



PHOTO BY BRUCE CHECEFSKY
Tuesday, August 11, 2026; Second District Community Policing Committee meeting, OneHope NEO, 3202 Fulton Road: The Cleveland Division of Police Second District, led by Commander Timothy Maffo-Judd, holds monthly Community Policing Committee meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM.

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Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

Ohio City Shootout!

RESIDENT TELLS SECOND DISTRICT POLICING COMMITTEE ABOUT BULLETS FIRED INTO HER HOME

by Bruce Checefsky

"On July 25th, things changed a lot for me," said Sarah (last name withheld to protect victim privacy during the active investigation). "While in my home, I was reading to my twenty-one-month-old twins and

heard popping sounds coming from outside. I looked out my window and saw people running down the street. I heard two more loud bangs and immediately felt heat and impact."

Multiple gunshot rounds pierced her home, with two bullets entering

the kitchen where her husband Matt was and two bullets entering a bedroom where her children were sleeping. The incident occurred at approximately 8:00 p.m.

She had been shot. Her voice quivered as she spoke. "The bullet pierced my femoral artery, went through my thigh, and struck my daughter's crib."

Leaning on a cane for support, she stood before a group of about thirty neighborhood residents gathered at OneHope NEO on Fulton Road, as part of the 2nd District – District Policing Committee meeting held on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM, and led by Commander Timothy Maffo-Judd.

Sarah continued. "I was the only one injured. I am so grateful for that, even though I have a bullet hole in my leg."

Matt, a former Navy corpsman, grabbed a belt and immediately applied a tourniquet to her leg. "I am a registered nurse. My husband, thank God, is very trained."

Sarah spent the next week recovering from the gunshot wound at Metro Hospital. "I remember every single minute of it. I never lost consciousness until I went into the operating room. All I wanted to know continued on page 6



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, August 4, 2026; Night Out Against Crime, Steelyard Commons, 3447 Steelyard Drive: Devon Cummings demonstrates his hula hoop skills. Cummings is an electrical engineering student at Cleveland State University, a Cuyahoga Community College graduate and a Marine Corps veteran.



PHOTO BY ABE KURP

Wednesday, August 12, 2026; Site of Greater Cleveland Food Bank's future West Side Community Resource Center, 9830 Lorain Avenue: Greater Cleveland Food Bank's Chief Logistics Officer Dwayne Brake outlines the security measures that will be in place at the West Side Community Resource Center.

Door-to-door combat: Precinct Captains' ground war on voting

by Bruce Checefsky

To spread fear among voters, President Trump said in May that he would "do anything necessary to make sure we have honest elections; we have to have honest elections." Given the president's threat, National Guard troops, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers, or unauthorized private militia, could appear at polling locations during the midterm elections.

Deploying armed federal agents or military forces is illegal under long-standing federal law, but, according to Deb Kline, "it may not matter."

Kline is one of hundreds of precinct captains that form the grassroots backbone of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party (CCDP). She serves as the Democratic Club president for Cleveland's Ward 11 and as a second-term president of the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 1794.

As a precinct captain, Kline attends CCDP and local block club

meetings, canvasses her precinct, registers voters door-to-door, and serves as a liaison between the Democratic Party and community residents. She also recruits, organizes, trains, and manages team members and volunteers.

"Door-to-door knocking is successful in reaching voters, but people are not opening their doors, so we leave packets for them," she said, adding, "The voting rules have changed in Cuyahoga County, making it difficult for people who have not voted during the past two years. They are effectively purged from party affiliation and registration."

In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld Ohio's controversial "use-it-or-lose-it" voting law, which allows the state to strike voters from the registration rolls if they do not return a mailed address confirmation form and don't vote for another four years, or two federal election cycles. Ohio is the only state with a process based on failure to vote

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Food bank set to open west side center next January

by Abe Kurp

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank is set to open its first West Side Community Resource Center (CRC) in January 2027 on the corner of W. 98th St. and Lorain Ave.

At a community meeting at the site of the upcoming center on August 12,

Greater Cleveland Food Bank President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kristin Warzocha explained that, like its east-side counterpart, which opened in November 2023 on S. Waterloo Rd. in the North Collinwood neighborhood, the new center will be a place for people to access free food in a grocery-store-

style environment. While they're there, they will also be able to access free resources from the food bank's partner organizations, including Cuyahoga Community College, Neighborhood Family Practice, Goodwill, and Digital C. Representatives from Cuyahoga Job

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PHOTO BY JEFF SUGALSKI

Monday, August 3, 2026; Menlo Park Academy, 2149 W. 53rd Street: Mural on the water tower at Menlo Park Academy by artist and Menlo Park Academy parent Ariel Vergez. The building that now houses Menlo Park Academy was the former home of garment manufacturing company Joseph and Feiss. (See related photo on page 7).



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, August 4, 2026; Night Out Against Crime Dance Off with Superheroes, Steelyard Commons, 3447 Steelyard Drive: Children, ages 4-8, show off their best dance moves, while judges Batman, Wonder Woman, Snow White and Princess Tiana select the best girl dancer and boy dancer. The winners each received a bicycle. Pastor Nate, serving as master of ceremonies, and Community Liaison Consultant for the Cleveland Police Foundation Keith Sulzer award the bicycles to the winning girl and boy dancers.

Upcoming events
September 3 - Fulton Road Community Meeting: Hosted by Ward 14 Councilwoman Jasmin Santana and One Hope NEO, this community meeting is an opportunity for Ward 14 residents to hear neighborhood updates, connect with the council office, and share the challenges and concerns that continue to affect their community. Thursday, September 3, 6 pm-7:30 pm at the One Hope NEO office (3202 Fulton Rd). Please note: If you are requesting an update regarding a previously submitted 311 report, please bring your 311 reference number. For questions or concerns, contact Karen Caraballo at 216-664-4238 or kcaraballo@clevelandcitycouncil.gov.
September 5 - Hingetown Jazz Festival: Enjoy a full day of free live jazz music at various venues around the Hingetown area of Ohio City (near W. 29 St. and Detroit Ave.) on Saturday, September 5. Local musical acts will perform throughout the day, from 2 pm to 9:30 pm, at the following venues: Jukebox (1404 W. 29 St.), Saucy Brew Works (2885 Detroit Ave.), and the Bop Stop (2920 Detroit Ave). The event is free, family friendly, and open to the public. For more information, including an event schedule and full lineup, visit hingetownjazzfest.org.
September 5-7: Cleveland National Air Show, Cleveland’s Labor Day Weekend tradition, offers three days of aerial thrills featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, military jet demonstrations, gravity defying aerobatics, parachuting and more, from Saturday, September 5 to Monday, September 7. While it is a ticketed event, much of the show’s aerial performances are visible from around the Cleveland area. Visit clevelandairshow.com for more information.
September 4-7 - St. Rocco’s Labor Day Festival will take place from Friday, September 4 to Monday, September 7 at 3205 Fulton Rd. Enjoy rides, games, food, and free live music throughout the weekend. The greasy pole contest will be on Monday, September 7 at 2 pm. For more information, contact us at 216-961-8331 or mbuhaley@sain-troccocleveland.com.
September 12 - Celebrando: Hosted by the Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center, *Celebrando* is dedicated to honoring the rich cultural heritage of the Hispanic and Latino communities in Cleveland. It’s a vibrant and engaging

occasion filled with music, dance, and traditional cuisine, as well as educational and artistic presentations. Saturday, September 12 from 4 to 7 pm at 2800 Archwood Ave.
September 12 - Max Hayes Car Show: Come check out a wide selection of classic cars and mingle with other classic car enthusiasts at this year’s edition of the Max Hayes Classic Car Show, which will take place in the parking lot of Max Hayes High School (2211 W. 65th St.) on Saturday, September 12, 10 am - 2 pm. For those with a car in the show: the registration table opens at 9 am. Any questions or concerns, please call 330-459-0888.
September 12 - VetConnect is a free, one-day event designed to help veterans and their families access the benefits, services, and connections they’ve earned – all in one convenient location – Saturday, September 12 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Browns stadium. Sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission, the event will feature: access to Veteran Service Officers for questions and camaraderie, free meals and refreshments throughout the day, on-site creation of veteran ID cards, and access to a variety of veteran-serving organizations. To register, visit cuyahogavets.org/vetconnect. Please note that not all resources and services available at VetConnect are available to every attendee. Supplies and resources are limited and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. The event is open to Cuyahoga County veterans with an Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) Discharge, as well as their eligible family members. All veterans must provide a copy of their DD214 to attend the event. VetConnect attendees may park at the lot at 515 Erieside Ave., just north of the stadium. Shuttle service will be available to and from the stadium. Questions? Contact us at 216-698-2600 or vscmail@cuyahogacounty.gov.
September 13 - International Block Party: The Friends of Dudley Triangle Park are hosting an International Block Party on Sunday, September 13 from 2 pm to 6 pm at Miriam Ortiz Rush Park (W. 74th St.). Come enjoy international street food, local entertainment, kids’ games and activities, and community resources.
September 14 - Cleveland City Council 7 p.m. meeting: Cleveland Council returns from summer recess and re-



sumes its weekly meetings.
September 16 - Neighbor Up Night: The next Neighbor Up night will be Wednesday, September 16 from 6 pm to 8 pm at Nehemiah Mission (6515 Bridge Ave). Food will be provided. The event is an opportunity for residents of the Cudell, Detroit Shoreway, and West Boulevard to share a meal and build a sense of community with their neighbors. It is held the third Wednesday of each month. For questions, email CleC-DCcollab@gmail.com. The following Neighbor Night will be October 21.
September 19 - Cleveland Mafia Summit author talk: Join us for a special conversation with author and historian Don Billie, who will present the intriguing story of Cleveland’s 1928 Mafia Summit at the historic Statler Hotel. Planned for December 5, 1928, this secretive early American Mafia meeting was interrupted when Cleveland Police raided the hotel. What followed has fueled mystery and debate for decades. Don’t miss this unique Cleveland story. Books will be available for purchase. Thursday, September 17 from 1 pm to 2:30 pm at the Rockport library (14000 Puritas Ave.). For accommodation requests or questions, please contact belonging@cpl.org.
September 19 - Free Legal Advice Clinic: Have a legal question? Legal Aid has answers! Visit this Free Advice Clinic at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (8216 Lorain Ave.) on Saturday, September 19 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 important paperwork with you. Check-in is from 10 am to 11 am. In the meantime, Legal Aid is open 24/7 online at lasclv.org, or you can call Legal Aid for help during most business hours at 888-817-3777.
September 19 - Tremont Arts and Cultural Festival will celebrate its 27th season on Saturday, September 19 from noon to 7 pm inside Lincoln Park, 1200 Starkweather Ave. This festival celebrates the cultural and artistic diversity of Tremont and the greater Cleveland area, featuring fine art, sculpture, original jewelry, children’s activities and programs, food booths, musicians and performers. Questions? Contact Festival Manager Scott Rosenstein at 216-575-0920 (ext. 106) or at scottrosenstein@tremontwest.org.
September 21 - Slow Roll Cleveland 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 and running smoothly each week. Join us Monday, September 21 for a ride through the Bellaire-Puritas neighborhood. We’ll gather at Maplewood Park (18026 Cleveland Pkwy.) and start the ride at 7 pm. Other upcoming rides include Flats on October 12 (meet-up location to be determined) and Ohio City on October 26 (meet at Market Square Park, at W. 25th St. and Lorain Ave.) for our annual Halloween ride.
September 23 - Food Bank Community Engagement Session: Join the Greater Cleveland Food Bank at the site of its upcoming West Side Community Resource Center (9830 Lorain Ave.) for one of our community engagement sessions. Learn about the new resource cen-

ter, set to open in early 2027, and share your voice to help shape a welcoming center on Wednesday, September 23 from 5 pm to 6:30 pm.
September 25 - Workforce Resource Fair: Join Cuyahoga Job and Family Services for a Workforce Resource Fair featuring workforce programs, support services and providers – all in one place – Friday, September 25 from 1 pm to 4 pm at at the Cuyahoga County Welcome Center (4261 Fulton Pkwy.). Get help with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Ohio Works First (OWF), and child care assistance. Our team of eligibility specialists will be on site to assist residents with submitting benefit applications, recertifications, case updates, and general questions. In addition, community partners and vendors will be available to share valuable workforce information and resources.
September 26 - Preserving Cleveland’s DIY Music Legacy, an author talk: Join us at the Cleveland Public Library for an intimate conversation with author John Delzoppo, a lifelong music obsessive and amateur archivist. His decades of involvement in the Cleveland music scene have included time as a performer, promoter, recording engineer, and now as an author as he publishes his first book, *Where Shit Happened: The Paper Trail to Speak In Tongues*. This exhaustive visual history of Ohio City’s long-lost DIY venue presents a chronological document of fliers, photos, clippings, and other ephemera to paint a picture of its brief but impactful existence from 1994 to 2001. Saturday, September 26 from 3 pm to 5:30 pm at the Carnegie West library (1900 Fulton Rd.). For accommodation requests or questions, please contact belonging@cpl.org.
September 30 - Cleveland Westside Village Program on Estate Planning presented by Legal Aid Society: *Learn how estate planning can help build generational wealth, keep assets in the family, and appoint people to act on your behalf during life and after death.* Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. (Doors open at 1 p.m.) at the Carnegie West Library; 1900 Fulton Rd. This presentation by Legal Aid attorneys will provide attendees with an overview of Estate Planning basics, including: estate planning documents (such as: wills, financial and health care powers of attorney, living wills, transfer on death designation affidavits for people who own real estate, deeds), how to avoid probate or navigate the probate process. *This presentation for the Cleveland Westside Village is open to the public.*
Throughout the month
Garden Markets at Kentucky Gardens are open every Saturday from August 8 to October 31 at Kentucky Gardens at 1753 W 38th St. The markets are a great opportunity to purchase fresh, locally grown produce and get to

know your neighbors. They will be open from 10 am to 2 pm from August 8 to September 12 and from 10 am to noon from September 19 to October 31 (harvest dependent). For more information, visit kentuckygardens.com.
Music at Market Square Park: On the first and third Thursdays of the month, come enjoy free live music, along with food trucks and drink tents, at Market Square Park (at the corner of W. 25th St. and Lorain Ave., across the street from the West Side Market) from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. This month will feature ‘80s new wave group the Spazmatics on September 3 and local singer-guitarist Kristine Jackson on September 17. Visit ohiocity.org/events-calendar for more information.
Senior Walks: Join the Cleveland Department of Aging on select Wednesdays this month for the final senior walks of the season: September 2 at Edgewater Beach, September 9 at Euclid Beach Park, and September 16 at Clark Field (950 Clark Ave). All walks start at 9 am. To register, call Nicole at 216-664-6152.
Take a Hike: Join us for one of our free in-person walking tours of various Cleveland neighborhoods and historic landmarks. For September, our tours include: Tremont every Monday (except September 7) at 6 pm (meet at Sideyard Park, 1370 Abbey Ave.), the Ohio City Market District Tuesdays at 6pm (meet at the St. Patrick Church Hall parking lot, at W. 38th St. and Bridge Ave.), Clark-Fulton Tuesdays at 6pm (meet at the St. Michael Church parking lot, 3114 Scranton Rd.), and the Veterans Memorial Bridge Fridays at noon (meet at the bridge entrance at 1007 W. Superior). Space is limited and pre-registration is recommended. For the bridge tours, advance registration is required. To register, visit takeahikecle.com/summer-series and select the tour of your choice.
Community resources
Cudell, Edgewater Neighborhood Improvement Fund Grants: Northwest Neighborhoods is excited to announce that the Fall 2026 Cudell Edgewater Neighborhood Improvement Fund grant cycle will open on **September 1, 2026**. Applications will be accepted through **September 30, 2026**. The application will be posted at nwneighborhoods.org/neighborhood-fund on September 1. The Neighborhood Improvement Fund supports resident-led and community-based projects that create positive impacts in the Cudell and Edgewater neighborhoods.
Social Support Services Specialists: The City of Cleveland’s Office of Prevention, Intervention and Opportunity offers safe spaces in Neighborhood Resource and Recreation Centers where staff members can refer residents to appropriate medical and hospital related services, long term counseling services, or public assistance. The Social Support Services Specialists also advocate on behalf of families for public entitlements such as veteran’s benefits, Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid, food stamps, housing assistance, Head Start, and student loans. The Specialists offer support and guidance to youth as well – helping with issues such as stigmatization, scapegoating, labeling, bullying, substance abuse, and unhappy relationships. To access the Social Support Services, leave a message at 216-664-2223.

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Community challenged to increase diversity of the participants at Policing Committees

by Chuck Hoven

When the Federal Consent Decree Monitoring Team met with Cleveland City Council's Safety Committee in May of this year it was evident from their testimony that the City of Cleveland has a ways to go to become in substantial and effective compliance with the Consent Decree agreed to by the City and the United States Department of Justice in 2015. In the Consent Decree, the City of Cleveland agreed to make a number of reforms in the way the City of Cleveland Division of Police interacts with the public.

NEWS ANALYSIS

An article in the June 2026 *Plain Press* by Chuck Hoven titled "Federal Consent Decree Monitoring Team reports to Safety Committee" describes some of the areas that the Monitoring Team felt needed more work. One of those areas of concern was meeting the goals of a section of the Consent Decree titled "Community Engagement and Building Trust."

Monitoring Team Member Charles See, testifying about the Monitoring Team's Report, said the report noted the role of the District Policing Committees (DPC) in keeping the public appraised of crime reduction efforts and safety improvements as well as in gathering information and feedback from the community.

However, See said the Report expressed concern about the lack of diversity (race, age, gender and background) of those attending DPC meetings.

At the City Council Safety Committee Meeting, the Monitoring Team promised to join with the City of Cleveland administration in holding working group meetings with the District Policing Committees, the Cleveland Division of Police, and the Cleveland Community Relations Board to explore ways to "expand community participation."

As is evident in the lead article in this issue of the *Plain Press* by Bruce Checefsky titled "Ohio City Shootout: Resident tells Second District Policing Committee about bullets fired into her home," the District Policing Committees are engaged in gathering feedback from the community.

However, the challenge of getting a diverse group of residents to attend the meetings remains. Reflecting on the origins of the District Policing Committees gives some insight to the intent of the committees designed by. Community Relations Board staff member Chuck Habjan in the early 1980s.

When first created, the committees were called Police Community Relations Committees. An article by Chuck Hoven in the January 25, 1982 edition of the *Plain Press* titled "Better communication is the goal: City sets up program for police and residents" includes some comments by Chuck Habjan about the hopes for the committees. In the article, Habjan said, "Barriers which exist between citizens and police officers are based upon a lack of communication. This leads to a lack of understanding by both citizens and the police officers of their roles and responsibilities."

At the time, Habjan said he felt the committees will increase the opportunity for mutual cooperation between residents and police in solving problems. Although unsure of what will result from the program, Habjan believed that "whatever happens will be positive."

In the same January 25, 1982 issue of the *Plain Press*, another article by Chuck Hoven titled "With proper care, Community Relations Committees can work" examines how committee members would be

chosen in the Second District. At that time, the Second Police District had ten police patrol zones. Meetings were held in each of the ten police patrol zones where residents of those police patrol zones elected a representative to serve on the Second District Community Relations Committee.

The article urged residents to attend the meetings in the police patrol zone where they lived and vote. It said, "It is important that community residents come to the initial meetings (see box listing meeting dates, times, and locations) to assure that their interests are represented and that people knowledgeable about the area and its problems will be selected to serve on the committee."

The use of patrol car zones in the Second District resulted in an ideal opportunity for dialogue between resident representatives and police officers that patrolled the zone that they represented. The article said, "One hopes that such efforts will result in mutual problem-solving effort with police and citizens working together toward safer city neighborhoods."

Community Policing Committees today

Recently, *Plain Press* Editor Debbie Sadlon and I attended the Southeast Asian Festival at Edgewater Park to take some photos for the *Plain Press*. The City of Cleveland Community Relations Board had a booth at the festival. We had a chance to chat with long time Community Relations staff member Tammy Hanna. She served for many years as a staff member for the First District Community Relations Committee (now First District Policing Committee) and is now in charge of helping residents organize a Neighborhood Watch.

Hanna said that none of the Cleveland Police Districts operate with patrol car zones anymore. She said even in the 1980s when the District Community Relations Committees were formed, only the Second and Fourth Districts operated that way. Now individual zone cars respond to calls throughout the Police District rather than in a particular zone.

However, she said Policing Committees still have elections for Citizen Co-Chair and Secretary. Some District Policing Committees also elect a Treasurer.

Increasing Community Participation

Any resident can attend a District Policing Committee meeting. The meetings are open to the public. It is not necessary to be elected to a position to speak and share ideas at the meetings.

One way to increase resident presence and represent neighborhood interests would be for more neighborhood residents to take advantage of the service offered by the Community Relations Board's Neighborhood Watch program run by Community Relations Liaison Tammy Hanna.

Neighborhood Watch is designed to help residents set up a block club. Once the Neighborhood Watch block club is set up, residents can discuss whatever issues are important to them. If a crime issue comes up, they can make sure members of their group attend the District Community Policing Committee meeting to bring the issue to the attention of the District Commander and the Policing Committee.

Editor's Note: For information on the First and Second District Policing Committee meetings and the Neighborhood Watch Program – see this month's Community Board.

Proposed Medicaid work-requirement rules explained

The following article was drafted by Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality based on analysis that was published by Families U.S.A. and is designed for everyday residents, families, caregivers, seniors, and community leaders. The article explains—in clear, accessible language—how the new proposed Medicaid work-requirement rules would operate alongside H.R. 1.

Federal Medicaid policy changes

A sweeping set of federal policy changes are underway that could reshape Medicaid access for thousands of Ohioans. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released proposed Medicaid work-requirement rules, designed to operate alongside the mandates already established under H.R. 1. Advocacy groups—including Families U.S.A., whose analysis informs this report—warn that the combined framework may create significant barriers for vulnerable residents unless the public speaks up during the federal comment period.

Members of the public received a narrow window to submit comments to the Federal Register, the deadline was July 31st.

The new proposed rules in-

clude: new applicants must show compliance for 1–3 consecutive months before applying; current enrollees must show compliance for 1–3 months, not necessarily consecutive; states decide the duration and whether months must be consecutive; medical frailty must be documented; medical frailty must be reverified annually; and no long-term medical frailty status exists.

Work Requirements Under H.R. 1

House Resolution 1 (HR1) establishes strict criteria for demonstrating compliance with federal work-activity rules. To maintain Medicaid eligibility, individuals must meet one or more of the following monthly requirements: work 80 hours; complete 80 hours of community service; participate in a work program for 80 hours; be enrolled at least part-time in an education program; earn monthly income equal to minimum wage × 80 hours (currently \$580 per month at \$7.25/hour); and job-search activities and job-search training programs DO NOT count toward work requirements.

Qualifying education programs



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Saturday, August 22, 2026; Rick Dambrosio's retirement and farewell to Damper's Automotive, 7981 Lorain Avenue: Rick and his wife Donna Dambrosio with Damper's Automotive's oldest customer Dorothy Collier. Collier, a resident of Tillman Avenue says she would buy gas from the business in the 70s when it sold gas on Detroit Avenue. Since 1988 when her husband died, Collier says she has taken her car in for service with the Dambrosio family business. Rick started pumping gas for customers at the Detroit Avenue and W. 45th location as a teenager. Rick Dambrosio retired and closed the family business that has served the Near West Side for 74 years.

Damper's Automotive says farewell after 74 years

by Chuck Ackerman

About one hundred customers, family members and friends gathered on August 22nd at Damper's Automotive at W. 80th and Lorain Avenue to say farewell to Rick Dambrosio upon his retirement and to bid farewell to Damper's Automotive, a business whose roots on the Near West Side go back 74 years.

In 1952, Rick Dambrosio's dad, Joe Dambrosio, opened his first Sohio Gas Station at West 65th and Denison Avenue. Three years later he moved to West 45th and Detroit Avenue.

Rick began working at his dad's

gas station at the age of 14. In 1991, Rick took over Damper's British Petroleum (BP). In 2002, Rick moved to the current location at 7981 Lorain Avenue, reopening as Damper's Automotive.

During Rick's career, he has won many awards because of his dedication to serving customers and the community. He has seen generations of families become valued customers. The people will be what Rick misses most in his retirement. It has been an honor for Rick to carry on the family's business for all these years.

include institutions of higher education and career/technical programs which include high school programs, and state-approved programs leading to high-school equivalency.

Community Service work done to fulfill work requirements must be unpaid, performed for the direct benefit of the community, conducted under a public or nonprofit organization, and include documented tracking of dates and hours and must be non-partisan.

Exempt individuals include: individuals under age 19; people entitled to Medicare Part A or B; Adults over 65, blind, or disabled with limited income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients; pregnant women (during pregnancy and 60 days postpartum); children

receiving Title IV-E adoption, foster, or guardianship assistance; and individuals incarcerated at any point in the prior three months

These individuals are *excluded* from work requirements entirely: foster youth under age 26 who were Medicaid-enrolled at age 18; individuals eligible for Indian Health Service; caretakers of dependent children under 13 or caretakers of disabled individuals; disabled veterans; individuals who are medically frail or have special medical needs; individuals participants in drug or alcohol treatment programs; and pregnant or postpartum individuals (60 days or up to 12 months if Ohio

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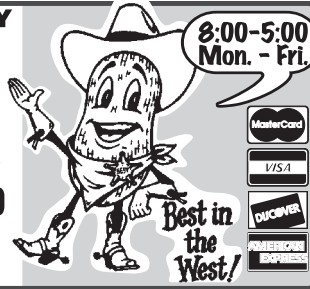
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PHOTO BY ABE KURP

Wednesday, August 12, 2026; Site of Greater Cleveland Food Bank’s future West Side Community Resource Center, 9830 Lorain Avenue: Greater Cleveland Food Bank President and Chief Executive Officer Kristin Warzocha lead the tour of the future home of the West Side Community Resource Center.

FOOD BANK SET TO OPEN
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and Family Services will also be on hand to help people apply for SNAP and other government benefits.

“Because in almost every case, hunger is a symptom of another problem,” Warzocha said. “We want to try to address hunger today by making sure that food’s available, but if there’s an underlying issue and we can connect them to a community partner to address that issue, that is a great long-term solution as well.”

Warzocha gave meeting attendees a hard-hat tour of the under-construction building and spoke about some of the features the new center will have,

including a test kitchen where chefs will prepare dishes using ingredients available at the center that day and a large market area where people can browse aisles of food and select what they want. There will also be a play area in the lobby that clients’ children can play in while waiting for assistance.

A large volunteer area – where volunteers can take a break, grab a snack, and store their personal items in lockers – speaks to the outsized role volunteers will play in the daily operations of the center, including greeting and chatting with clients and helping them navigate their way around the market.

“One of the most important things

to us is that everyone who walks in the door is greeted warmly, with a big smile,” Warzocha said. “It can be hard to go into a food pantry or into a soup kitchen or into another agency, and we don’t want people to be embarrassed. We want people to have a great experience when they walk in the door.”

Dwayne Brake, Chief Logistics Officer for the food bank, who also spoke at the meeting, explained that one of the lessons learned from the Waterloo location is the need for renewed focus on security. The new Center will include an unarmed security monitor who will be present in the building, it will have lighting in both of the Center’s parking

lots, 24/7 security cameras throughout the grounds, and private security patrolling the parking lots.

Brake emphasized that all personnel will be unarmed but will be trained in deescalation techniques, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and first aid.

“We don’t want to have an armed guard’s presence in the building, just because it’s a community resource center,” Brake said. “We feel that a lot of the tension that normally comes in is deescalated through a conversation. Someone’s having a bad day, a lot of negative things are hitting you at once, but you come into the CRC, you see that these services are really helping you, and that really deescalates the situation.”

Brake also said that the building will be equipped with a back-up generator, which will both allow the center to preserve the food in their freezers and coolers and to be able aid neighbors in the event of a power outage or natural disaster.

“I know last year and the year before, we’ve had some extended power outages for several days,” Brake said. “Those are the times when we may have increased traffic coming to the food bank for those emergency services, and we want to make sure that we’re open to be able to provide support in that time of need.”

Warzocha noted that the building was originally built as a Pick-N-Pay grocery store in the 1960s. Since 2006, it’s been home to offices run by Cuyahoga Job and Family Services, but during the pandemic many of the services offered at that center went remote and the space has been under-utilized since.

The Food Bank chose the building after an extensive search and community surveys. Warzocha said they like the fact that the building is close to two bus lines, the number 18 that runs down W. 98th St. and the number 22 which runs down Lorain Ave., and she also expects that many people will come to the center on foot, from

the surrounding neighborhood. She added that their partner the Westtown Community Development Corporation recently received a grant to spruce up the streetscape in the area, including a new mural on the side of the cell phone store across the street from the center, more street trees, and new benches.

More than anything, though, Warzocha said it was the high need in the surrounding area that attracted the food bank to this site. She said that more than 192,000 people who live within a five-mile radius of the building are income-eligible for food from the food bank – that is, they are at 200% of the federal poverty line or below – and of those, about 52,000 are income-eligible but are not being served.

“We’ve got great partners in this neighborhood, for sure, but there is also an extraordinary amount of need,” she said.

While the center’s hours are still being finalized, Warzocha said that, in addition to regular Monday through Friday hours, it will also be open in the evening for at least one day during the week and will be open every other Saturday.

Editor’s note: If you’d like to share feedback or see the site for yourself, you can attend the food bank’s next community meeting on Wednesday, September 23 from 5 pm to 6:30 pm. The building’s address is 9830 Lorain Ave. If you’re in immediate need of assistance, you can call the food bank’s help line at 216-738-2067 Mondays through Fridays from 7 am to 6 pm.

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September 2026

Dear Plain Press Readers and Supporters,

This year marks the 55th anniversary of the award-winning community newspaper, the *Plain Press*. A freecommunity newspaper founded in 1971, the *Plain Press* continues to present issues and community news to residents of Cleveland’s west side.

The *Plain Press*’ ability to continue to serve the west side neighborhoods of Cleveland is due in large part to the contributions of readers and supporters in the annual Friends of the Plain Press Campaign. The Friends of the Plain Press Campaign was established following the successful 2011 40th anniversary fundraiser. The *Plain Press* reached out to readers and supporters, and you came through to help sustain the newspaper.

This year, we are again asking you to donate to the *Plain Press* to ensure the newspaper moves forward. To mark its 55th anniversary we are asking you for a donation of \$55 or a reflection of its 55 years of operation (e.g. \$110, \$155, \$550). Your donation will help subsidize the newspaper. The donations will be specifically used to support the *Plain Press*’ Community Board’s listings of free events and resources.

A separate *Plain Press* fund has been established for the newspaper by Organize! Ohio (a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization). Checks should be made out to **Organize Ohio and sent to 11811 Shaker Blvd, Suite 109, Cleveland, Ohio 44120**. Your contribution is tax deductible. To make online donations you can link to the Organize! Ohio Pay Pal through the *Plain Press* website: <https://plainpress.blog>.

When donating, either by mail or online, please indicate that the donation is for the *Plain Press*.

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Sincerely,

Gail Long (Fundraising Committee) Larry Bresler (Fundraising Committee & Co-Coordinator 1970’s) Chuck Hoven (Managing Editor - 1988-present) Deborah Rose Sadlon (Editor - 1990-present) Leo Jeffres (Secretary, on behalf of the Board of Trustees)

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DOOR-TO-DOOR COMBAT continued from page one

in a single federal election cycle, according to the League of Women Voters and the Brennan Center for Justice.

Kline continued. "There was a time when you could go to a voting poll location, and if you did not have a photo ID, you could use a utility bill to prove where you live. You cannot do that anymore."

Once purged from the list, voters must re-register. "I wish more people would wake up and see what is going on," she said. "There is a lot of fear about the November election, whether federal troops will be at polling stations to intimidate people."

Kline suggests voting by mail, or absentee voting, which could eliminate the need to show up at the polls. Even then, the Trump administration is petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to allow the nationwide implementation of an executive order that would place major federal restrictions on mail-in and absentee voting ahead of the November midterms.

"As an organizer, I want neighbors to look out for each other because if your neighbor does not have your back when you need them," she said, "then who will?"

Dr. Shereen Naser, a Precinct Committee Member for Ward 11, Precinct E (Precinct 11E), knocks on as many doors as possible to register people to vote and remind them about the midterm elections. The eldest daughter of eight children of Palestinian parents who were displaced from their home, Naser, a Palestinian American, wants to increase the vote for Arab Americans across Northeast Ohio.

"For communities like Palestinian Americans, we are seeing decisions getting made without us," she said, referring to the Israel lobby money in political campaigning. "Over \$30 million was spent on Haley Stevens (D-Michigan), and in Ohio, millions were spent on Shon-

tel Brown in her race against Nina Turner."

Turner lost her race to Brown. Abdul El-Sayed (D) defeated Stevens in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate in Michigan last August. El-Sayed and Republican former congressional representative Mike Rogers will face off in the midterms. Michigan is a key battleground that could determine the balance of power and control of the majority in Congress.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), along with AIPAC shell organizations and the Democratic Majority for Israel (DMFI), is lobbying specifically for a foreign country, said Naser, an associate professor of psychology at Cleveland State University, where she focuses on how marginalized students, especially queer and Arab youth, experience school settings. "We want Israel to stop influencing our political decision-making here in the United States with lobby money."

Her recent research indicates that at least 20% of Americans, including not just Palestinians, witness or experience anti-Palestinian racism, which includes the silencing of conversations about Palestine or being told to remove the traditional keffiyeh, a scarf worn draped loosely around the neck or placed on the head.

"Our civil rights are infringed upon," said Naser. "It's scary. We continue to experience denialism and silencing."

Northeast Ohio has a sizable Palestinian community, between 30,000 and 35,000. Official U.S. Census Bureau figures and American Community Survey reports lower numbers because Arab Americans must use the White checkbox for race identification, which misrepresents them. Middle Eastern or North African (MENA), a new checkbox, will appear on the census and federal data collection forms in 2030.

"Voter disenfranchisement in

the Palestinian and Arab communities stems from a feeling of being erased. Our elected officials do not represent us. Almost every City Council member has gone on paid trips to Israel, along with major people from our top nonprofit organizations," Naser said. "We feel unseen."

JaNea Hambrick is a lifelong Democrat and resident of the Buckeye neighborhood. She is president of the Northeast Ohio Young Black Democrats, a regional political group that mentors, recruits, and empowers a new generation of African American leaders across Northeast Ohio. Hambrick is in her second term as precinct captain for Ward 6, Precinct I (Precinct 6I).

With 976 registered voters in her precinct, only 115, or less than 12%, cast their vote during the 2026 primary. "We need to educate people about elections," she said, acknowledging the low voter turnout. "And get them out to vote once they are registered."

A torn meniscus prevents her from walking the neighborhood and knocking on doors, but her voter registration plan includes mailing information to her constituents at least twice before the election. Ward 6 faces many challenges, she said, including finding things for kids to do in their spare time, abandoned and boarded-up buildings scattered throughout the neighborhood, and significantly elevated crime rates. The overall crime rate in Cleveland is 154% above the national average.

Hambrick worries that Democratic candidate Amy Acton may have dampened her chances to win the seat for governor of Ohio after anti-transgender comments she made regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision to uphold state bans on transgender athletes. In June, Acton told the Toledo Blade that she did not support boys playing in girls' sports and would enforce and uphold the law as governor. Her comments sparked



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN Tuesday, August 4, 2026; Night Out Against Crime, Steelyard Commons, 3447 Steelyard Drive: One of the dancers from Aya Folk Dance showcases traditional Central Asian folk dance from Kazakhstan.

controversy within the LGBTQ+ community, and at a meeting a few weeks later to address the issue, she did not show up.

"I will do whatever I can to get Acton into the governor's mansion," Hambrick promised. "I don't think she is transphobic or homophobic. She got poor advice, and it was a mistake for her not to be there."

Acton is running against Republican frontrunner Vivek Ramaswamy in the general election on Novem-

ber 3, 2026. Recent polling shows both candidates drawing 47% of the vote in a head-to-head matchup.

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Sunday, August 9, 2026; The Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites' Cleveland International Kite Festival, Edgewater Park: The blue octopus kite launched by Anna and Christopher Miller of Columbus, Ohio flies above Edgewater Park.

OHIO CITY SHOOTOUT

continued from page one

was whether my kids were safe.”

Unable to get around the house following surgery, she relies on a cane and walker for support, and hopes her recovery goes well. A lifting restriction prevents her from picking up her children. “They don’t understand that Mommy can’t pick you up,” she said. “Knowing my neighbors did this is the most mind-blowing part of it all.”

With her sense of safety shattered because of the shooting, living and raising her children in Ohio City may no longer be an option for Sarah’s family. She is actively looking for a home in other cities. “I’m scared, so I’m looking at other cities,” Sarah said. “I want my kids to play outside and read to them in their room in the safety of my house without feeling like something could happen, like a bullet flying through your wall.”

Visibly upset while she spoke, knowing the suspects responsible for the shooting were released from jail, she continued, “I fear extra for my family and myself. It was such a tragic and traumatic event.”

Shannon M. Musson, who serves as Supervisor within the General Felony Division at the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office and regularly presents updates at the meeting, was not there to explain why they were released. Her father passed away unexpectedly the day before.

When done speaking, Sarah thanked everyone. Applause filled the room. Maffo-Judd, born and raised in the neighborhood, said, “You have come to the right place.”

A couple of days before the community meeting, Ward 7 Councilman Austin Davis issued a press release with information that Cleveland police officers arrested 75-year-old Venancio Camargo Sr, 46-year-old

Hiking across the Southern Buckeye trail

by Erik Ault

I crossed into Ohio at Belpre on the American Discovery Trail (ADT), finally leaving behind West Virginia. The people of West Virginia were friendly to me from the moment I entered the state officially at Green Spring until the very end at Parkersburg. Many of the towns along the trail in West Virginia are hollowed out, littered with empty buildings and aging relics of an industrial past. But the people maintain a resilient spirit, proud of their past and happy to share what they had. Even the rudest of West Virginians were generous, with one woman complaining to me about “You city people,” while re-filling my water bottle. She laughed when I griped about the whippoorwills waiting until 9PM to start their racket.

Crossing the bridge over the Ohio River from Parkersburg into Belpre filled me with a bittersweet feeling. I had many happy and interesting episodes in West Virginia and saw corners of it I never would have seen otherwise had it not been for the American Discovery Trail. But I was glad to be back in Ohio, and even though I technically wasn’t close to home, I still felt the warmth of familiarity. I was near vistas I had seen before and highways I recognized. My goal was just to make it to Cincinnati where I would take a bus or call for a ride back to Cleveland.

From Belpre, I hiked through heat hoping to make it to Chesterhill, where the ADT officially meets the blue-



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Sunday, August 9, 2026; The Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites' Cleveland International Kite Festival, Edgewater Park: Anna and Christopher Miller of Columbus, Ohio prepare to launch their blue octopus kite.

Venancio Camargo Jr, and 21-year-old Daniel King-Camargo, a family trio of grandfather, father, and son, on attempted murder and felonious assault. They were later charged with additional crimes.

According to Davis, and verified by police reports, a gunfight broke out over a car detailing job following a verbal confrontation between Camargo Jr. and the 24-year-old auto detailer victim, whose name has been withheld during the investigation. Multiple rounds were fired. Two unintended bystanders were injured, including Sarah, and a 42-year-old man standing on a neighboring porch, whose identity was not publicly released by the Cleveland Division of Police pending an ongoing investigation.

Cleveland Police, assisted by SWAT, executed search warrants at nearby residences, recovering a .45-caliber handgun. Court indictments and search warrants also list an assault rifle, alongside multiple recovered firearms and ammunition from nearby residences, and a second handgun.

Camargo Sr. was indicted by a grand jury and released after posting a \$100,000 bond.

Camargo Jr. and King-Camargo appeared in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, pleaded not guilty, and were released after posting a \$250,000 bond. The defendants are charged with attempted murder, felonious assault, discharging a firearm near prohibited premises, improper discharge into a habitation, tampering with evidence, and vandalism. Judge Jeffrey Saffold is presiding over the case.

Brian McEntee, Second District Captain, praised Sarah and Matt for their bravery. He provided context for the investigation, saying that within 72 hours, warrants were issued, indictments were handed down, and evidence was collected from the crime scene.

“You guys are truly victims in this thing,” said McEntee. “But you are also heroes because you saved yourselves. I have seen people shot in their femoral artery. They do not make it. You saved yourselves,” and stated that the incident was not a sign of gang violence in the neighborhood. “This activity did not involve drugs, and the shooting was irresponsible. People were not thinking.”

Police responded immediately, he added. “We will continue to follow the investigation. I know these types of situations can create panic, fear, anxiety, and concern that it might be part of a chronic situation. I am here to say that in this area of the city, it is not.”

Davis said earlier in the meeting that he would use the power of City Hall to curb the violence and offered support from City Hall. “Obviously, this matter is horrible with the number of shots fired and people injured, and the connection to the neighborhood block,” he said.

Maffo-Judd was wrapping up the hour-long meeting. “It took a lot of guts to come out and do this tonight,” he said to Sarah and Matt. “I said it once, and I’ll say it again. You guys

blazed Buckeye Trail (BT) which it follows to Cincinnati. But when I came to a covered bridge that physically allowed only for foot traffic, I collapsed and slept for the night in it. I never felt more like an Ohioan.

I made it to Chesterhill the next day and followed the blue blazes to Burr Oak State Park. In the park, I talked with a ranger and asked her about the water sources. I noticed how a lot of the water I saw flowing looked chalky. “Even if you filter it, I don’t think any of the water in southern Ohio is potable,” she warned.

Rain slowed me down at Burr Oak, and I stayed the night there when it rained even more. In the morning, I ate the breakfast buffet at the park lodge and continued on the trail, where I met my first wildlife obstacle: the castleback orbweaver. Hundreds of these spiders had spun their webs across the trail. At first, I felt guilty for demolishing such beautiful homes; but after miles of relentless annoyance, I could not feel anything for a spider stupid enough to build a web where a human being would stomp through it. I’m sure the gnats and flies were grateful for my presence. I was grateful to find a stick I could carry to wave in front of me as a buffer until my arm tired.

After a taxing hike through Wayne National Forest that was heavy on the forest bathing, I made it to Murray City, which is a small town. I hiked through it and went down the road looking for my next trailhead. I passed a sign on a gate to my right that read, “Do not blow gate.”

“That’s a weird phrase,” I thought. There was a boom mower truck inching along, so I hurried past it, making sure to keep my eyes on the road and the mower truck. But my trail turn-off was near, I knew.

In time, after a couple hills, I did see to the left where the trail turned. So, I entered and trucked on through the woods. Something felt off, but I was following the blue blazes, so I had to be going the right way. Right before the next road crossing, someone was nice enough to leave a cooler with water bottles for hikers, which was a very welcome sight given how parched the area was. But I still felt uneasy about something.

continued on page 7

are the best community in the city, and it shows.”

Cleveland’s gun death rate is three times greater than the national average, according to the city’s annual Violence & Injury Report, with a significant surge of gun violence on the Near West Side in recent months. Maffo-Judd reported that Second District police responded to 3750 calls for 911 service in July alone, with 97 arrests, and 567 arrests since the beginning of the year. For any active crime emergencies or life-threatening situations on Cleveland’s West Side, dial 9-1-1 immediately. For non-emergency crime reporting or suspicious activity, call the Cleveland Division of Police Non-Emergency Number (216) 621-1234.

The First and Second Police Districts serve the West Side of Cleveland. Neighborhood stations or their respective detective bureaus can be reached directly for ongoing case information or local inquiries at the Second District Station (serves Ohio City, Clark-Fulton, Stockyards, Tremont, Old Brooklyn, etc.) at (216) 623-5200. The Detective Bureau can be reached at (216) 623-5218. First District Station (serves West Park, Cudell, Jefferson, Detroit-Shoreway, etc.) phone number is (216) 623-5100. Detective Bureau is (216) 623-5118.

To leave anonymous tips regarding illegal firearms or violent crime, call Anonymous Crime Tips (CrimeStoppers) at (216) 252-7463.

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HIKING BUCKEYE TRAIL
continued from page 6

I exited this little patch of trail back onto the road. My compass kept saying I was going SE, which was the wrong direction; but still I followed the blazes until I came across a gate to my left with a weird sign on it. “Do not blow gate,” it read.

I was emptied. “Either I somehow entered a mirror universe from *The Twilight Zone*, or I got turned around.” Sure enough, I kept going and re-entered Murray City.

“I’m done,” I said to myself but with much coarser language. Where I passed the boom mower must have been where I was supposed to enter the trail, but I wasn’t paying attention and didn’t see it. And I just didn’t have energy to turn around to try again. So, I went up to a house that appeared friendly, hoping for a ride into Glouster where I could catch a bus back to Cleveland. A woman was outside of it and seemed a bit startled to see me. After not having bathed in over a week, I didn’t blame her. She was hesitant to talk to me and seemed wary. But she picked up on how desperate I was and fed me a large dinner of pulled pork and chips and soda and anything else she could readily make. And she even offered to drive me into Glouster, “As long as you don’t stab me!” she said. “I’ve heard of stories like this on the ID channel!”

With both of us fully alive and me with a full stomach, she drove me into Glouster and dropped me off at the library with some advice on how to get back to Cleveland. But I was feeling demoralized. I would be quitting right before going through Hocking Hills, which I had always wanted to visit. But now, sitting inside an air-conditioned library with my caloric tank re-filled, I felt reinvigorated enough to try again. I connected with Ann Furst, who is the chapter head of the Buckeye Trail in that area. She was kind enough to pick me up in the morning and send me off with the encouragement that I could finish.

I trudged along the trail, meeting more friendly people along the way who were willing to give me bottles of water or let me use their spigot. I mentioned to them that water should not be chalky or taste off. No one seemed completely confident in their own water, and virtu-

natural features of the Hocking Hills were carved by erosion over millions of years. Despite being packed with tourists snapping photos, these features were still worth seeing. It seems almost sacrilegious to use something so ancient and enduring as just a pretty backdrop for an Instagram picture.

The Buckeye Trail passes through many state parks, each with their own distinct characters. Going west, after Hocking Hills State Park is Tar Hollow State Forest, a wilderness preserve which must be like what the pioneers encountered. True to its name, it really is hollow and devoid of almost anything except dense forest. The Scioto Trail State Forest after this is a little less barren & unforgiving, having been trekked by the natives thousands of years ago. After this is Pike Lake State Park, which

logs and branches ahead of me to keep the vines down. It wasn’t enough. My arms and legs were cut up and bleeding like a scene from a *Saw* movie. Despite that, I still had physical energy to keep going. But my patience had run dry. So, when I saw a church camp at a road crossing, I went down there to plead my case. They let me stay the night, and my mom picked me up in the morning.

It was an interesting adventure, but based on the sections I did, I cannot recommend the Buckeye Trail to thru hikers in its current form. Far too much of the trail is unmaintained, being covered by thorn bushes and tall grasses. My body became a warehouse for all kinds of bloodsucking creatures. This is expected when hiking, but regular trail maintenance can minimize this. Avoiding tall grasses is especially important



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Sunday, August 9, 2026; The Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites’ Cleveland International Kite Festival, Edgewater Park: Mollie Pollack, age 4, looks up at her kite as it flies into the sky.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Sunday, August 9, 2026; The Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites’ Cleveland International Kite Festival, Edgewater Park: Lydia Pollack flies the butterfly shaped kite while her daughter Mollie runs toward her after participating in a successful launch of the kite.

ally everyone drank out of water bottles. One person told me how lime is added to mine runoff water to neutralize acidity which makes the water look chalky, but it is drinkable. Cloudy, “technically drinkable” water must be the price we pay for progress.

Eventually, I did make it to Hocking Hills State Park. It looked like a scene out of Middle Earth or the American southwest, including being layered with sand over 350 million years old. The

was a bit overgrown but had a nice camp store and nature center.

But before I could make it to the Serpent Mound Memorial Site and still well before my destination of Cincinnati, my journey reached a frustrating stop. The overgrowth of the multiflora rose bush was just too much for me to tolerate. This invasive rosebush is nature’s living, growing barbed wire. Large sections of the trail were impassable, but I was foolish enough to try by throwing

given the rise in tick-borne diseases.

Furthermore, the grading of the trail feels suspect, with seemingly plenty of unutilized area for switchbacks. Fallen trees are often left lying across the trail, with blazes painted on them telling hikers that the trail continues behind them. These kinds of conditions encourage hikers to hike off trail, which increases erosion.

Most days, I was the only one on the Buckeye Trail, even on weekends



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Sunday, August 9, 2026; The Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites’ Cleveland International Kite Festival, Edgewater Park: Mollie Pollack, age 4, holds up her butterfly shaped kite as her mother, Lydia Pollack, holds the string and is ready to run when there is a gust of wind.

when trails usually have day hikers. I crossed paths with a woman in Tar Hollow who was doing another trail who told me how she tried a little bit of the BT before. “But never again. It was too overgrown,” she said.

Trails are never finished products. They require continuous monitoring and maintenance and are the responsibility of dedicated workers and users. But trails should also be designed for people and even wildlife to utilize. They are not simply nature’s treadmills, and they should not be maintained simply for the sake of having trails if no one is using them.

However, whether people are thru-hikers or not, the environment is everyone’s obligation. Our actions impact our shared earthly home. It’s not only a good idea to be green- it is vital. Not having potable water was an annoyance for me, but it can be harmful or even lethal to wildlife. Letting invasive species spread wildly can choke out native flora, to which native animals are adapted. Much like the grandeur of Hocking Hills, natural systems take eons to form and carelessly disrupting them can inflict irreparable damage.

Even though mitigating our influence on the environment may be an eternal challenge, with so much knowledge and so much potential for action, it seems wrong not to address it. Because the quality of people’s lives is being

diminished by fixable issues, it’s wrong that neither of the leading gubernatorial candidates prioritize environmental concerns in their campaigns. As I walked past chalky water streams, it felt like the battle had already been lost at every level. If water is the lifeblood of Mother Earth, then we have given her sepsis, with more casualties still to come.

Despite the obstacles and ultimate setback, I don’t regret my time on the Buckeye Trail. I had many wonderful encounters & learning experiences that are too numerous to share. Plus, I lost 15 pounds. The American Discovery Trail peels off the Buckeye Trail in Cincinnati where it continues west all the way to California. It still calls to me. My trail hiking is currently paused but not completely abandoned. Very little that’s worth doing is instantly doable. Large endeavors– whether thru-hikes or environmental problems– are worth tackling at the beginning. And it never makes sense to quit until it’s over.

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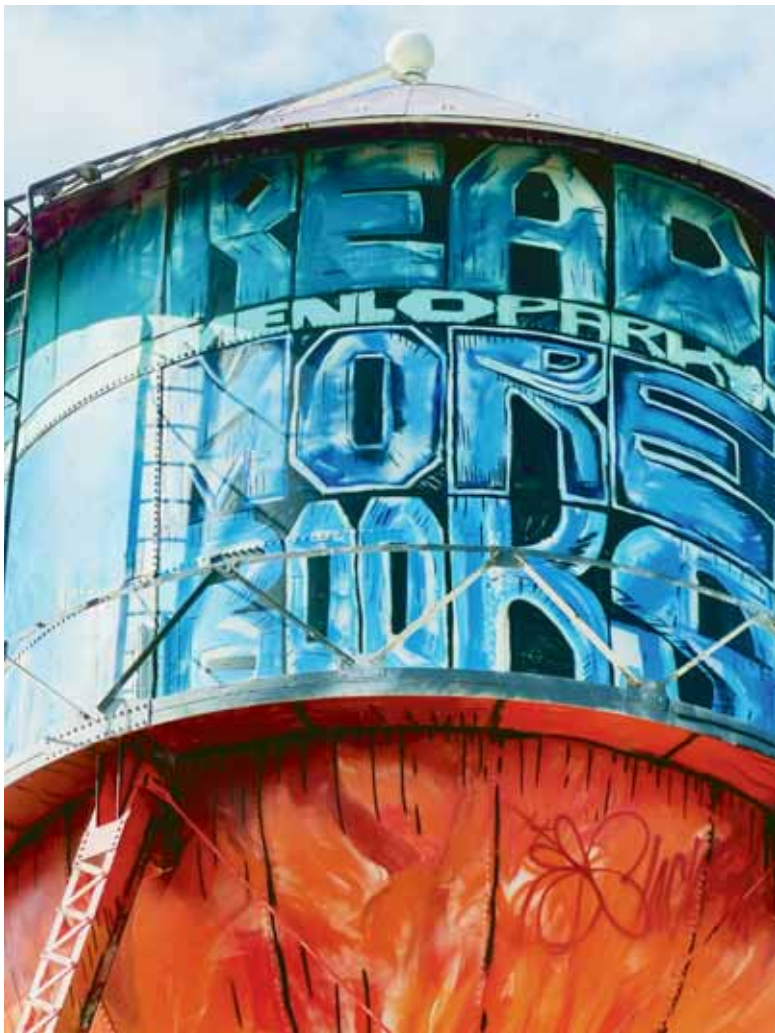


PHOTO BY JEFF SUGALSKI

Monday, August 3, 2026; Menlo Park Academy, 2149 W. 53rd Street: Mural on the water tower at Menlo Park Academy by artist and Menlo Park Academy parent Ariel Vergez. The design celebrates the Read More Books graffiti that was prominently featured on the building when it was vacant and abandoned.

BLOG REVIEW

Polly Karr’s Substack reveals political intrigue surrounding local education

For those concerned about the quality of Cleveland schools, reading Polly Karr’s Substack is highly recommended.

Karr, a parent with children who are enrolled in Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), adeptly uses public records and her familiarity with CMSD staff and administrators to shed light on some of the behind-the-scenes antics that are undermining the educational quality in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

In her August 22, 2026, blog titled “Poached”, Karr begins with a photo sent to her of new hires in the Shaker Heights School District. She recognizes some of them as beloved teachers laid off by CMSD at the end of last school year. She also notes that three finalists for a principal position in the Shaker system were all former CMSD administrators. What is intriguing to Karr is that a Shaker Heights School Board member, Lora Cover, who was involved the hiring of the principal was also a paid consultant to Cleveland Metropolitan School District Chief Executive Officer Warren Morgan in deciding which CMSD administrators to lay off.

Karr goes on to point out that a

new group that is involved in setting up a charter school network called Future Ready has connections to those previously involved with CMSD. Lora Cover is president of the Board of Future Ready. Mayor Justin Bibb’s former Chief Education Officer serves as the Chief Executive Officer for Future Ready. Former CMSD Board Member Leah Hudnall is now on the Board of Future Ready.

Karr points out that Future Ready has hired some of CMSD’s most innovative principals who were laid off when their schools were merged with other schools last year – Staci Starr of Cleveland Early College and Tim Jones, the founding principal of Davis Aerospace and Maritime High School.

Karr’s blog raises concern that the talented staff and innovative programs from Cleveland Metropolitan School District are being poached by suburban school districts and Future Ready. Try googling Polly Karr’s blog on Substack for more details.

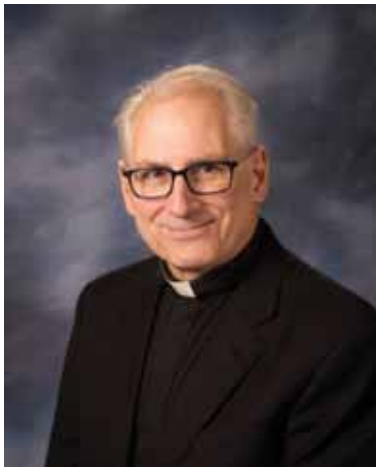
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In Memory: Rev. Robert Kropac

July 18, 1955 – July 5, 2026

Reverend Robert J. “Bob” Kropac, age 70, passed away on July 5th at University Hospital in Cleveland. Rev. Kropac served as pastor of St. Wendelin Roman Catholic Parish on Columbus Road since 2012 and served as administrator to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish on W. 70th and Detroit since February of 2023. Memorial masses were held at each of the two parishes on August 12, 2026.

A good friend of Fr. Kropac, St. Victor Pastor Rev. Allen Corrigan of Richfield, said Fr. Kropac “was a person of many talents; smart, articulate, theologically grounded, prayerful, liturgically present, warmly human, and more.” Fr. Corrigan added that Fr. Kropac once served as Director of Liturgy for the Diocese



of Cleveland. Referring to that role, Fr. Corrigan said Fr. Kropac “was an excellent preacher and presider, and an important role model for me and many other priests.”

First Energy profits whether your lights are on or not THE PERVERSE INCENTIVES BUILT INTO OUR GRID

by Tristan Rader

FirstEnergy profits whether your lights are on or not. That is the fundamental problem with the way we regulate electric utilities in Ohio.

For families across Northeast Ohio, power outages are not an abstract policy problem. They mean spoiled groceries, missed work, medical equipment without power, apartments climbing into dangerous temperatures, businesses forced to close, and parents trying to figure out where their kids can sleep safely for the night.

And in too many neighborhoods, this is not a once-in-a-decade storm problem. It has become a recurring part of life.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Residents in my district have endured repeated outages, including failures during periods of extreme heat. Some neighborhoods have been hit repeatedly. My office has heard from hundreds of frustrated residents asking the same basic question: “How can I pay my electric bill every month and still not be able to count on having electricity?”

The uncomfortable answer is that the system does not provide electric utilities with sufficient financial incentive to make reliability the priority it should be.

The perverse incentive built into the system

Investor-owned electric utilities like FirstEnergy do not primarily

make money by keeping your lights on. They make money by investing in infrastructure and earning a regulated return on those investments.

Build a new substation. Replace equipment. Expand transmission. Add new capital to the system. Those investments can be included in the utility’s rate base, allowing the company to earn a return for shareholders.

There is, of course, a legitimate reason for that system. The electric grid requires enormous, long-term investments, and utilities need access to capital to build and maintain it.

But the incentives can become badly distorted.

A utility can have a stronger financial incentive to build something new than to simply make sure the infrastructure it already owns works reliably. Spending more money can increase the company’s earnings potential, while avoiding outages does not necessarily produce the same direct financial reward.

Customers bear the consequences when reliability fails, while shareholders can continue earning returns.

If your refrigerator full of groceries goes bad during an outage, FirstEnergy does not automatically pay for it.

If you have to stay in a hotel because your home is dangerously hot, FirstEnergy does not automatically pick up the tab.

If your business closes for a day,

you eat the loss.

And yet the utility can continue seeking its authorized return.

We should not accept a regulatory system in which customers bear more financial exposure to poor utility performance than the utility’s shareholders do.

Reliability should be part of the bargain.

Electric utilities are not ordinary businesses. If you do not like your grocery store, you can shop somewhere else. If you do not like your phone company, you can switch providers. You cannot choose another set of electric distribution lines running down your street.

Utilities receive a monopoly because we have decided it does not make sense to have five different companies stringing competing electric wires through every neighborhood.

But that monopoly comes with an obligation. Reliable service has to be part of the bargain. That means Ohio should begin tying utility earnings directly to whether companies actually meet meaningful reliability standards.

The idea is simple: Full return for reliable power. Reduced return for failure. If a utility meets strong standards, keeps outages under control, improves its worst-performing circuits and demonstrates that its investments are actually making the grid more reliable, it should be able to earn its full authorized return.

continued on page 9



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, August 4, 2026; Night Out Against Crime, Steelyard Commons, 3447 Steelyard Drive: Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Office Public Information Officer Lauryn Harwell passes out coloring books to children.

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Cuyahoga County Board of Elections' website offers information on registering and voting

Citizens, age 18 or older by election day (November 3, 2026), are eligible to vote in the General Election once they are registered to vote. The deadline to register to vote in the General Election is October 5, 2026.

To register to vote, to check to see if you are registered to vote, or to update your voter registration information, you can visit the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website at boe.cuyahogacounty.gov. Once there, click on the VOTERS heading at the top of the page. The Board of Elections website provides information on how to register, how to update your registration information, and allows you to check to see if your registration information is correct. Options offered are online, by mail, or in person.

The site offers other options including checking your voting history and checking your ward and precinct.

Voting for the November 3rd Gen-

eral Election will begin on October 6th. For individuals that wish to vote by mail, the Ohio Secretary of State plans to mail out Vote by Mail applications to all registered voters beginning this September. Registered voters can also vote in person at the Board of Elections beginning on October 6th. The Board of Elections is now located at 1803 Superior Avenue. To learn where to park, locations of the drop box, hours, and other information visit boe.cuyahogacounty.gov.

On November 3rd General Election ballot, voters will be asked to weigh in on a United States Senate race, and United States Representative race on the Federal level.

Statewide races on the ballot include contests for Ohio Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Ohio Attorney General, Ohio Secretary of State, Ohio Auditor of State, Ohio Treasurer of State and Ohio Supreme Court Justice.

Local State legislative candidates

will also be on the ballot. Voters will choose among candidates running for the State Senate and State House of Representatives.

Cuyahoga County voters will weigh in on their choice of County Executive and in some County Council Districts candidates will also be on the ballot.

There will also be judicial races on the ballot for candidates running for the 8th District Court of Appeals and candidates for the Court of Common Pleas.

There may also be a Cuyahoga County tax levy on the ballot.

When the ballot information has been prepared by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, you can view a sample ballot for your precinct on the Board of Elections website at boecuyahogacounty.gov.

The Board of Elections is also seeking poll workers to help on election day. Pay starts at \$220 a day. To sign up, visit the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections' website.

FIRST ENERGY

continued from page 8

If the utility repeatedly fails those standards, shareholders should feel the consequences -- not just the utility's customers.

We do not have to invent this from scratch.

Ohio would not be the first state to rethink how utilities are rewarded.

New York has perhaps the clearest example. Its Public Service Commission sets reliability targets for electric utilities based on measures such as how frequently customers lose power and how long outages last. When utilities miss those targets, regulators can impose negative revenue adjustments. Poor reliability can directly reduce utility earnings. That is exactly the kind of financial accountability Ohio needs.

New York has also gone further in recognizing something obvious that our current system tends to ignore -- prolonged outages cost customers real money.

Under New York's rules, customers affected by qualifying extended outages can receive reimbursement for spoiled food and refrigerated prescription medications. Residential customers can also receive bill credits when outages stretch

beyond certain periods.

That changes the incentive.

When the power goes out in Ohio today, the household throwing away \$200 worth of groceries absorbs the loss.

Under a stronger accountability system, the utility begins absorbing some of the cost of failure too.

Hawaii has gone even further toward a broad performance-based regulatory model. Utilities there can receive financial rewards or penalties tied to measurable performance, rather than relying almost exclusively on the traditional model of earning money through capital investment.

Massachusetts also uses service-quality and reliability standards that can expose utilities to financial penalties when they fail to meet established benchmarks.

These states have different systems, and Ohio should design its own. But the principle is the same:

Utility profits should depend, at least in part, on whether customers are actually receiving good service.

What Ohio Must Do

We should build a system around a few straightforward principles.

Tie utility returns to reliability. Utilities that meet strong reliability standards should be eligible for their full return. Those that repeatedly fail should receive less.

Put the worst-performing circuits first. Utilities should identify the neighborhoods and circuits suffering the most frequent outages and be required to demonstrate measurable improvement.

Compensate customers for prolonged outages. Families should not be left holding the full cost of spoiled food, medications, and other predictable losses caused by extended outages.

Make shareholders bear the cost of failure. Penalties and customer compensation should not simply be rolled into the next rate increase and handed back to customers.

Reward outcomes, not spending. The goal should not be to see how many billions of dollars a utility can put into its capital plan. The question should be whether those investments actually produce a more reliable electric system.

This is the kind of reform I want Ohio to pursue.

We have already begun strengthening reliability standards in state law. The next step is giving those standards teeth.

A reliability requirement without meaningful financial consequences can too easily become another report filed with a regulator.

If we want utility executives and investors to treat reliability as a top priority, then reliability needs to

determination

If an applicant or recipient is found to be non-compliant then the states must allow individuals to receive 30 days to make a "satisfactory showing"; send denial/disenrollment notices that include specific reasons; and states may not restrict reapplication or future eligibility.

The proposed rules—combined with H.R. 1—could create significant administrative burdens, increase disenrollment, and disproportionately affect low income workers, caregivers, and individuals with unstable health conditions.



PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Tuesday, August 4, 2026; Night Out Against Crime, Steelyard Commons, 3447 Steelyard Drive: Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Corrections Center Canine Unit Officer Otis and his handler Officer Kim Johnson visit with Cleveland residents at the Night Out Against Crime. Officer Otis' job is to sniff for drugs at the jail.

affect the bottom line.

The Lights Come First

A monopoly utility should be able to make a reasonable return when it provides good service. We need financially healthy electric utilities that can invest in our grid. But a reasonable return should NOT mean an automatic return regardless of performance.

Ohioans are paying higher electric bills while being asked to tolerate repeated outages. At the same time, the electric system is facing enormous new pressures from extreme weather, aging infrastructure and unprecedented growth in electricity demand.

The answer cannot simply be to keep asking customers for more money.

We need to ask what customers are getting in return.

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For too long, our system has treated utility profitability as a given and reliable service as an aspiration.

We need to reverse that. If customers are expected to pay their electric bill every month, utilities should be expected to keep the lights on. And when they repeatedly fail, utility company shareholders should not be guaranteed business as usual.

Editor's Note: State Representative Tristan Rader (D-13) represents District 13 which serves Lakewood and part of the West Side of Cleveland. This article first appeared in his blog "Left in Ohio" at tristanrader@substack.com.

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Plan for corner of Memphis and Pearl continues to evolve



PHOTO BY BRENDA THEURER
Thursday, August 13, 2026; Northwest corner of Pearl and Memphis: The demolition company's process of trying to separate St. Luke's United Church of Christ's 1903 church building on the left from the 1925 addition—with the parlor, offices and classrooms—on the right. The iconic structure faces Pearl Rd.

by Lynette Filips

I don't know what image makes me feel sadder — the one in last month's issue of the backhoe in front of Pearl Road United Methodist Church, scooping up the remains of what was once the Greenline Building; or the one in this month's issue of the gaping split between the two beautiful buildings which were once St. Luke's United Church of Christ; or the one in my mind of the empty window frame toward the top of St. Luke's 1925 addition which a three-part stained glass window once filled.

Fortunately, I have some positive thoughts in my mind, too — I'd written to Mary Ann Winkowski (Cleveland's "Ghost Whisperer" of international fame) about the demolitions at Memphis and Pearl and I received a response from her; The Historical Society of Old Brooklyn (HSOB) has had its holdings moved out of storage and into its new quarters on Broadview Rd.; and David Robinson, the relatively new executive director of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC), reached out to me and has been answering in great detail the questions I have tried to get answered for what seems like a very long time.

First about Mary Ann Winkowski — I am not the only person in Old Brooklyn who has been concerned about the earthbound spirits who have been disturbed by the recent digging and demolitions at Memphis and Pearl. Such spirits are generally known to frequent cemeteries, and they are specifically known to have lived in the c.1860 house behind St. Luke's which has now been demolished. I further suspected that souls of past members of St. Luke's were not happy to see their church and the addition to it being hacked apart. So, knowing that Mary Ann is semi-retired and not knowing what I would need to pay her if she even would agree to come to our site, I decided to write to her. I received a prompt, cordial reply stating that she is indeed semi-retired and due to age and health issues with both herself and her husband she had

when the Krather Building was being restored (not demolished; restored) and something happened with the parapet wall along the edge of the roof, and a worker fell to his death.

Moving on to the Historical Society of Old Brooklyn (HSOB), the interior painting and modifications of their new space have been completed, the HSOB arranged for the contents of their previous museum in the Greenline Building to be moved from storage to their new storefront on Tuesday, August 4th. They've been able to lease the space at 2221 Broadview Rd. (just north of Colburn Ave.) for two years, thanks to the financial backing of the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation (OBCDC).

The HSOB was open for visitors for the ArtHop three days after the move, but most of their items were — and still are — in boxes. Unpacking and reorganizing in a new space is a gargantuan task for anyone, and especially for the mostly older members of the organization. John Rakauskas and Lorelei Greifenstein, both of whom are trained in design, are currently working on developing signage for the windows.

For decades the HSOB has opened its annual every-other-month meeting season on the second Friday of September but as of press time, nothing definite has been arranged. Check their Facebook page or website, oldbrooklyn-history.org, for updated information.

In last month's article, I paused this "story without an ending" at the point four years ago when OBCDC didn't receive the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits for which they'd applied to help fund this project. And I said that I would pick up with the chronology of the project there this month. What I didn't know then that I would be communicating with David Robinson in the meantime and that he would express a willingness to answer my questions that City Hall has been repeatedly ignoring.

I still intend to pick up with my view of the continuing saga of the corner in a future issue, but so much has changed — and is continuing to change — with the project since its

inception that it seems to be more important this month to start sharing the information I received from David Robinson. There is so much, I hardly know where to start...

Whether OBCDC had the necessary funding for this project has been one of my biggest concerns, and repeatedly we were told both that it does, or that it will. When the demolition started, I wanted to believe that total funding had been secured because we were promised by more than one party that demolition would not begin until the "capital stack" was in place.

In a previous issue I even reprinted all the funding and expected funding sources from an online publication named NEOTrans whose editor, Ken Prendergast, has been following this project. But as it turns out, the only funding that was a sure thing was the approximately \$8 million in grants for the demolition and brownfield remediation which has been going on recently. At least one of those grants expire at the end of this year and that seems to be the reason why the City permitted the current demolition. The rest of the plans for the corner and how to finance them have not been determined.

The fact that the plan for the corner of Memphis Ave. and Pearl Rd. continues to evolve is not a bad thing. I don't know anyone who wanted a six-story modern monstrosity on the second most important, majorly historic intersection in our neighborhood. (Especially the people who would live next door, or in close proximity to it.) And such a building would dwarf what will remain of the landmark St. Luke's after the northern half of it is removed

But exactly what will be built on that corner is presently unknown. OBCDC no longer has unit requirements from HUD (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) since it decided against using financing through HUD or backed by HUD. That sounds like their previously arranged loan through the AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations) is out of the picture, too.

So, the threat of 84 apartment units is no longer a reality. Nor is tearing down a major portion of Pearl Road United Methodist Church, including the former YMCA gymnasium on the uppermost floor, to provide space for some of those apartments. We won't have to wonder where all the people who might want to live in the new apartments will park their cars because it's looking like such a huge apartment building won't be going up there.

Another major change in the scheme of things is in regard to who will own the new construction after it's finished. In the proposal which Tom Yablonsky's group submitted, the developer would have owned the

building and have taken on all the financial liability for the project after the Federal and State historic preservation grants were used up. But OBCDC thought that they wanted to own the new apartment building (at least partially) so that they would have more control of things and presumably an income source after the construction loans were paid off. A look at Cuyahoga County's MyPlaces website reveals all the parcels OBCDC owns on or near that corner, including Pearl Road United Methodist Church, which the congregation deeded to OBCDC on January 28th of this year.

But OBCDC has been viewing things differently lately. Maybe it started in 2025 when they weren't awarded the \$15 million in TIF grant money they needed to complete their capital stack. Maybe it was the change in executive directors that same year. Maybe somebody realized that they had bit off more than they could chew. But the bottom line is that now OBCDC no longer wants to retain ownership of all these properties. Currently they still do own them, because the dollars in the grants were given to them. But the demolition and remediation will soon be completed and OBCDC will transfer the ownership of the properties to the developers and possibly other investors. A process is underway to engage commercial entities with the redevelopment of the corner, and it has sparked some interest. Still, it doesn't sound like new construction will be starting any time soon.

Meanwhile, the stained-glass windows from St. Luke's have all been removed and are being stored safely onsite for potential use in the new construction or replacement in the windows of the 1903 church. Even as I prepare this article for publication, the roofing material is being scraped off the church section of St. Luke's. The storage tank which was buried between St. Luke's and the Greenline Building was removed and examined and found to be empty. Reportedly no human remains were found in the old cemetery when the backhoe machinery dug up the ground. (Probably it would take someone with an eye fine-tuned to changes in soil composition to find human remains after almost 200 years.)

Next month I might choose to be more specific about the legislation involved in the happenings at our iconic corner; this month I was more interested in simply getting out the word. In the meantime, if you want to read what I have been writing about this ongoing project or 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.

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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

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Repairers of the Breach works to redeem the heart and soul of our country and city

Repairers of the Breach is a national organization building a movement rooted in a framework that uplifts our deepest moral, religious, and constitutional values to redeem the heart and soul of our country. We are working for social change and to organize and mobilize around a moral policy agenda that prioritizes love, truth, and justice.

Repairers of the Breach is based out of Washington D.C. but also has a Northeast Ohio Division.

Over the past several months, the Northeast Ohio Division of Repairers of the Breach has held monthly protest gatherings here in Cleveland. Each was done in conjunction with Rev. William Barber's Moral Monday Concept to maintain focus on the many harmful actions of our current federal administration.

Each protest gathering was held on the 2nd Monday of the Month at noon with the first several done at the Carl B. Stokes courthouse where Senator Bernie Moreno has his local office. We focused on the current illegal war, its impact on many at home and abroad, along

with the many problems in areas such as health care, housing and immigration. Each gathering included testimony from someone directly impacted. Each gathering ended with the delivery of a letter stating our concerns to Senator Moreno's office.

In August we moved to Public Square where after a gathering and words from those impacted, we marched to the Senator Husted's local office at the Federal Building. After a short gathering there, a letter was delivered to Senator Husted stating our concerns.

We are a diverse group of individuals from across this area, many of whom have been directly affected by the actions of this administration. All are deeply concerned about the future of our country. We plan on continuing these Moral Monday actions on the 2nd Monday of each month. We invite all to join us.

Anyone who would like to be informed as to details can contact Tim Walters at trane22043@yahoo.com to be added to our mailing list.

COMMUNITY BOARD

continued from page 2

Social Services in Your Community:

Need help completing government applications, connecting with services, or finding community resources? Meet one-on-one with a social worker from The Spanish American Committee at Metro West Community Development Organization (3466 St. Rocco's Ct. #3). They're here to answer your questions and help connect you with the support you need. Social workers are available every Tuesday from 9 am to 5pm. No appointment necessary!

Ward 14 Dumpster days: In an effort to keep our neighborhoods clean, Dumpsters will be placed in Ward 14 neighborhoods for residents to discard trash from their yards, garages, and streets on select days. (Dumpsters are for residents only. No commercial debris, please!) This month, the Dumpsters will be available in Brooklyn Center (at 4322 Denison Ave.) on September 5 and in the Stockyard neighborhood on September 19 (at 3358 W. 46th St.) from 8 am to 2:30 pm on both days. Residents can report illegal dumping by calling 311 or 216-644-DUMP (3867). Your reports help the City respond quickly and keep our neighborhoods clean.

Education/Public Health

Citizens' Police Academy: The Citizens' Police Academy is an educational program designed to meet the interests of citizens in the community. The Academy curriculum covers a wide variety of subjects with the intent of giving attendees an overview of how the Cleveland Division of Police accomplishes police activities and functions. Learn about police, communication, outdoor range, traffic stops, SWAT & K-9 units,

complaint procedure, human trafficking, domestic violence, partnering, organizations and more. This year's class will meet every Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. from October 7 through December 9th at Mary Queen of Peace Church, 4423 Pearl Road. For Additional Information contact via email the Bureau of Community Relations at CommunityPolicing@clevelandohio.gov.

Mom's First: MomsFirst is a City of Cleveland program, funded in part by Invest in Children, that offers case management and home visiting services to pregnant moms until their baby reaches 18 months. Women (and fathers) who participate in the MomsFirst program receive health education on topics such as prenatal care, breastfeeding, family planning, and safe sleep. MomsFirst also assists with referrals to meet insurance, housing, food, and education needs, etc. To apply for Mom's First visit www.momsfirst.org or call 216-664-4194.

National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) website offers resources to students, families, and educators concerned about supporting students as they navigate the new school year. Visit: www.nationaleatingdisorders.org

Safe Streets Youth Assistance: The Community Relations Board of the City of Cleveland offers Cleveland youth help with schoolwork, reading, legal matters, a job, job training, health care, trauma, emotions, addiction, or if you just want to talk to someone. Call 216-664-3290.

School Vaccination Requirements in Ohio (Kindergarten through 12th Grade: Ohio Revised Code 3313.671 requires students to be fully protected against 10 vaccine-preventable diseases: Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Measles,



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Sunday, August 9, 2026; The Ohio Society for the Elevation of Kites' Cleveland International Kite Festival, Edgewater Park: Kyle and Jack Brodsky launch their purple octopus shaped kite.

Meningococcal, Mumps, Pertussis, Polio, Rubella, Tetanus and Varicella. Schools are required to report the immunization status of students by October 15th of each year. If you need help locating your child's vaccination records, you can: Ask your child's healthcare provider, who will have a copy of their medical records and may be able to access the state system. Contact your local health department, which may be able to access the state system. Ask a workplace, camp, or school that you may have provided the records to in the past. Complete and mail in an Ohio Department of Health [Authorization to Disclose Form](#).

Politics and community involvement Campaign for We the People Amendment to the United States Constitution: Campaign aims to address the roots of the crisis of authoritarianism and corporate rule: Corporate Money = political power; Corporations = people

with constitutional rights; and Money = free speech. The We the People Amendment (HJR54) ends corporate constitutional rights – a corporation is not a person. States that money is not speech – allowing people and our Representatives to set dollar limits on campaign donations. Puts power in the hands of people to create justice, peace, a livable world, equality and authentic democracy. Sign the petition at movetoamend.org/motion.

Monitoring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the community: <https://www.iceinmyarea.org>

Neighborhood Watch: Would you and your neighbors like to start a block club? Use the resources of the Community Relations Board's Neighborhood Watch to help you get started. Start a conversation with your neighbors to see if they are interested. Contact Community Relations Liaison Tammy Hanna at 216-664-6634 to help you organize

your Neighborhood Watch. Then hold a block club meeting to discuss local concerns.

Non-emergency City services: Visit online at clevelandohio.gov/311 or call 311 at any time for help with your non-emergency City service requests. From street repairs and potholes to graffiti to bulk trash pickup, it's easy to submit a service request, check on progress of a promised repair or service, or ask about City programs. Check out the website for a full list of non-emergency services that 311 can assist with. Be sure to write down the reference #, so you can follow up if necessary.

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. The committee rotates its meeting between three locations: St. Ignatius of Antioch (10205 Lorain Ave.), in the cafeteria; Cudell Recreation Center, 9810 West Blvd; and Gunning Recreation Center, and Gunning Recreation Center, 16700 Puritas Ave. It will host its next meeting on September 3. Call Luis Gonzalez at 664-2525 to verify location. 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 September 8.

Recreation

Cleveland Parks and Recreation Locator: An interactive web map that helps you find public park and recreation facilities in Cleveland. Visit: www.clevelandohio.gov/explore/parks-recreation.

Volunteers

Cleveland Auxiliary Police is looking for new members interested in building connections in the community. The Auxiliary Police support police operations by performing non-enforcement duties. To qualify for the Auxiliary Police: you must be 18 years or older, pass a background check, and commit to volunteer 20 hours per month. For more information, or to sign up, contact Police Officer Anthony Jones at 216-623-3320 or email him at Ajones2@ClevelandOhio.gov.



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 \$2 a bag

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2928 Scranton Rd. • 216-781-9511

SUNDAY SERVICES:

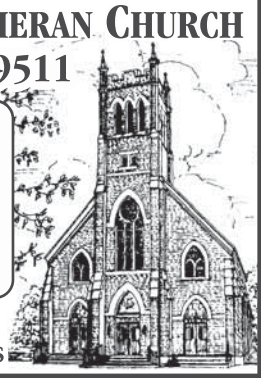
German service..... 9:00 am

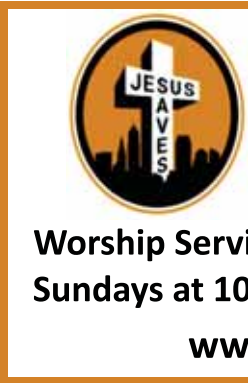
English service.....10:30 am

Serving God's People Since 1880

REV. JERRY WITT-JABLONSKI, PASTOR

REV. HORST HOYER, PASTOR EMERITUS



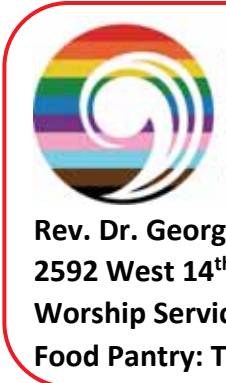


SCRANTON ROAD BIBLE CHURCH

Worship Service
Sundays at 10:45am

3095 Scranton Road
216-861-7539

www.scrantonroad.org



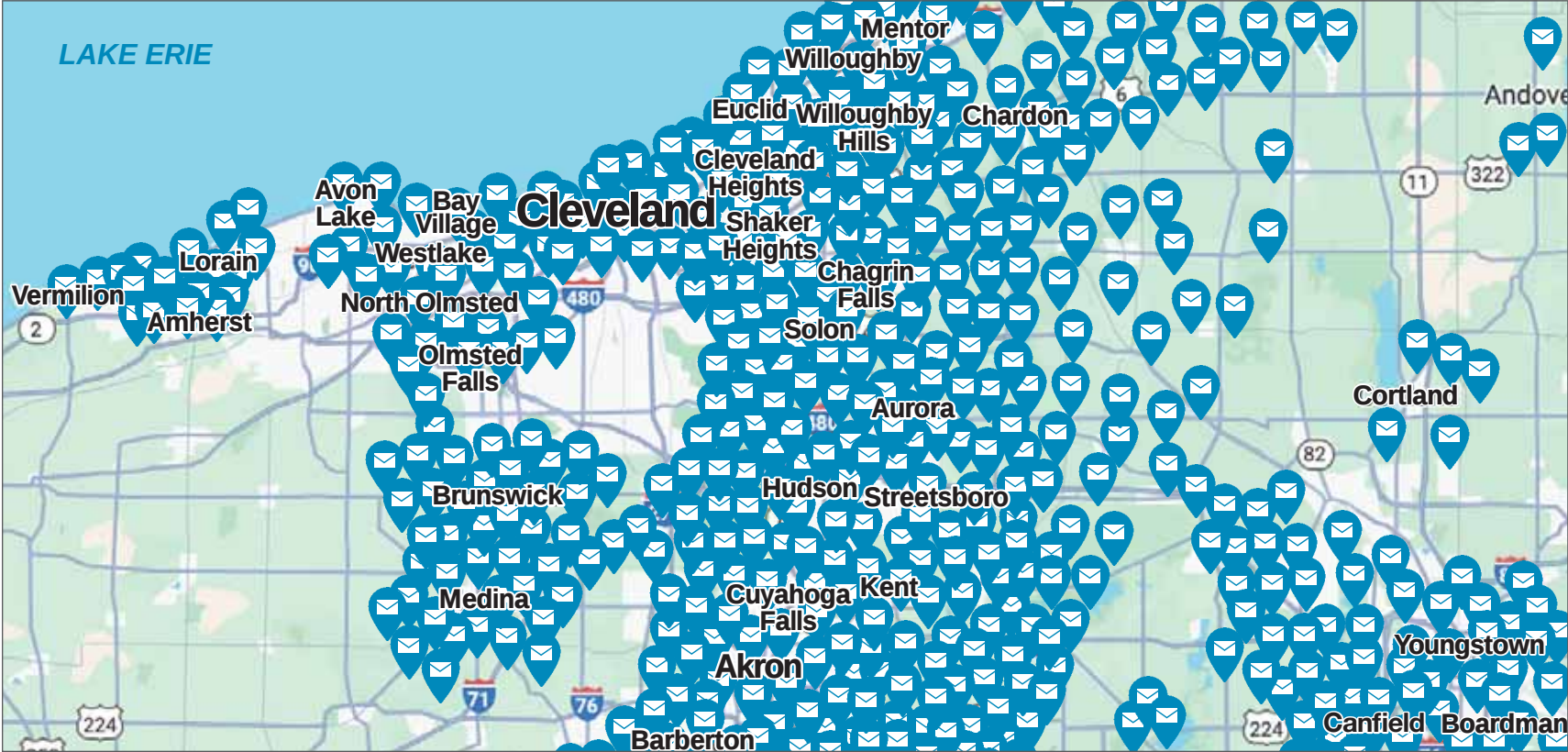
PILGRIM
Congregational
United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. George R. Graham, pastor

2592 West 14th St., in Tremont • pilgrimalive.org

Worship Service: Sundays at 10am

Food Pantry: Tues. & Thurs. from 10am – Noon



■ **CALLS JUST KEEP POURING IN:** Spots are filling up. Here's why. Homeowners all over northeastern Ohio are calling to schedule their free rooftop inspection today and hopefully a spot on the schedule before they're all gone. That's because everyone who does is getting a free roof tune up valued at \$750 absolutely free just by securing a spot on Roof Maxx of Cleveland's Schedule. And it gets even better. Homeowners who call to cash in the Discount Scheduling Coupon printed in today's newspaper are authorized to save an additional \$500 off as long as they call before the coupon expires 7 days from today's publication date.

Cleveland area map shows droves of homeowners calling Roof Maxx - here's what we know

It's all over TV, radio and internet sparking an avalanche of calls for the new revolutionary green roofing breakthrough saving homeowners up to 70% over the cost of a new roof replacement - it's like moisturizer for your roof quickly restoring flexibility and water repelling protection guaranteed up to 15 years

GET THE EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: Don't miss out. Spots filling up. That's because everyone who calls today is getting a free roof tune up valued at \$750 just by securing a spot on the schedule. And don't forget to tell the operator you want to cash in the coupon printed in today's newspaper to save an additional \$500 off. Just be sure to call before the coupon expires.

Do you know the current condition of your roof?

If not, you need to call Roof Maxx of Cleveland using the toll-free number printed in today's newspaper publication to find out.

And here's the best part. It won't cost you a penny. That's right, not one penny. All you need to do is call Roof Maxx and they'll quickly dispatch a highly trained professional Roof Tech to your address to perform a free rooftop inspection to make sure everything is in tip top shape. It's that easy. Just make sure to find the city you live in below and call the toll-free number listed for that county today to schedule your free rooftop inspection.

Here's why so many Cleveland area homeowners are calling to schedule their Roof Maxx service today. They're saving thousands of dollars. New Roofs just cost too much money today! In fact, 90% of all roofs replaced, did NOT need to be replaced and could have been restored for up to 70% less than a new roof replacement with Roof Maxx.

A new revolutionary green roofing breakthrough is now saving Cleveland area homeowners thousands of dollars on costly roof replacement. It's called Roof Maxx. Roof Maxx is like moisturizer for your roof. It quickly restores flexibility and water repelling protection guaranteed up to 15 years.

The old way was roof replacement the new way is to rejuvenate your roof. Roof Maxx's revolutionary treatment was developed in conjunction with the world's largest research and development company. And here's the best part - Roof Maxx saves homeowners up to 70% over the cost of a new roof replacement. And that's not all. Roof Maxx's all-natural AWARD-WINNING formulation is Certified USDA BioPreferred. That means it is 100% safe for people, pets, property and the environment.

Roof Maxx works. In fact, Ohio State University put Roof Maxx to the test. The results? Roof Maxx reversed the aging process of old asphalt shingles. The technical report confirmed 17-year-old roof shingles treated with Roof Maxx restored their flexibility passing the exact same testing required for brand new roof shingles. So, if you think you need a new roof... think again.

If you have seen any of the following signs, it's time to call Roof Maxx for a free rooftop inspection.

- Sand-like granules flaking off and showing up in your gutters, downspouts and on the ground.
- Black stains, streaking or moss that are visible from the ground.
- Missing, cracking, breaking, and curling shingles.

Remember, homeowners who see any of the signs listed above need to call Roof Maxx immediately. It won't cost you a penny for the rooftop inspection because it's absolutely free!

That's why homeowners who are not sure of their current roof condition are being urged to call Roof Maxx of Cleveland today for their free rooftop inspection.



Saves homeowners up to 70% over the cost of a new roof replacement - Call Today!

■ **AS SEEN ON TV:** A new revolutionary green roofing breakthrough is now saving Cleveland area homeowners thousands of dollars on costly roof replacement. It's called Roof Maxx. Roof Maxx is like moisturizer for your roof. It quickly restores flexibility and water repelling protection guaranteed. The old way was roof replacement the new way is to rejuvenate your roof. And here's the best part - Roof Maxx saves homeowners up to 70% over the cost of a new roof replacement. And that's not all. Everyone who calls today is getting a free roof tune up valued at \$750 just by securing a spot on Roof Maxx's Schedule.

How to use the \$500 off Discount Scheduling Coupon

To get your free rooftop inspection, a free roof tune up valued \$750 just by securing a spot on the schedule and to cash in the \$500 off coupon call the toll free number for the county and city you live in before the coupon expires 7 days from today's publication date.

Cuyahoga
Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Euclid, Lakewood, North Olmsted, Westlake and other cities call
888-475-3058

Geauga
Bainbridge, Burton, Chardon, Chesterland, Middlefield, South Russell and other cities call
888-662-1059

Lake
Eastlake, Kirtland, Mentor, Wickliffe, Willoughby, Willoughby Hills, Willowick and other cities call
855-358-7192

Lorain
Amherst, Avon, Avon Lake, Lorain, North Ridgeville and other cities call
888-513-5973

Trumbull
Champion Heights, Cortland, Newton Falls and other cities call
855-302-9685

Mahoning
Austintown, Campbell, Canfield, Poland, Sebring, Youngstown and other cities call
888-679-9886

Medina
Brunswick, Medina, Valley City and other cities call
855-969-6221

Portage
Atwater, Aurora, Brimfield, Garrettsville, Kent, Ravenna, Streetsboro and other cities call
888-684-2176

Summit
Akron, Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, Green, Hudson, Stow, Twinsburg and other cities call
888-285-3993

Other Counties
If your county is not listed above, call the number below to check coverage availability
855-481-9467

Discount Scheduling
Coupon \$500

**Discount
Scheduling Coupon
Roof Maxx of Cleveland**

**\$500
OFF**



**PROMO CODE:
SUMMER240**

EXPIRES: 7 Days from Publication Date

The coupon amount shown will be honored in its entirety and is addition to any and all other discounts the bearer is entitled to. This coupon is provided in consideration for scheduling Roof Maxx Restoration Treatments to be performed in an efficient manner and is only valid through the expiration date or when all available open schedule slots are filled, whichever occurs first. Offer valid for new customers only.