhood. The event features live entertainment including cultural performances and demonstrations on our two outdoor stages, a World Marketplace of 100+ vendors and exhibitors, local restaurants and food trucks, free health screenings at our Health Pavilion, free activities, free games, an Asian Pop Dance Cover competition, a trivia challenge, and awesome mascots. May 16 - 17, 11am - 7pm, rain or shine! Free parking available at CSU, at the E. 24th & Payne Lots. No pets allowed. Visit clevelandasianfestival.org/2026 for more information.

CLEVELAND MARATHON: This annual event returns to downtown Cleveland and the near westside on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17. The 5k, 10k, and kids run will be on Saturday, followed by the full and half marathons on Sunday. To register for the races, learn how to get involved, or see info about road closures, visit clevelandmarathon.com.

SENIOR DAY: The Cleveland Department of Aging will present the 36th annual Senior Day on Wednesday, May 20 at Cleveland Public Hall (500 Lakeside Ave). Programming begins at 10 am with an information fair, followed by lunch at noon and entertainment at 12:30 pm. All seniors are invited to this free event. For more information, call 216-664-2833 or visit clevelandohio.gov/aging.

ENVIRONMENT NATIVE SEED LIBRARY: Visit the Native Seed Library at The Book Nook at the West Side Market (1979 W. 25th St.) on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm to pick up free native seeds for your garden or landscape. These regionally appropriate plants support pollinators, biodiversity, and a healthier Northeast Ohio ecosystem.

RIVERSWEEP: 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. 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.

FOOD SENIORS FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM: The Ohio Department of Aging is proud to provide older Ohioans convenient access to locally grown fruits, vegetables, fresh-cut herbs, and raw honey through the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). SFMNP participants will receive a \$50 benefit -- redemption runs until November 30, 2026. Availability varies according to growing conditions, the time of year, and your location. Individuals age 60 or older with incomes within 185% of the federal poverty level i.e. \$29,526 or less for a one-person household; \$40,034 or less for a two-person household and \$50,532 or less for a three-person household. The application period is open until 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22, 2026. Appli-

cations are now available online on the Homegrown Benefits website, at: <http://portal.homegrownbenefits.com/apply/ohio>

HEALTH

THE ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION has a free, 24/7 hotline that offers support for people living with dementia and their caregivers. Translators are available. “My ALZ Journey,” our free mobile app, provides step-by-step support, tailored tools and trusted information to make early-stage planning easier for newly diagnosed people and their care partners. Call our hotline at 800-272-3900, or dial 711 to connect with a telecommunications relay service for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or speech impaired.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS CLINICS: Cleveland Clinic will hold a series of wellness clinics, featuring basic screenings and health talks, on the second Thursday of each month at the community room at CentroVilla25 (3140 W. 25th St). Screenings: 1 pm - 3 pm, Health talk and enjoyable activity: 1:30 pm - 3 pm. Our next two talks will be “Prioritizing Women’s Health” on May 14 and “Mental Health and Wellness” on June 11. Contact Janice at 216-973-2717 or gonalj5@ccf.org to schedule a screening – or just walk in!
MOMSFIRST: Are you pregnant? Do you live in the city of Cleveland? The MomsFirst program can help you learn how to deal with the stress that comes with being a parent; connect you to resources for housing, education, and healthcare; teach you how to keep your baby safe; and find birth control options that work for you. To enroll, visit momsfirst.org or call 216-664-4194.

PROJECT WHITE BUTTERFLY: Looking for support for a substance abuse disorder? If you are ready to stop using now, call Project White Butterfly at 216-727-8725 (Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm), or for 24-hour assistance, call Project SOAR at 440-502-0020. Visit projectwhitebutterfly.org for more information.

LEGAL ISSUES

BILINGUAL IMMIGRATION AND WAGE THEFT CLINIC: Join the Northeast Ohio Worker Center and attorney José Juárez for a free legal clinic for workers and immigrants in our community, in Spanish and English. Clinics are held monthly, either virtually or in person. This month’s session will be on Saturday, May 2. Call or text 216-258-0924. Details will be given after registration.

LEGAL AID ADVICE CLINIC: Have a legal question? Legal Aid has answers! Visit this Brief Advice Clinic at the Fulton Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (3545 Fulton Rd.) on Saturday, May 16 to chat with an attorney about a problem related to money, housing, family, employment or other issues. This clinic is first come, first served, no appointments needed. (Only questions on civil legal issues, not criminal problems). Please bring all **continued on page 7**

Join Our Community Garden!
The Madison Avenue Community Garden @ Story has plots available!
To register for a plot, scan the QR code. Plots assigned on a first come basis.
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Cleveland's \$600 million youth problem

by Tessa Jackson, Faubourg Advisors

A pediatric therapist posted something on social media this week that's been sitting with me. Teens, he argued, don't need another program, pipeline, or productivity metric. They need a third space—somewhere to simply exist, unoptimized and unbothered.

He's right. And after twenty years in community and economic development, I'd add something he didn't: the absence of that third space isn't just a social failure. In cities like Cleveland, it's a residential investment problem hiding in plain sight.

COMMENTARY

Mayor Bibb recently unveiled a \$600 million vision for Burke Airport. It includes a 180-acre youth sports complex, a golf course, hotels, a marina, and a lakefront promenade. The mayor called it "... accessible, high-impact investment that drives economic growth and creates sustainable opportunities reaching beyond downtown to every neighborhood."

The sports complex is expected to bring 400 to 500 families to Cleveland weekly. The hotels planned for the adjacent Muni Lot are described as serving families traveling to Cleveland for tournament events. The economic model isn't built around the teenager from Central or Collinwood. It's built around the travel team from Columbus, whose parents need a place to stay and things to do.

Cleveland isn't alone. From Orlando to Kalamazoo, cities are racing to build "youth sports complexes" anchored by identical logic. One developer recently described the model plainly: "You may come for two hours of sports, but then you have 22 hours of hospitality that you can utilize as a family." The average American family spent over \$1,000 on their child's primary sport last year—\$414 of that on travel and lodging. That is the customer these facilities are designed to capture. Not the kids who live in the surrounding neighborhoods.

This is a pattern. Cities build dog parks, pocket parks, and tournament facilities, and call them community amenities; however, none are places where a teenager can show up on a Saturday and claim space.

So those kids end up at the mall, on the corner, or in the abandoned lot with the empty pool somebody figured out you can skate in. Communities call it mischief—or worse. I call it demand finding the only available supply.

Cleveland, like other communities, has a serious unmeasured "amenity gap". There's never been a comprehensive neighborhood inventory of youth and teen-specific amenities, so we don't officially know where the third space deserts are. We have hunches—anyone who's spent time on the East Side has hunches—but we haven't done the work of mapping them or treating their absence as the infrastructure problem it is.

Families with choices make housing decisions based on the full neighborhood ecosystem. Whether that ecosystem makes space for their teenagers to belong is part of that calculus. When there are no spaces, families leave—or never arrive. That shows up in the comps, vacancy rates, and neighborhood narrative. The amenity gap is quietly accelerating disinvestment on Cleveland's East Side.

Here's what Cleveland should do.

First, the Mayor's Office of Prevention, Intervention and Opportunity should conduct a citywide inventory of youth amenities to identify third space deserts—neighborhoods

where teenagers have no legitimate claim to public space. This is the baseline needed for planning.

Second, make youth-related community impact a condition of the Burke project's community license to operate. As proposed, the project will generate \$2.5 million in annual city tax revenue. A dedicated portion should be contractually committed to funding youth and teen-specific amenities in asset-starved East Side neighborhoods. This isn't a budget drain. It's a community benefit that strengthens the project's political viability while opening the door to state and federal youth violence prevention funding and impact-related capital.

Third, Cleveland should establish a biennial Youth Resources Summit—a participatory planning process that lets teenagers determine which projects get funded. Cleveland has flirted with participatory budgeting before, and this is an opportunity to put the theory into practice without a citywide referendum.

The proposed Burke amenities will be inaccessible to the kids who need them most. The revenue they generate shouldn't be.

Cleveland's teenagers aren't asking for much, just somewhere to be. Twenty years in this work have convinced me that cities willing to respond seriously to creating public spaces for teens will retain families, stabilize neighborhoods, and build sustainable residential markets.

And people abandon the ones that don't.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Thursday, April 9, 2026; Groundbreaking ceremony for second phase of the African American Cultural Gardens, Martin Luther King Jr. Drive: Association of African American Cultural Gardens Development Chair Lavita Ewing speaks to the crowd about the goal for the future of the garden. The second phase of the garden will feature a pool of water with a model of the Little Dipper and a North Star – a reminder of how escaped slaves used the North Star to make their way north to the waters of the Ohio River and Lake Erie, both landmarks of freedom.

Disappointed by City Club sponsored event at the Happy Dog

To the editor:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Plain Press,

Peace be with you. I thank brother BRUCE CHECF-SKY and the Plain Press for the article "Happy Dog hosts City Club forum on recent ICE escalations" which I read in the March 2026

edition.

I expected a more objective, informative evening, given the City Club of Cleveland's sponsorship, but: I left quite disappointed.

I hoped the speakers would inform those gathered: What is current immigration law? What is Operation Metro Surge? Why did ICE (Immi-

gration and Customs Enforcement) go to Minneapolis? None of these questions were answered, and an opportunity to educate the public about this critical issue in our country was lost.

Thomas Jefferson, a founding Father of the United States, said: a democracy without access to infor-

mation is but a farce, or a prelude to a farce. There was not adequate access to information at this event.

With nothing further, and thanking you for the work of the Plain Press, I have the honor to be,

Ben Jimenez, SJ (Society of Jesus)

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, March 28, 2026; No Kings Day rally at Willard Park, E. 9th Street and Lakeside Avenue: Ken Voice and Dennis Mynatt of Cleveland Heights are at the protest because according to Ken he is "pissed off and fed up." He added, "The Constitution is not theirs to destroy."

SCHOOL DEFICIT continued from page one

billed overall property taxes of \$336 million, so that \$6.4 million works out to less than a 2% gain."

With the contributions to school systems from the Federal Government and the State of Ohio either declining or remaining the same, a 2% increase from local property tax revenue simply leaves little room for inflationary costs incurred by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. With wage increases, increased cost of employee health insurance, and increases in other operating costs, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is left in a position where costs are increasing faster than revenue.

Schiller also explains why some homeowners are experiencing substantial property tax increases. He says, "While that's the overall picture, there is good reason why some homeowners are screaming about property tax increases. That's because House Bill 920 adjusts tax rates based on the average valuation increase in the community. If your home's value has gone up by more than that, you will see a bigger tax increase — and that's what's happening to some homeowners."

As residents living in neighborhoods where a lot of new housing is being built can attest, they are experiencing the bigger tax increases that Schiller is referring to. However, many of their neighbors living in the new housing that is going up are paying little or no property tax due to the City of Cleveland's 15-year tax abatements being handed out on all new housing or the increased value of substantially rehabilitated housing.

The City of Cleveland has recently tweaked its tax abatement policy to reduce the abatements from 100% to 85% in some neighborhoods, and to limit the abatement to the first \$400,000 in value. However, the amount of the abatements is still climbing and represents a substantial amount of revenue that the school system is not receiving. The administration will point out that the school system will receive increased revenue after 15 years when the abatements run out. However, the revenue from property tax has not increased substantially as properties come off abatement. Other factors, such as property foreclosure, property abandonment, property reassessments, and people moving out

of the city to seek better schools, all contribute to the lack of a substantial increase in property tax revenue.

On April 4, 2026, *Signal Cleveland* published an article titled, "Cleveland schools' unavailable revenue." It says, "Last year, abatements waived the equivalent of almost \$41.5 million in property tax payments for the Cleveland schools, according to CMSD's most recent state audit. That's up from \$34.7 million the prior year."

While the City of Cleveland may have its reasons for abating properties to attract new residents, there is no excuse for shortchanging school children to do it. This is especially true in Cleveland which has for years had the highest child poverty rate among big cities in the United States of America. While the City of Cleveland may be able to justify the tax abatements within its own budget by citing increased payroll taxes from new residents, it cannot justify the devastating impact of loss of property tax revenue on the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

The City of Cleveland has a budget surplus and has the freedom to add new personnel and new departments. The school system on the other hand is continually facing deficits. The City's priority should be the education of Cleveland's children. We need to properly fund our educational system before any other new expenditures are contemplated. Cleveland needs to begin reimbursing the Cleveland Metropolitan School District each year for the amount of property tax it abates. It can start with sending \$76.2 million to the CMSD for compensate it for the last two years of tax abatements.

Protesters at the Board of Education are misdirecting their wrath. The Board of Education is just reacting to the deficit caused by the tax abatement policy of the City of Cleveland. Protests need to be directed at City Hall and Cleveland City Council to seek change in the tax abatement policies and to reimburse the school system for abated taxes.

Cleveland voters have done their part in passing levies. It is unethical for the City of Cleveland to give away money voters intended for the school system. If Cleveland City Council refuses to act on passing legislation requiring the City of Cleveland to reimburse CMSD for abatements, efforts should be made to place this issue on the ballot for the voters to decide.

Students, parents and teachers protest school layoffs

Protests over the layoff of 300 Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) teachers and staff began Tuesday afternoon at Campus International School and continued that evening at the Board of Education meeting.

Polly Karr, a parent and community activist, wrote about the Campus International protest and protests at the Board of education on her Substack blog.

In an April 19th post on her blog titled, "Power to the people, right on" Karr described the reaction of Campus International eighth grade students when they learned a beloved Algebra teacher received a layoff notice:

There was sadness and crying for a few hours but then they kicked into gear. They collected the contact information for Dr. Morgan and the school board. They created a Goo-

gle Doc and started compiling the information to share. They wrote out form letter examples. They made fliers and wallpapered our school with them

If that was all they had done, it would have been awesome. However, they were not finished. Inspired by the high school student walkout protests earlier in the year over ICE, and from the Davis student protests last year, our 8th graders staged a walk out in protest of the teacher layoffs. They managed to, among themselves, choose leaders for their movement, create signs, get parental permission and rally their fellow students last Tuesday afternoon.

That evening at the Board of Education Work Session, held at the East Professional Center, Karr continued her coverage of those protesting the layoffs. She said that students from Campus International

were joined by students from other schools, parents, and a large turnout of members of the Cleveland Teachers Union.

Karr reported that newly elected Cleveland Teachers Union President Errol Savage brought boxes of blue Cleveland Teachers Union t-shirts. Karr described what happened with the arrival of the t-shirts:

Out in the lobby of the East Professional Center there were teachers. More teachers than I have seen at a board meeting in the past two years. They were all wearing blue in solidarity with the union colors. Some had union t-shirts. When the new union president, Errol Savage arrived, the many colors of blue changed into one unified blue as he brought with him boxes of union t-shirts.

Teachers who had already taken seats in the auditorium came back out to get a t-shirt. The act of putting on the shirts seemed to activate the membership. The murmurs became a solid buzz.

Karr noted that the sound system was not working properly. The students were holding up their signs and getting support from the crowd with people shouting, "Let them speak." Board Chair Sara Elaquad noted that the Board of Education did not allow the public to speak at its Work Session. She tried unsuccessfully to quiet the crowd saying if there was not quiet the board would recess.

Following the recess, Elaquad announced that because of the disruptive crowd there would be no explanation by Chief Executive Officer Dr. Warren Morgan of the reasons for the layoffs. The Board then voted unanimously for the layoffs without public discussion or a public explanation of why the layoffs were happening.

In a letter to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District Community following the meeting, Board Chair Elaquad said, "Sustained disruptions, including prolonged chanting, made it impossible to conduct business, prevented Dr. Morgan from delivering his presentation and the Board from having the staffing conversation in public view. As a result, the board was forced to move directly through the agenda and vote without the benefit of that explanation."



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, March 28, 2026; No Kings Day rally at Willard Park, E. 9th Street and Lakeside Avenue: Linda Aguinaga, an educator from Sheffield Village, is concerned about our democracy and wants "to make sure we leave it for the next generation."

News from Old Brooklyn includes new beginnings and sad departures

by Lynette Filipis

Another month of "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" — but no demolition — has passed in the heart of downtown Old Brooklyn and to report about it, I am using the method I used last month — subtitles. They make all these different historical topics easier to organize, especially since this month I added a couple of new categories.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OLD BROOKLYN

In the last issue I declined to name the location being considered for the new Museum because a lease had not yet been signed. But now it's official — The Historical Society of Old Brooklyn (HSOB) will be renting space in a storefront at 2221 Broadview Rd., two doors north of Colburn Avenue. Currently the HSOB's Relocation Committee is still negotiating with the painters to come up with a work plan, so it's too soon to determine a date for the Museum's reopening.

Because the Society's bi-monthly meetings were never held in the Museum, the upcoming meeting will not be affected by the status of the Museum. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 8th, at St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd., opposite Oakpark Ave., and between Alvin Ave. and Maynard Ave. The speaker will be from the Cuyahoga Valley National Park; Interpretive Ranger Rebecca Jones Macko will discuss the history

of the Ohio & Erie Canal. A business meeting and time for socializing will also be part of the evening.

May is also the month when the HSOB has been presenting an annual Memorial Day Observance at a neighborhood cemetery, most recently at Brookmere Cemetery at the end of "short" Broadview Rd. Please check the HSOB's website and Facebook page closer to the holiday to confirm that it will be taking place at noon again this year. And bring a lawn chair if you decide to honor the day by attending this brief ceremony.

BROOKMERE CEMETERY

And since we're on the topic of Brookmere, it's a good time to note that gates have been installed at the Cemetery's entrance. Brookmere's "guardian angels", sisters Linda Cameron and Karen Parks, didn't like the caliber of some of the visitors who came to hang out after dark by the Gates family's monument in the extreme western end of the Cemetery. So, they asked John Novak, the City's Manager of Cemeteries, to have the gates installed. Strictly utilitarian in appearance, they open at 8 a.m. and close at 5 – 6 p.m. each day and only block the passage of vehicles. The sisters are behind schedule with their clean-up of the Cemetery grounds this year due to delays in receiving permits from the City to do all their volunteer work there.

PEARL ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Members of Pearl Road United Methodist Church (PRUMC) celebrated their first Palm Sunday (March 29th) and Easter Sunday (April 5th) in their new temporary location, the former Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 8235 Memphis Ave., next to St. Elias, in Brooklyn. Because the congregation Live Streams its worship services on Facebook, anyone can tune in to see just how lovely the new space is. None of their own large church items had been moved there for the first services, so they fashioned an altar from two tables and used the cross on the wall and the pews from the previous congregation. Andrew's Moving then came to 4200 Pearl Rd. to move the large items on Wednesday, April 15th, and to move the large items to be stored (e.g., the pews) on Thursday, April 16th. Cory United Methodist Church on Cleveland's east side also moved some of PRUMC's excess dishes, bibles, hymnals and parlor furniture to their church.

The parking lot at PRUMC looks very different because pallets piled with orange plastic Jersey barriers (to ultimately keep unwanted vehicles away from the new construction) and white pipes line the fence next to the driveway of the Loizos home. Behind that, all the trees and vegetation on the once heavily

continued on page 8

Legal Aid offers free legal help for those impacted by eviction

by **Tonya Sams**

Today, people are facing a new and complicated set of challenges. Some are worried about where their next meal is coming from while others fear that they will not be able to pay their rent. Legal Aid, which offers free civil legal representation for those with low incomes, may be able to help you in those areas and more.

Legal Aid has been working to gain access to justice for those in our client communities since 1905. It's the fifth oldest legal aid organization in the United States. Legal Aid serves residents in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, and Lorain Counties.

Many of those who seek legal representation from Legal Aid get positive results. In 2025, 82% of clients represented by Legal Aid found solutions to their problems and achieved their goals. Last year, Legal Aid was also able to achieve the following outcomes for our clients: 96% safety secured; 79% evictions or involuntary moves prevented; 97% assets secured; 96% barriers to education overcome; and 86% debt reduced.

Attorneys at Legal Aid help clients who need help in several areas including: **Housing:** foreclosure; eviction; landlord/tenant issues; utilities; public housing; **Work:** unemployment compensation; IRS tax issues; sealing criminal records; securing a valid ID or professional license; **Money:** loans (school, payday, auto, debt); public benefits (SNAP, energy assistance, cash assistance, supplemental security income); bankruptcy; estate planning; **Family:** domestic violence; divorce; custody; education; **Health:** medical bill collection; access to medical records; Medicare and Medicaid; marketplace tax credits and penalties.

More detailed information on

these topics is available on Legal Aid's website: lasclev.org, click "Services & Resources" then "Legal Resources"

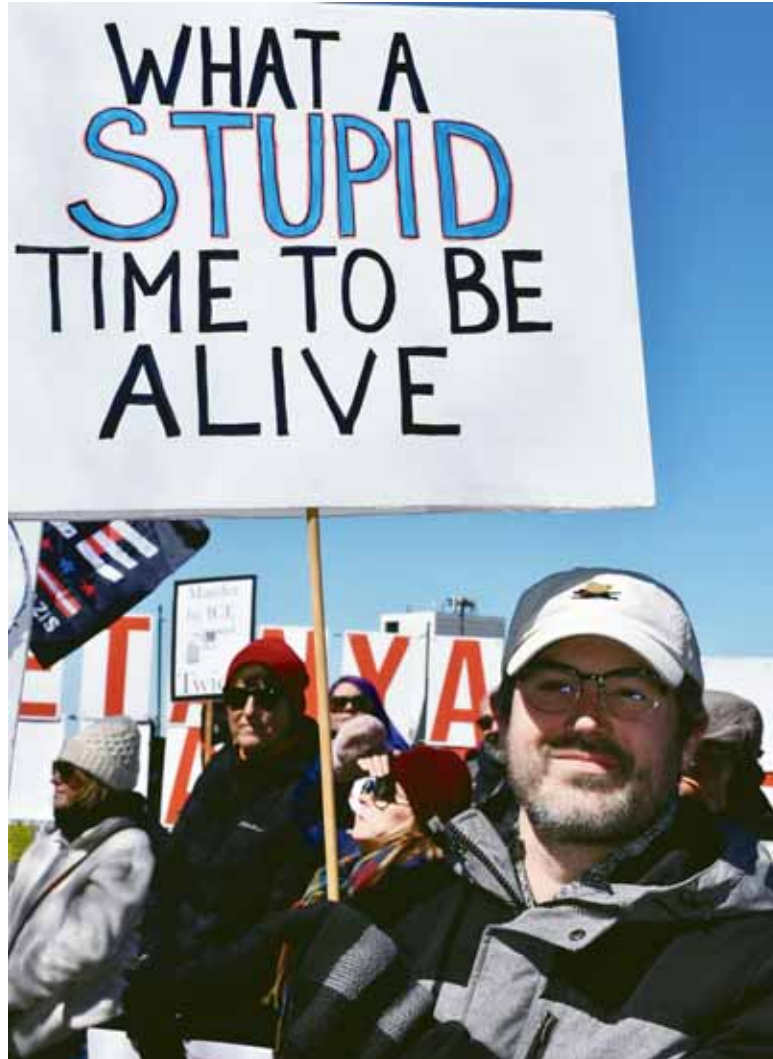
Legal Aid attorneys represent and advise clients and go into the community to educate residents regarding their rights and services that are available to prospective clients. One such initiative is Legal Aid Brief Advice Clinics. Attendees receive brief advice from attorneys regarding their legal matter. These clinics are held in libraries, community centers and other

trusted sites. Some are on a first-come, first-serve basis while some are by appointment only. For a full schedule of brief advice clinics, visit lasclev.org/clinics.

If you have quick questions regarding tenants' rights and rental housing, call the Tenant Info Line at 440-210-4533, or 216-861-5955.

For quick questions regarding employment, unemployment and student loans, call the Economic Justice Info Line at 440-210-4532 or 216-861-5899.

Request Legal Aid's help by



ABOVE PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON Saturday, March 28, 2026; No Kings Day rally at Willard Park, E. 9th Street and Lakeside Avenue: Mike from Brecksville says he is at the rally because he is "tired of the nonsense."

PHOTO AT LEFT BY DEBBIE SADLON Saturday, March 28, 2026; No Kings Day rally at Willard Park, E. 9th Street and Lakeside Avenue: Fran from Berea is "sick of everything... and how it is damaging our reputation around the world."

calling 888-817-3777 during normal business hours or by applying online at lasclev.org/apply. When speaking with a Legal Aid intake specialist be sure to have income information and necessary documentation related to your legal issue on hand.

To invite Legal Aid to an outreach/

education event: lasclev.org/OutreachRequest.

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

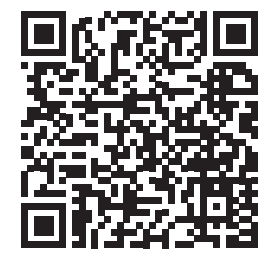
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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Saturday, March 28, 2026; No Kings Day rally at Willard Park, E. 9th Street and Lakeside Avenue: Erin from Solon says her primary reason for being at the rally is concern for “women’s rights.”

TANISHA’S LAW

continued from page one

reau of Community Crisis Response within Cleveland’s Emergency Medical Services to coordinate responses to behavioral health crises in the city of Cleveland.

The law was introduced in November of 2024 and sponsored by City Council Representatives Stephanie House-Jones, Charles Slife and now former City Council Representative Rebecca Maurer. Delay in passing the law was due to Mayor Justin Bibb’s administration’s objection to creating a separate Department for Community Crisis Response. A compromise was reached and the amended law now calls for a Bureau within the Department of Emergency Medical Services.

A statement from Cleveland City Council says the law “establishes a new, compassionate approach to responding to mental health and behavioral health crises in Cleveland, prioritizing dignity, safety, and appropriate care over traditional law enforcement responses when possible.”

City Council’s statement outlines some of the key components of the law: 1) Creation of a Bureau of Community Crisis Response within Cleveland EMS, led by a Deputy Commissioner, to coordinate citywide crisis response efforts in collaboration with public safety, public health, and other city departments. 2) Unarmed Crisis Response Teams made up of behavioral health professionals, social workers, peers with lived experience, and clinicians. These teams will be dispatched—often instead of police—to non-violent behavioral health crises, wellness checks, substance-use crises, and quality-of-life calls. 3) Crisis call diversion through embedding mental health clinicians in the 9-1-1 dispatch center to route appropriate calls away from policing and toward behavioral health responses. 4) Follow-up care and service connection, with responders assessing needs, providing resources, making referrals, and helping individuals access appropriate facilities or services.

According to the statement from Cleveland City Council some of the transparency and accountability mea-

asures included in the law are: “1) Ongoing data collection of effectiveness, outcomes, costs and return on investment. 2) An annual public report on program impact and recommendations and 3). A public online dashboard showing response data, police hours saved, and community feedback.”

City Council says the law also calls for expanding crisis intervention training for police officers. City Council says this includes: “1) Mandatory crisis intervention training for all officers (initial and annual refresher) 2) Specialized, voluntary 40-hour training for designate Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers. 3) Stricter eligibility standards for CIT officers, excluding those with histories of excessive force complaints. 4) Public education and engagement, with outreach to inform residents about the new crisis response system and how to access it.”

The law is named after Tanisha Anderson, who at age 37 was killed by police responding to a mental health crisis call from her family. Police officers responding to the call were not trained in Crisis Intervention.

As this issue of the *Plain Press* is going to print, the City of Cleveland has not yet released an implementation schedule for the creation of the new Bureau of Community Crisis Response, or the hiring of a Deputy Director to run it. The *Plain Press* has reached out to Mayor Bibb’s Media Relations Department for information about the implementation schedule for the new law and when the required “public education and engagement with outreach to inform residents about the new crisis response system and how to access it” will occur.

It is the hope of all those involved in creating this new law, that what happened to Tanisha Anderson in 2014, will not be repeated in the City of Cleveland. A description of what happened to Tanisha Anderson is contained in an article written by Collin Cunningham and published by *The Land* in December of 2024 titled “New law seeks to honor Tanisha Anderson’s legacy while making police accountable for mental health scenarios.” The article describes second 911 call made by Anderson’s family on that fateful day in November of 2014

and what ensued afterward:

Family members at the Hough address made a subsequent call to dispatch around 10:45 p.m., informing authorities that the 37-year-old had exited onto the porch, wearing the sundress she customarily used as a night gown, to wash the windows. Tanisha’s relatives requested EMS (Emergency Medical Services) support, expressing concern that Tanisha would become ill walking outdoors shoeless in temperatures that bottomed out around 28 degrees.

In response, dispatch sent a separate set of CDP (Cleveland Division of Police) officers to investigate: Scott Aldridge, a detective, and Brian Meyers, Aldridge’s partner, who decided upon arrival to take Tanisha to St. Vincent Charity Medical Center for a psychiatric evaluation. Tanisha agreed and cooperated until she saw the police car; she then became upset and refused to go.

In the article, Tanisha Anderson’s uncle, Michael Anderson, describes what he learned happened next: “... officers tried to force Tanisha into the car; when she refused, they brought out handcuffs and tackled her in an attempt at restraining her.

“It was November, so the ground was cold,” Anderson added. “Officer Scott Aldridge had his knee on her back... and he’s (talking to the) family members. She started saying the Lord’s Prayer, not realizing she was losing her breath. I don’t know if she said, ‘I can’t breathe.’ ... She was overweight, and when you are (lying) down like that and someone’s got their knee on your back, something’s going to happen where your lungs won’t open up.”

Editor’s note: To view the article in *The Land* referenced in this article visit: www.thelandCle.org.

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Legal Aid offers free legal help with eviction, money issues, and more

by Tonya Sams

Today, people are facing a new and complicated set of challenges. Some are worried about where their next meal is coming from while others fear that they will not be able to pay their rent. Legal Aid, which offers free civil legal representation for those with low incomes, may be able to help you in those areas and more.

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

Staying eligible under the new Able-Body Adult Work Rules: It’s critical to check your benefits

by Che Gadison

Beginning February 1st, major changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) went into effect for many adults ages 18–64. These changes—known as the **Able-Bodied Adults (ABA) Work Rules**—which requires certain SNAP recipients to meet a 20-hour-per-week work, training or community service activity. With the first countable month beginning March 1st, and the last countable month ending May 31st, it is more important than ever for individuals to stay informed about their benefit status.

Why Checking Your Eligibility Matters

Checking your eligibility regularly and making sure you meet the work requirements if they apply to you is necessary to prevent a termination of benefits.

The new ABA Work Rules mean that some individuals who were previously exempt may now be required to meet work activity standards. If you are **not exempt**, you must do one of the following to keep your SNAP benefits: **work 20 hours per week** (80 hours per month), or **participate in a SNAP Employment & Training (E&T) program** for at least **20 hours per week** and complete qualifying community service hours.

One of the most significant changes introduced under H.R. 1 is the **expansion of work requirements to include adults ages 60–64** who are not disabled, are not caring for a dependent, are not enrolled at least half-time in school or training and who do not meet other exemption criteria. These individuals must now meet the same work or training requirements as younger ABA recipients. However, challenges that adults in the 60–64 age range could possibly face are reduced work hours, limited job opportunities, health challenges that may not qualify as formal disabilities and caregiving

responsibilities for grandchildren or aging relatives.

Remember, you may only receive SNAP for **three months within a three-year period without meeting the requirements or exemption**. After that, you will have to be exempt or meet the work requirements for 30 days before you can qualify for benefits and they can be reinstated. If you work part-time or have seasonal employment, you must: track your weekly hours, keep pay stubs or employer statements as proof of employment, **notify your caseworker immediately if your hours drop**.

If you **do qualify for one of the following exemptions**, it must be documented: **Work or school reasons** (earning \$217.50/week, enrolled half-time, receiving unemployment, etc.); **Family caregiving responsibilities** (caring for a child under 14, a child under 6, or a disabled adult); **Personal reasons** (Indigenous Tribal membership); and **Health reasons** (short- or long-term physical or mental health issues, pregnancy, disability benefits, medical leave, substance use treatment).

If you are unsure whether you are exempt from the new work requirements or need assistance in meeting the requirements, please call Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Customer Service: 1-866-386-3071.

Editor’s Note: The author, Che Gadison, is a member of Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality (NO-BLE).

Plain Press:

Visit the Plain Press website at <https://plainpress.blog>

PRIMARY ENDORSEMENT

continued from page one

Jones accused Brock of violating bylaws by attempting to rescind an endorsement following reports of misconduct, including threats against a staffer. Jones allegedly engaged in bullying and harassment. He has denied any wrongdoing. The Cleveland City Council voted 14-2 to censure Jones for violating workplace violence policies, the first such action in 50 years. Despite the misconduct reports, the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party's Ward 1 Executive Committee reaffirmed its endorsement of Jones.

The executive committee makes voter recommendations in a sample ballot mailed to county residents; the names of candidates selected for endorsement are listed. In this way, the executive committee holds all the power, and votes from within the party are needed to be on the committee.

"The number of executive committee members per ward is not clear. Some wards have more; others have fewer. And it is not based on voter turnout, population, or the number of precincts," said Kubit. "This ambiguity on how the number of executive committee members gets selected ultimately gives the ward and party leaders the opportunity to appoint people they want to influence elections."

Cleveland politics is obsessed with personal appointments made to political positions, and the city and county are run by "churchery boards," which results in lower voter turnout because people lose faith in the electoral system, Kubit observed.

Justin Bibb won a second term as Cleveland mayor last year, with 18% of registered voters casting ballots. The number was even less for the primary, with about 8,600 people casting ballots, or 7.1% of registered voters.

"Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) is a perfect example. People are upset that they do not have representation," said Kubit. "CMSD Board of Education members are appointed by the mayor of Cleveland and not cho-

sen by the public. They make their decisions behind closed doors (as in the recent layoffs and school closings). They have no direct attachment to the civic accountability of its residents."

Kubit describes Cleveland as a political machine town, though it may have changed since the 1970s and 80s, she admits. Elections are decided months ahead of the general election. The key to winning an election is a pre-primary endorsement from the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party executive committee.

"The pre-primary executive endorsements are toxic," she added. "We see the cancerous effects in every race, but it is most obvious in the judicial races, where the sample ballot will seal the deal 100% of the time."

Kubit continued, "During the prosecutors' race, I was campaign manager for Matthew Ahn, and we successfully blocked the endorsement of Michael O'Malley from the sample ballot. Nobody thought we could do it. It was a big upset. He was surprised and is still mad."

O'Malley organized a pushback and blamed Brock for the lack of endorsement. Brock had nothing to do with it, Kubit admitted. Their success came from knocking on doors for 13 months and their continuous grassroots campaigning.

Brock tried to patch up his relationship with O'Malley, but it didn't work.

"O'Malley has since gone scorched earth," said Kubit. "He still owes the Cuyahoga Democrat Party about \$10,000 for sample ballot fees from 2024."

Former Ward 7 City Council candidate Mike Rogalski is campaigning for the Central Committee, Ward 7, Precinct K for the first time. He describes Precinct K as the southernmost portion of Tremont, encompassing everything south of Starkweather Avenue, extending west along the highway, and ending at Quigley Road, following Steelyard Commons.

He wants to see an end to the committee's pre-primary election endorsements, calling them unfair and intentionally undermining an



Friday, April 17, 2026; Adult Clay Class, Cudell Fine Arts, 10013 Detroit Avenue: Pamela Hardy smooths the surface of her clay bowl. PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG

otherwise impartial process.

"The ward leader, Paula Kampf, attempted to ban me from the party," said Rogalski, referring to his City Council run last year. He placed third behind Mohammad Faraj, who also publicly complained about unfair practices coming from the Democratic Party during the campaign.

"[Kampf] banned me from participating in meetings and spread lies about Mohammad and me, which culminated in an endorsement meeting where I was not invited."

The endorsement process took place without Rogalski, and the committee ultimately selected Austin Davis, who then won the election.

"Kampf was only interested in power consolidation," he said. "She was afraid I might have performed better than expected, preventing their candidate, Davis, from winning the election."

Rogalski refers to himself as a reform-minded candidate with a mission to abolish pre-primary endorsements and hopes of reshaping

county politics forever. "When an endorsed democratic candidate in a primary election makes it onto the general election, they are almost guaranteed to win the seat."

"People do not realize the race is taking place between now and May 5th, and not in the general election in November," he said.

Polls will be open from 6:30 AM until 7:30 PM on May 5th. Locate your polling station at the following link: <https://boe.cuyahogacounty.gov/>.

COMMUNITY BOARD

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important paperwork with you. Intake hour is from 10 am to 11 am. In the meantime, Legal Aid is open 24/7 online at laslev.org, or you can call Legal Aid for help during most business hours at 888-817-3777.

LEGALWORKS AT THE LIBRARY: LegalWorks is a non-profit organization that provides legal consultation and assistance for qualified, low-income youth and adults in underserved communities. Areas of assistance focus on legal issues that prevent people from moving forward in their lives, including expungements, sealing records, obtaining certificates of qualified employment, clearing outstanding warrants, restoring driving privileges, and other select legal matters. Assistance is available at the Fulton Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (3545 Fulton Rd.) on Tuesdays from noon to 3 pm. By appointment only! Register at legalworksneo.org or call 216-623-6969. We can arrange other meeting times if needed.

RECREATION
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an address in one of the eligible cities and can be 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.

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 ID or a current utility bill with your Cuyahoga County or Hinckley Township address along with a photo ID.

SLOW ROLL CLEVELAND: Slow Roll is a weekly, leisurely paced mass bike ride through the nooks and corners of our city. Our 10-mile rides each Monday night throughout the warmer months attract hundreds of riders of diverse backgrounds and experience levels. We're fully supported by Slow Roll's one and only Squad: a crack unit of yellow-shirted volunteers who keep the ride safe. Upcoming events include May 4 in Ohio City, May 18 in Kamm's Corners, June 8 in Detroit-Shoreway, and June 22 in Old Brooklyn. Visit slowrollcleveland.org.

UTILITIES
FREE HEAP COURSE: OneHope NEO (3202 Fulton Rd.) offers a free, 45-minute HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) course to help our neighbors lower their utility costs, on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm and Thursdays at 5 pm. You must be on time and must preregister on our website. To register for an upcoming workshop and see a list

of documents you need to bring, visit onehopeneo.org/events. (Please note: these workshops will help you fill out a HEAP application with our guidance. We do not process HEAP applications.) **HEAP SUMMER CRISIS PROGRAM** is accepting applications now thru September 30. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Summer Crisis Program is a one-time benefit that can help pay electric utility bills (up to \$500), purchase air conditioners or fans, or repair central air conditioning units during the summer months. For more information and to see if you qualify, visit energyhelp.ohio.gov.

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OLD BROOKLYN

continued from page 4
wooded lot on "short" Broadview have been cut down. Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation had purchased the residential property when it became available so that they would have more "site control". Even without the six-story apartment building, it's already a big change for the Memphis-Pearl project's next-door neighbors. A lesser number of trees have also been removed from the main PRUMC-St. Luke's property. Shiny portable metal fencing and gates have also appeared on the site.

In addition to this loss, members of PRUMC are also mourning with a former pastor, Rev. J. Harlan Rife, and his wife, Madeline, over the loss of their nine-year old son,

Sam. In the late afternoon of Friday, April 17th, Sam and a friend were playing baseball in the front yard of the family's home in Green (Summit County) when he chased a ball into the street, right into the path of a Jeep Wrangler. He died from the injuries caused by the impact with the vehicle. In addition to parents and grandparents, Sam is also survived by his younger sister, Marta.

Folks who attended Old Brooklyn's early Farmers Markets may remember Harlan and his family because of the way he opened up PRUMC's front yard and Church basement for the Market. He was very interested in building up the church community and is the pastor who began negotiating with the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation to include his church

building in their plan for dealing with his neighbor, the abandoned St. Luke's United Church of Christ. After he finished his seminary education, he moved to a bigger congregation than PRUMC. Rev. Rife is currently the pastor of Greensburg United Methodist Church.

FRIENDS OF SNAKE HILL

Just west and a bit north of the hub-bub of the Memphis-Pearl intersection lies a much quieter, lesser-known area of Old Brooklyn called Edgewood. It's composed of streets like Pensacola, Muriel and Clybourne which are situated on the bluff directly south of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Many years ago when I started writing local history for the "Old Brooklyn News", older people told me about a hill where they used to go on wild sled rides



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG

Friday, April 17, 2026; Adult Clay Class, Cudell Fine Arts, 10013 Detroit Avenue: Ceramic cigar trays created by Paul Johanni.



PHOTO BY GREG ROSENBERG

Friday, April 17, 2026; National Arts Program Cleveland Ohio Exhibit at Cudell Fine Arts, 10013 Detroit Avenue: This painting by Cleveland School of the Arts Student Makayla Moore, age 17, won third in the National Arts Program art contest for teens ages 13-18.

used by workers to get from the higher-elevation neighborhood to a now demolished large iron stove production facility called Fanner Manufacturing. I remember seeing it on that roadway (called Wildlife Way today); the Zoo bought/used the building after the stove production there ceased.

The Trail was totally overgrown when I first became aware of it, and I suspect that it had been like that for many years. But in recent years it's become an "item" again, as preserving what remains of our history becomes increasingly important. Eric Greifenstein, a member of the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn and a resident of the neighborhood, co-founded "The Friends of Snake Hill Trail" with Alex Manuk. Eric periodically leads hikes down the trail to make people aware of its existence. He even got the new Ward 11 Councilwoman, Nikki Hudson, interested in it. He would like Metroparks, the Trail's owner, to put some money into improving it/making it safer. And

Eric interested local multi-purpose trail enthusiasts Lennie Stover and Chris Feighan in his new passion.

Luckily for the Friends of Snake Hill Trail, Lennie Stover liked their project and he had some equipment to help them out. Relatively recently he brought a small tractor to "improve" (clear and level) some of the half-mile trail. He hauled a massive donated bench, resized it and installed it at the top of the Trail. The name of the Trail is now lettered on the bench. The Friends were very sad to learn that their new ally Lennie died on April 22nd. Further investigation revealed that the cause was pancreatic cancer; not many people beat it. May Lennie continue to advocate for trails and greenways from the "Great Beyond" and may the new Councilwoman's interest in the Snake Hill Trail continue to grow.

Till next month, if you want to refer 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. In time the HSOB also hopes to be able to share news on its website about its progress transforming another building into a museum.

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when they were young. They called it "Snake Hill" and it ran from Muriel Ave. at W. 38th St. to the roadway (maybe called Brookside Park Dr. in those days) on the southern edge of the Zoo which connects Pearl Rd. to Fulton Pkwy. The trail was originally

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