



PHOTO BY CORIANA CLOSE
Monday, September 7, 2026; St. Rocco Church 112th Annual Italian Festival, Greasy Pole Climbing Contest: A member of one of the greasy pole climbing teams holds onto the pole, hoping his team can make it to the top.

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Cleveland's Westside Newspaper

Three Ohio City congregations merge into one

by Edie Le Bouton

Three different congregations have merged into one and renamed the congregation to Mosaic Faith Church.

Saint Paul's Community United Church of Christ, Franklin Circle Disciples of Christ and Harbour and Bridge United Methodist Church are now one congregation.

Pastor Matt Whisenhunt is the lone pastor for these three congregations.

Before the merger, Pastor Whisenhunt said the three pastors met regularly as a support mechanism for all. Richard Hinkleman, the pastor at Franklin Circle Disciples, Emily Kolp Ashby, the pastor at St. Paul's, and Matt Whisenhunt,

the pastor at Harbour and Bridge, decided that there was a sense of a partnership together.

They began having church services together three times during the summer. When Pastor Kolp Ashley was called to a church in Kent, Ohio, it sparked more collaboration between the three congregations. When Pastor Hinkleman left for a job at a seminary the board of the Franklin Circle Disciples oversaw the sale of the building. Pastor Whisenhunt was named the interim pastor.

In 2025, the congregants of the sold Franklin Circle Disciples church joined the congregations of Harbour and Bridge United Methodist Church and Saint Paul's Community United Church of Christ, where church services are held.

In the formation of the Mosaic Faith Church, a 501(c) nonprofit organization, administrative duties and due diligence are being done by the new board from the three churches. The board is making sure that they do the merger the right way and not infringe on any one denomination, being careful not to offend.

Each respective church does Bible classes, hospitality, and mission work. Teams of people from all three churches keep track of congregants who are hospitalized, are sick, birthdays and more.

At Harbour and Bridge United Methodist Church, there is a Recovery Home with five, soon to be six, beds. It is for men and women, but no children. The house manager was specific about creating a recovery continued on page 7



PHOTO BY EDIE LE BOUTON
August 2026; Mosaic Faith Church Pastor Matt Whisenhunt in his office. The Mosaic Faith Church resulted from the merger of the congregations of St. Paul's Community United Church of Christ, Bridge United Methodist Church and Franklin Circle Disciples of Christ.

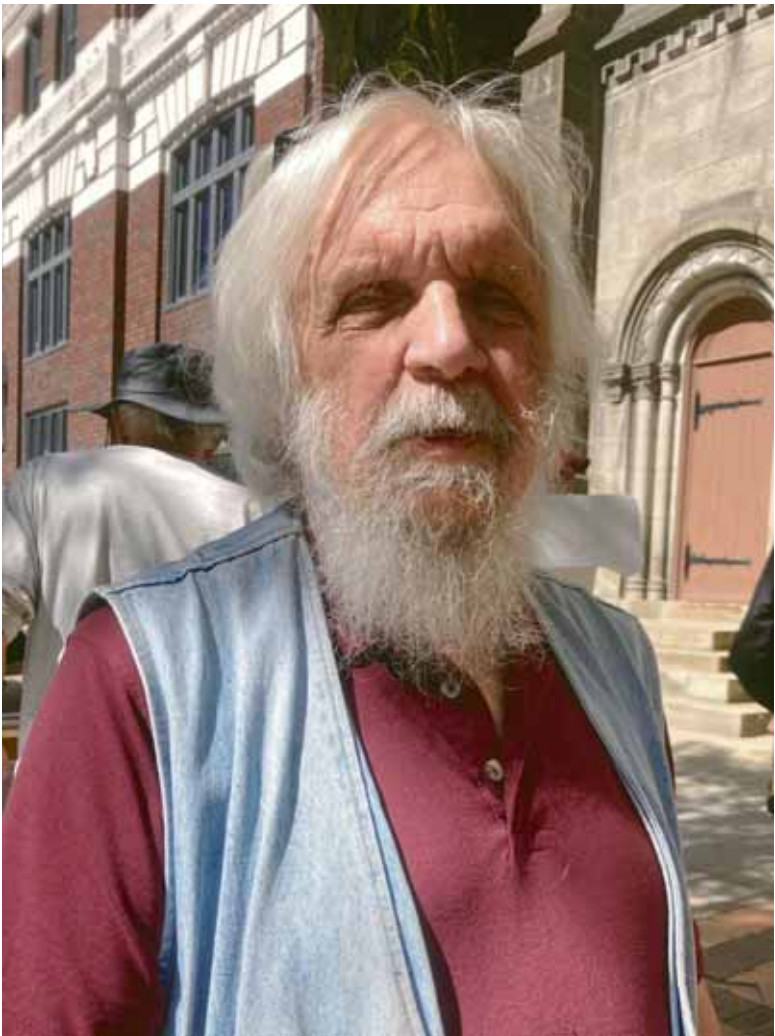


PHOTO BY BRUCE CHECEFSKY
Monday, September 14, 2026; Repairers of the Breach's Moral Monday Protest, Cleveland Public Square: Repairers of the Breach member Tim Walters urges Clevelanders concerned about moral issues to come out and vote in the November election.

Thousands face losing Medicaid coverage

by Bruce Checefsky

"Many changes are coming down the pike," said Christy Nicholls at the Cuyahoga Job and Family Services Long Term Care Forum last month, referring to changes under United States Congress' House Resolution (HR) 1, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). "We are taking these changes very seriously."

Nicholls, Deputy Administrator of Medicaid for Cuyahoga Job and Family Services (CJFS) in Ohio, oversees the county's public healthcare assistance and support programs. CJFS, a County division, helps families and individuals access public benefits, jobs, and community services to promote economic self-sufficiency.

Erin Bradford-Davis, manager of the Specialized Medicaid Benefits Center (SMBC), and Mayra Vargas-Bremer, SMBC Team Coordinator, were on hand to present material and new information regarding changes to the Medicaid program. SMBC is a service unit within the Cuyahoga County Division of Job and Family Services in Ohio, which administers, reviews,

and determines eligibility for specialized, long-term care Medicaid programs and waivers.

Medicaid changes under the OBBBA begin in October for non-citizens. For most non-exempt Medicaid expansion adults, major changes will take effect Jan. 1, 2027. The changes include new eligibility categories and revised terminology and application language for non-citizen Medicaid eligibility, Nicholls said.

"A five-year waiting period is imposed on most non-resident applicants with a green card before becoming eligible for Medicaid," she said. "Exceptions to the waiting period include active military members, their spouses or unmarried dependent children of veterans, and serving spouses of veterans."

Work and eligibility requirements for non-exempt Medicaid expansion adults aged 19 to 64 include at least 80 hours per month of work or community engagement to keep their health coverage. To maintain eligibility their adjusted gross income must be at or below 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), continued on page 6

Repairers of the Breach won't stay silent any more

by Bruce Checefsky

Rev. Doug Horner fumbled with a megaphone while protesters gathered in front of the Old Stone Church in downtown Cleveland. He was there to lead the Repairers of the Breach Moral Mondays March from Public Square to the federal government office tower on

Lakeside Avenue, just a few blocks away.

Once the megaphone was working, he said, "How is everyone? You're a small but mighty group!"

Rev. Horner, a prominent retired United Church of Christ (UCC) pastor, community activist, and advocate for the unhoused, is best

known for his long-term tenure as the senior pastor of St. Paul's Community UCC in the Ohio City neighborhood, and he reminded people why they were there.

Repairers of the Breach is a national moral advocacy nonprofit founded in 2015 by the Rev. Dr. continued on page 5



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Sunday, August 23, 2026; Southeast Asian Festival, Edgewater Park: The Cleveland Indonesian Dance group of the Indonesian Community of Greater Cleveland are prepared to entertain the crowd at the festival. The group, led by Ila Widjaja-Adhi, practices at Edgewater Park on Sunday mornings during the summer months.



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Sunday, August 23, 2026; Southeast Asian Festival, Edgewater Park: Ward 11 Executive Assistant Paula Furst staffs a booth at the festival for Ward 11 Council Member Nikki Hudson. At the booth the Council office offers information on services and activities available in Ward 11 and the City of Cleveland.

Upcoming events
October 3 Hessler Street Fair, noon to 7 p.m. (one block north of the Euclid and Mayfield/Ford intersection in the heart of the University Circle neighborhood). Come and enjoy music, fine art, food, lemonade, knowledge and inspiration. Featuring Hello!3D, The JiMiller Band, Charlie Mosbrook and Friends, HooDoo BBQ, Country Honk, Austin Walkin Cane, Ms, BBC & DiQueenoom.
October 3 Cleveland Pickle Fest is a celebration of pickles and volunteerism in Cleveland. This fun-filled day features plenty of pickles and pickle-flavored food, desserts, candy, drinks and more from local and regional vendors, plus dozens of food and non-food vendors with pickle-themed merchandise

and goodies. All event proceeds benefit Greater Cleveland Volunteers. Saturday, October 3 from 11 am to 6 pm on Mall C, in downtown Cleveland.
October 3 Ohio City Oktoberfest Mark your calendars for the return of our Ohio City Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 3, from noon to 8 pm at Market Square Park (across the street from the West Side Market) for an afternoon packed with crisp brews, delicious local eats, fun family-friendly games, and live music. We will have an awesome lineup of local brews on tap, food vendors serving local favorites and Bavarian eats, a Pretzel Toss, Steinholding Competitions, and live music from Die Unpronouncables.
October 5 Voter registration deadline The deadline to vote in the November 3



general election is Monday, October 5. Now is the time to register, update your information if you've moved or changed your name, and make a plan to vote. You can register to vote, or check if you're already registered, by visiting the Ohio

Repairers of the Breach urge participation in the Moral Monday March on October 14

by Tim Walters

In September's issue of the *Plain Press*, we introduced Moral Mondays. This is a concept put into place by Dr. William Barber, President of Repairers of the Breach headquartered in Washington, D.C. These are nonviolent protest actions focused on opposing war, poverty, voter suppression and other policy injustices. Begun in Washington, D.C., they have expanded to over 200 cities since the beginning of this year including Cleveland.

As our November Election moves closer, Repairers of the Breach continues to expand the Moral Mondays' protests and marches. It calls on more people to come together in their precincts, cities, counties and church basements in every state where an effort is in place to make it harder to vote and to discourage citizens from doing so.

Northeast Ohio Division of Repairers of the Breach was one of the first to respond to this call beginning with a February protest and has continued this effort each month since. Most recently they gathered on September 14 at noon at the Old Stone Church on Public Square. After listening to a personal witness and raising a collective voice in prayer and song, they marched to the Federal Building at 9th and Lakeside. There

a coalition delivered a message to Senator Husted's Cleveland office. We delivered previous messages to the office of Senator Marino.

We will march again on Saturday, October 12th. Join us at noon in front of the Bishop Cosgrove Center at 1736 Superior Avenue. We will hear from some individuals directly affected by the actions of President Donald J. Trump's administration. We will march from there to the Board of Elections.

We are calling for: ending immoral war; protecting and expanding voting rights; ensuring health care and living wages; protecting our immigrant communities; and guaranteeing equal protection under the law.

As always, the protests have included those directly affected by the many changes of the past two years as well as a coffin representing the countless deaths that have occurred in Ohio and right here in Cuyahoga County.

We, and the entire Repairers of the Breach Coalition, are calling on all of us across this country to mobilize, educate, march and most importantly to vote. With less than 40 days until November's midterm elections, faith leaders from all beliefs will mobilize 1,000 marches to encourage early voting and participation in the Nov. 3 elections.

health care, you do NOT need to wait for a MedWish Medworks clinic. Please call 216-692-1685 ext. 205, or email the team at NavTeam@medwish.org. We can discuss your situation and options and help you find the care you need to live a healthier life.

October 10 "Caffeinate and Create" at Stella Maris Create with purpose, sip with intention, and show up as you are at this free, therapeutic art session. All canvases, supplies, and instruction are provided. No experience needed — just bring your creativity and good vibes. Saturday, October 10 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at Stella Maris Coffee Shop (1302 Winslow Ave.). Registration is required. Register now at stellamariscleveland.com.

October 10 Artist Inventory Challenge Join Art House Inc. for our 10th annual Artist Inventory Challenge: an entertaining evening of conversation, good food, and watching the creative process unfold as invited artists create new work inspired by donated materials. Pieces created during the event will be available for sale following creation. The event will be held on Saturday, October 10 from 7 pm to 9 pm at Art House Inc. (3119 Denison Ave). Entry is free.

October 10 Latina Girls' & Women's Day Celebration Join the Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center for the second annual Cleveland Latina Girls' & Women's Day Celebration, a day of empowerment, learning, culture, and connection for Latina girls and women ages 9 and older. The event will feature inspiring speakers, interactive workshops, cultural activities, and opportunities to learn about women's history and rights. Saturday, October 10 from 9:30 am to 2 pm. Registration required. (The exact location will be shared only with confirmed registrants for safety and confidentiality.) Questions? Contact Evelyn Rivera at lahsodeclevelandoh@ continued on page 7

Secretary of State's website at ohiosos.gov/elections.

October 9 LGBTQIA+ photography classes Join artist Bridget Caswell (they/she) for a hands-on photography workshop designed for LGBTQIA+ folks of all skill levels. Learn to take better photos using the tools you already have — whether it's a smartphone or a digital camera. This 2-hour session includes guided instruction followed by a neighborhood photo walk. Come as you are and capture your story. October 9 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the LGBT Community Center (6705 Detroit Ave). An additional session will be held November 7 at the Jefferson library (850 Jefferson Ave.) from 2 pm to 4 pm. Registration is required for both events. For more information and to register, visit cpl.org/events.

October 9&10 Free dental and medical clinic MedWish MedWorks will hold a free two-day dental and medical clinic on Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October 10 at the Huntington Convention Center (300 Lakeside Ave E). Services provided include dental screenings, cleanings, extractions, fillings, and temporary partials for adults and children. General and women's health. Doors open at 7 am, walk-ins only. You do not need to provide a name, ID, or other identifying details like income or insurance. Translation services are available. Need help now? If you are in need of no-cost/low-cost

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City of Cleveland launches Community Crisis Response Bureau to transform behavioral health emergency response

Maureen C. Malavé named inaugural Deputy Commissioner to lead the city's new bureau

On September 22nd the City of Cleveland announced it is launching its new Community Crisis Response Bureau within the Division of Emergency Medical Service (EMS), marking an important step in transforming how the City responds to behavioral health and substance-use emergencies.

Established following the passage of Tanisha's Law, the new bureau will oversee the development and implementation of unarmed community crisis response services designed to connect residents experiencing behavioral health and substance use emergencies with specialized care and support. The bureau will also provide executive oversight for related alternative response programs within EMS, including Community Outreach, Mobile Integrated Health and Community Paramedicine.

To lead this critical initiative, the City hired Maureen C. Malavé as the first Deputy Commissioner of Community Crisis Response. Malavé brings extensive experience in community health, social services and program development to the newly created position.

"The creation of this bureau rep-

"Our goal is to build a sustainable system rooted in empathy, equity, accountability and evidence-based care."

-- Deputy Commissioner Maureen C. Malavé

resents a compassionate approach to public safety," said Public Safety Director Wayne A. Drummond. "By strengthening the role of healthcare and behavioral health professionals in our emergency response system, we can better connect residents in crisis with the right resources while allowing police officers to focus on situations that require a law enforcement response. Under Deputy Commissioner Malavé's leadership, we are building a more coordinated, accountable and care-focused approach to emergency response."

As Deputy Commissioner, Malavé will provide executive leadership for the Community Crisis Response Bureau and oversee the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of the City's unarmed crisis response program. Her responsibilities will include developing

policies, protocols, workflows and training; leading the recruitment and contracting of behavioral health clinicians, paramedics, peer supporters and other crisis-response personnel; and ensuring the bureau operates in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and professional standards.

Malavé will also help advance innovative EMS service delivery models designed to improve community health outcomes, reduce unnecessary emergency department utilization and enhance the efficiency of Cleveland's emergency response system. She will work closely with EMS leadership, City departments, healthcare and behavioral health providers, hospitals, public health agencies, social service organizations and other community partners to build a coordinated continuum of care.

"I am deeply honored to serve the people of Cleveland in this new role," said Deputy Commissioner Malavé. "Our goal is to build a sustainable system rooted in empathy, equity, accountability and evidence-based care. This work is about more than

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Sunday, August 23, 2026; Southeast Asian Festival, Edgewater Park: Enjoying their visit to the festival are Paula Leng and Kim Leng of Middleburg Heights and Savoeun Long of Maple Heights.

Institutional memory lapse results in Cleveland public school students being short-changed

by Chuck Hoven

Cleveland City Council's Municipal Services and Properties Committee weighed in on the funding for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's (CMSD) Comprehensive Extracurricular Activities Program (CEAP) at its September 14th meeting.

Some of the activities that CEAP funds include field trips for kindergarten through grade five students, middle school sports, fine arts programs, and start-up funds for high school sports.

Committee member and Ward 13 City Council Representative Brian Kazy asked representatives of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District how he could explain to his

constituents the City of Cleveland giving \$950,000 to CEAP when CMSD has a budget similar in size to the City of Cleveland and receives a substantial portion of the property taxes that residents and businesses pay.

NEWS ANALYSIS

While some of the representatives of CMSD tried to answer his question, their responses did not tell the history behind the legislation, Ordinance number 1025-A-95. That ordinance created the partnership between the City of Cleveland and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District to fund what is now CEAP.

The 1995 legislation called for creating new sections of three taxes "to fund recreational, cultural,

and extracurricular programs in the Cleveland Public Schools, a portion of the costs of renovating, improving and maintaining the municipal stadium in the City and other municipal purposes."

The three taxes cited by the legislation were the admissions tax, the motor vehicle leasing tax and a parking tax. For the first ten full years of the legislation, CEAP received \$2 million a year. Then Mayor Frank Jackson quietly reduced the amount to \$1million a year. The Justin Bibb administration has funded the program at around \$1 million -- \$1.25 million last year and is proposing \$950,000 this year.

When the CEAP program was receiving about \$2 million a year,

the revenue from the three taxes was about \$20 million a year. Now the revenue from the three taxes is more than twice that amount, yet the funds to the extracurricular programs for Cleveland school children have been reduced instead of increased.

The reason for the legislation including the Cleveland school funding in the first place is because the stadium building is exempt from paying property taxes. The idea of the legislation was to make up to the school system the money they would lose from not having any property tax revenue from the stadium building. Instead of making funding for Cleveland school children a priority, the City of Cleveland over the years has prioritized funding for stadium repairs, giving many millions more to Cleveland stadium repairs than the schools received each year.

In 1995, Cleveland Mayor Michael White, members of Cleveland City Council and many Cleveland

residents were highly aware of the impact of loss of property tax revenue on the Cleveland schools from sports facilities not paying property taxes. Just five years earlier in May of 1990, full page ads in the *Plain Dealer* promised that the Cleveland public schools would receive \$15 million a year from property taxes from the new baseball stadium and basketball arena funded by a County-wide sin tax. However, soon after the tax was passed, local political leaders successfully petitioned the State of Ohio to exempt the new Gateway sports facilities from paying property taxes. (See "Double-dealing from the start: The Gateway Board works for owners only" by Roldo Bartimole in the August 2026 issue of the *Plain Press*).

In the Municipal Services and Properties Committee Meeting both Ward 13 Council Representative Brian Kazy and Ward 5 City Council Representative Richard Starr brought up their concerns that would

continued on page 6

Medicaid and SNAP recipients now required to meet work requirements

by Che Gadison

If you are a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipient, or an adult on Medicaid, beginning January 1 you are REQUIRED to meet work requirements to maintain your benefits. Both applicants and recipients MUST meet eligibility requirements through a combination of at least 20 hours per week (80 hours/month) of work activity, qualified training programs, and community service.

For more information on qualified work and community service activities, please visit Greater Cleveland Works (<https://greaterclevelandworks.org>) and Greater Cleveland Volunteers (<https://greaterclevelandvolunteers.org>) for approved work activities.

Some Ohioans may be exempt from work requirements and are eligible for

Medicaid & SNAP benefits. If one or more of the following apply to you, then you ARE NOT work required: pregnant; assistance group contains a child under the age of 14; Indian, Urban native American, or California Indian; physically or mentally unfit for employment; caring for an incapacitated person; applying for or receiving Unemployment Compensation; participating in a drug/

alcohol treatment program; enrolled in school/training halftime or more; working 30 hours/week (or equivalent pay).

If you do not fall into one or more of the categories above, then you ARE work-required and must provide documented verification of fulfillment of work requirements to Cuyahoga Job and Family Services.

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PHOTO BY CORIANA CLOSE
Monday, September 7, 2026; St. Rocco Church 112th Annual Italian Festival, Greasy Pole Climbing Contest: A greasy pole climber holds onto the slippery pole while a teammate prepares to climb over his back in hopes of becoming the first team to reach the top of the pole.

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October’s real-life horror: rabies on the rise

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is evidence that the ancient deadly virus called “rabies” is making a sinister come-back this year. Rabies related inquiries during this past July thru August was 17% higher than last year. There were several unusual events including rabid beaver attacks in Maryland and rabid goats in a North Carolina

petting zoo that exposed hundreds of people. More than 90% of reported rabid animals in the United States are wildlife. The leading source of this deadly virus are bats, skunks, raccoons and foxes. Bats are particularly a danger because a bite or scratch to a human can be extremely small and easily ignored. The CDC says bats are the animals most frequently reported with rabies. In

addition, most United States rabies caused deaths are associated with exposure to rabid bats.

There is also evidence of an increase in rabid bats in northeast Ohio. This year Ohio has recorded at least 15 confirmed bats tested positive with rabies since the beginning of the year, compared to 19 rabid bats for all of 2025. In August, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health issued a warning after 5 bats tested positive for rabies in two months compared to one positive bat in a typical year. In addition, Lake County confirmed its first rabid bat since 2022.

For anyone in Cleveland who has been exposed to a bat, you can contact the Cleveland Department of Public Health at: 216-664-3747 for questions about whether treatment is needed.

To learn more about this deadly virus you can watch the documentary on **Cleveland Spectrum** Channel 1025, Mondays at 9:pm and **Cox/ Spectrum** on Channel 45, Fridays at 8:30pm. You can also watch the documentary on the **YouTube: Channel-Shocker Enterprise**.

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



PHOTO BY CORIANA CLOSE
Monday, September 7, 2026; St. Rocco Church 112th Annual Italian Festival, Greasy Pole Climbing Contest: A climber tries to boost himself up higher on the greasy pole.

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COMMUNITY CRISIS RESPONSE BUREAU

continued from page 3

responding to a crisis in the moment. It is about creating stronger connections to healthcare and community resources, improving outcomes and continually evaluating how we can better serve Cleveland residents.”

Transforming Cleveland’s Emergency Response

The Community Crisis Response Bureau will establish a comprehensive framework for expanding care-based responses to behavioral health emergencies while strengthening Cleveland’s broader system of alternative emergency response. Key elements include:

Unarmed Community Crisis Response:

The bureau will develop and deploy teams that include behavioral health clinicians, paramedics, peer supporters and other qualified professionals to respond to appropriate non-violent behavioral health emergencies and provide on-site

stabilization, support and connection to services.

Integrated and Coordinated Care:

The bureau will work across the Division of EMS, 911 operations, healthcare providers, behavioral health organizations, social service agencies and other partners to establish coordinated pathways and specialized care response for residents experiencing a crisis.

Clear Policies, Protocols and Training:

The bureau will develop and continually evaluate policies, General Orders, protocols, workflows and training to ensure crisis response teams and other EMS personnel have clear standards for responding to behavioral health emergencies. Cleveland Division of Police personnel will continue to receive [Crisis Intervention Team \(CIT\)](#) training and will continue to deploy Co-Responder Teams of a Specialized Crisis



PHOTO BY CORIANA CLOSE

Monday, September 7, 2026; St. Rocco Church 112th Annual Italian Festival, Greasy Pole Climbing Contest: Five teams competed in the Greasy Pole Climbing Contest. The winning team was Team Zambo. Members of the team are Damien Bostic, Miachael Donley, James Jodon, Zach Zambo and Steve Steruagi. One team member said the secret to their winning was practice. They practiced climbing on a telephone pole (without the grease). The team member said, “You are climbing the people, not the pole.”



PHOTO BY CORIANA CLOSE

Monday, September 7, 2026; St. Rocco Church 112th Annual Italian Festival, Greasy Pole Climbing Contest: A climber tries to get a good grip on the greasy pole to allow a teammate to climb over his back on the way to the top.

WON’T STAY SILENT

continued from page one

William J. Barber II and based in North Carolina, with a mission to combat systemic poverty, racism, ecological devastation, and voter suppression through a “Moral Public Policy Agenda” and the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, working across over 30 states to organize low-wealth communities and faith leaders. The term comes from the Bible and symbolizes rebuilding broken community structures by healing divisions and restoring justice. Moral Mondays is a grass-roots protest and civil disobedience movement to hold government officials accountable on issues of human rights and poverty.

After a brief introduction, Rev. Horner began chanting. “Somebody’s been hurting my brother and my sister, and it’s gone on far too long.” Protestors joined in. “Somebody’s been poisoning our water, and it’s gone on far too long, and we won’t stay silent any longer.”

Jenny, from Kirkland, was holding a protest sign. “These times ask us to step forward and speak up for justice for those without a voice, from both an economic and spiritual sense. We are all connected and we have to help each

other,” she said, and when asked about the critical voting issues for the midterm election in November, she added, “Health care for all is essential. The total polarization of government and people is a challenge. We have to come together as a country. The 1% of the population are serving themselves and leaving everyone else behind.”

Duane Drotar, from Cleveland, said that Senator Bernie Moreno had not responded to several requests to meet, so protesters took to the streets. “We are going to march to Senator Husted’s office to address voting issues and make an appeal to the importance of voting. President Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) killed us,” said Drotar. “We have so many friends and family members that can no longer afford health care because the premiums have skyrocketed. For many people, the new work requirements for Medicaid make it hard for them to survive.”

Democrats are more grassroots in their approach, going door to door, he said, while Republicans bombard the airwaves with untruths. “How are they allowed to do that?”

Tim Walters, a contributing writer to the *Plain Press*, stood next to Rev. Horner, handing out flyers with a headline that read, “Your vote

Intervention Trained (SCIT) police officer and a licensed clinician to support situations in which a coordinated law enforcement response is necessary

Data, Accountability and Continuous Improvement:

The bureau will establish systems to track response times, diversion rates, outcomes, personnel wellness and other performance measures. The City of Cleveland will use this information to evaluate the program, identify opportunities for improvement and provide greater transparency to the public.

Community Partnerships:

The bureau will serve as a bridge between the Division of EMS and hospitals, health systems, public health agencies, social service organizations, city departments and other community partners to strengthen the network of resources available to residents in crisis.

“Tanisha’s Law was about recognizing that when someone is experiencing a mental health or behavioral health crisis, they deserve a response that meets the moment with care, compassion, and the right resources,”

-- Ward 8 Councilwoman
Stephanie Howse Jones.

Sustainable Service Delivery:

The bureau will support the development and oversight of budgets, grants, pilot programs and long-term sustainability strategies to strengthen alternative response and community health initiatives.

“Tanisha’s Law was about recognizing that when someone is experiencing a mental health or behavioral health crisis, they deserve a response that meets the moment

with care, compassion, and the right resources,” said Councilwoman Stephanie Howse Jones. “The launch of the Community Crisis Response Bureau is an important step toward building a system that treats people with dignity while keeping our communities safe. This moment is the manifestation of more than a decade of collective advocacy, work that became legislation and is now action delivering real results for Cleveland residents.”

The Community Crisis Response Bureau will begin a phased field rollout this fall, with the City expanding the program and its capabilities as the necessary infrastructure, personnel, protocols and community partnerships are established.

The bureau will also develop an annual public impact report to provide Cleveland residents with information about the program’s performance, outcomes and ongoing development.

makes an enormous difference!”

“One feature that we pride ourselves on regarding the Moral Mondays March is that, while there is a smaller crowd today than at other times, it shows a significant number of people working together,” said Walters. “We’re going to deliver a letter to Husted’s office today. We don’t expect to see him or get a reply, but our big statement centers on issues of voting.”

Walters said voting issues impact different people differently, with human rights at the top of the list. “We want something better, not back to the way it was.”

Mitchell, from Akron, was in Cleveland for the day. He stood on the sidewalk holding a tombstone sign with ‘Lorenzo Vargas, Age 32, Died in I.C.E. Custody 2025’ stenciled across it.

“I am here supporting Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOC)” he said, adding that the midterm elections could result in a better power balance in both the Senate and House. “I.C.E. (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and significant changes to Medicaid restrictions are a huge issue, with money taken from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and work requirements make it impossible for people unable to work to get food assistance.”

Kathleen McDonnell, from Cleveland’s west side, said gathering with people on a Monday morning in prayer was a wonderful thing to

see. “I made over forty phone calls in the past year to my senators to talk about how immigrants are being treated, for example,” she said “I look at the wars we are supporting, and it is grievous. Ignoring and exacerbating the destruction of our environment, gutting human services for people in need, destroying guardrails for democracy, and diminishing voting are equally grievous.”

The protestors chanted as noon-time downtown workers piled out of their offices onto the sidewalks and car traffic increased. “No more hunger! No more war! Peace is what we are standing for!” They repeated the protest slogans several times before gathering their signs and heading down Ontario Ave towards the Anthony J. Celebrezze Federal Building.

Walters was carrying a larger-than-life letter “E” along the march route, with others from the group dragging the letters “V,” “O,” and “T” in succession to spell VOTE.

Rev. Horner was using the megaphone to lead them on. “Somebody’s been hurting our people, and it’s gone on far too long,” he shouted. “Somebody’s been poisoning our water, and it’s gone on far too long, gone on far too long, and we won’t stay silent any longer,” he repeated. “Somebody’s been hurting our children, and it’s gone on for too long, and we won’t be silent any longer.”

Protestors are out every second Monday at noon, he said, while

taking a break but keeping stride with the marchers. “We are tired of our legislators and senators not listening to us. Finally, this week, we have a meeting with an aide to Senator Husted.”

“We will be cordial and talk about not what he has done wrong but what he has done right, and mention that we want to work with him moving forward on the issues,” he added.

“Whether he wins or loses this race, we need to work together against policy issues that are hurting our brothers and sisters.” He paused and looked around. “We want to cause no harm. It is that simple. We are supposed to help the weakest link in our society as part of our heritage and tradition.”

The march continued along Ontario St., onto Lakeside Ave. E, ending at E. 9th Street, then disappearing inside the federal building. Senator Husted’s office did not respond to a request for comment.

Ohio general midterm elections take place on November 3, 2026, with polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The voter registration deadline is October 5. Mail-in voting begins on October 6. Early in-person voting is from October 6 through November 1.

The ballot includes one U.S. Senate seat and all 15 U.S. House of Representatives seats, along with the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, auditor, and treasurer. The

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Sunday, August 23, 2026; Edgewater Park: Self-taught martial artist Pastor Johnson, a resident of the West Side near W. 130th, practices martial arts positions on a sunny day at the park.

MEDICAID COVERAGE

continued from page one

and applicants must not be eligible for Medicare benefits.

“Work requirements include paid or unpaid, in-kind work, or earning the federal minimum wage for eighty hours, which equals \$580 a month,” explained Nicholls. “Community service with a public or non-profit organization counts towards the new requirement, or enrollment in an education program half-time can be counted as a work requirement.”

Exclusions and exceptions include a parent, guardian, or caretaker relative of a family member, dependent children under the age of fourteen, disabled individuals, foster youth under twenty-six years old, disabled veterans, individuals participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program, incarcerated or recently released from incarceration within the last 90 days, and those with a health condition that prevents them from working.

“This would include blindness

or disability as defined by the Social Security Administration,” she added. “Anyone with a substance use disorder, disabling mental disorder, physical or intellectual developmental disability, or serious or complex medical condition is also exempt. Nursing home residents often meet one of these exemptions.”

Under the new restrictions in HB 1, Medicaid enrollees will undergo eligibility reviews every six months instead of annually, requiring them to certify twice as often. Critics, including the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit research and policy institute, say more frequent reviews increase the risk that eligible people will “fall through the cracks” because of missed mail, address changes or complex paperwork.

“The law cuts \$1.1 trillion from Medicaid and Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates,” said CBPP. “Major cuts include a provision that takes away

Architecturally significant piece of Old Brooklyn history ripped apart

by Lynette Filips

“Dam shame!” says the caption which accompanied a Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026 online video of the former St. Luke’s United Church of Christ exclaimed. The subject of the approximately ten-second video was a giant backhoe whose claw was breaking apart the roof of the School of Religion building at 4216 Pearl Rd. in Old Brooklyn. It had been added to the north side of the original St. Luke’s Evangelical and Reformed Church (most recently United Church of Christ) in 1925. The two-part former beauty is/was on the northwest corner of Memphis Ave. where most of the buildings have already been demolished for a yet-to-be-determined new development. (Another plan for a six-story, up to eighty-four-unit apartment building has been scrapped.) This last demolition is taking more time than the previous

ones did because the addition was very securely attached to the church proper. Preservationists can only hope that the 1903 church portion won’t be damaged beyond repair in the process.

The online video was posted by Jesse Akers of Wakeman, Ohio. That’s approximately 45 miles southwest of Old Brooklyn and I’m not certain what his interest was in recording and posting the demolition. Jesse’s Facebook page describes him as a Digital Creator. Only one of the readers’ responses to his video had anything good to say about the destruction of St. Luke’s. The rest were angry, sad, or confused at the awful sight of this architecturally significant piece of neighborhood history being ripped apart. Jesse’s post couldn’t have come at a better time for me, because I was just about to begin writing this month’s article about

Memphis and Pearl.

The site is, of course, still blocked by orange Jersey barriers and fencing material, but people driving past it are able to see that roofing work has been done on the southern, church part of the complex plus access-to-the-site driveway work has been done on “Short” Broadview Rd. (just west of Pearl Rd.). One must assume that the abatement of any hazardous materials in the building since the demolition — and the dust which accompanies it — is well underway. The second day on the job, the backhoe completely removed the front as well as part of the north side of St. Luke’s School of Religion. Without realizing that she was doing so, Brenda Theurer snapped the photograph which accompanies this article — the beautiful stonework which surrounded the stained glass window in the front of

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MEMORY LAPSE

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be costly for the CMSD to implement. Councilman Kazy would like to see a track at John Marshall High School that the school system promised him ten years ago. Councilman Starr would like to see the varsity athletic programs in the CMSD have all the security, technology,

staffing, and quality facilities that he sees when Cleveland teams play in suburban or out of town stadiums.

Part of the answer to both City Council Representatives requests would be to give CEAP the \$16 to \$20 million a year that has been going to the soon to be closed Cleveland Browns’ stadium. Afterall, the original legislation that raised the admissions, motor vehicle and

parking taxes mentions funding for the Cleveland school programs before it mentions stadium repairs.

The Bibb administration’s proposed allocation to CEAP, \$950,000 for the roughly 34,000 CMSD students, amounts to about \$28 per pupil for the entire school year. Cleveland City Council can do better than that for our school children.

Medicaid from people who are eligible for the ACA Medicaid expansion but can’t show that they meet a work requirement, other red tape that will block people from enrolling in health coverage they are eligible for, and provisions that take away health coverage, across all major programs, from most categories of immigrants living lawfully in the U.S.”

More than 100,000 Ohioans, including over 50,000 children, have lost Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits under President Donald Trump’s bill, which the Ohio Capital Journal reported would make the largest cuts to food stamps in the program’s history.

As of May 2026, approximately 66.4 million people are enrolled in Medicaid across the United States, with an additional 7.1 million enrolled in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), totaling roughly 73.5 million people combined.

In Ohio, Medicaid and CHIP enrollment accounts for roughly 25% of the population, or about 2.6 million residents, a share that exceeds the national average. Ohio

also ranks sixth nationally in total Medicaid spending. In Cleveland, an estimated 40% to 45% of residents—roughly 145,000 to 162,000 people—rely on Medicaid.

Several nonpartisan organizations estimate that the new restrictions could cause 5 million to 15 million Americans to lose their Medicaid coverage beginning in 2026.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), the legislative cornerstone of Trump’s second-term economic agenda, bundles permanent extensions of his 2017 tax cuts with new temporary deductions, border security funding, and extensive cuts to federal social safety net programs to offset the costs. Republicans view changes and cuts to Medicaid as necessary, claiming the program is too expensive and the welfare system is bloated, according to POLITICO, a global, nonpartisan digital news and journalism organization, even while most Americans favor keeping or increasing Medicaid funding because they or their families rely on it.

In Cuyahoga County alone, over 87,000 Medicaid recipients who

enrolled through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) expansion face new eligibility and work requirements, or roughly a third of the county’s 344,000 total Medicaid enrollees. Based on current projections, SMBC estimates 20,000 to 45,000 individuals will have to meet the new requirements or face losing coverage under new federal eligibility restrictions.

Ohio’s Republican members of the U.S. House of Representatives who voted for OBBBA include David Taylor, Jim Jordan, Bob Latta, Michael Rulli, Max Miller, Warren Davidson, Mike Turner, Troy Balderson, David Joyce, and Mike Carey. All 10 are seeking reelection in the November 3, 2026, general election. Vice President JD Vance championed and supported the legislation. He cast a tie-breaking vote.

The SMBC contact center is facing a surge in calls as the deadline nears but has been unable to add staff to meet demand, Nicholls said.

“We apologize for the long wait times and encourage people to use the call-back line, which typically returns calls the same day,” she said. “However, depending on the volume of calls, the call-back may occur the following day.”

As the 90-minute online forum ended, Nicholls said, “We are navigating changes that affect us all, and we are here to serve you.”

To apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Child Care or Cash Assistance, call 216-802-2810, email CuyahogaCustomerRelations@ifs.ohio.gov, or check out the website at <https://hhs.cuyahogacounty.gov>.

Staff addresses escalated issues within 48-hours of initial request and informs customers of next steps after consulting with eligibility staff. Provide name, address, home or cell number, or other contact information where customer can be reached.

For additional support and information contact Erin Bradford-Davis, SMBC Center Manager, erin.Bradford-Davis@ifs.ohio.gov; Mayra Vargas-Bremer, SMBC Team Coordinator, mayralie.Vargas-Bremer@ifs.ohio.gov; and Christy Nicholls, Deputy Administrator, Medicaid, christy.Nicholls@ifs.ohio.gov.



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THREE CONGREGATIONS

continued from page one

ery home for all genders.

Saint Paul's has a 20-year-old outreach program that is open three days a week – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – that helps with food, hygiene and housing. A new art program has started, with classes on Wednesday, for unhoused people to do artwork together. A new program is planned to help young men and women aging out of the foster care system. “Emancipated,” as Pastor Whisenhunt said, adding that Cleveland State has a program to help the emancipated individuals.

Pastor Whisenhunt said they are expanding to try and get families and young people into the church, using outreach and missions.

“The congregants, who are the Mosaic Faith Church, just want to

give support and work with other people,” said Pastor Whisenhunt. “To get smaller churches to become able to reach the neighborhoods so they can be more effective is one of our goals.”

“Mosaic Faith really wants to be a community church that reflects the hopes of this neighborhood,” said Paster Whisenhunt, adding “for people looking for a church that helps them connect with faith in a way that matters.”

The congregation size is about 50 people on Sunday mornings. Services are held at Saint Paul's Community United Church of Christ. A second service is planned at Harbour and Bridge Methodist Church in the coming months.

Saint Paul's Community United Church of Christ is located at 4427 Franklin Boulevard.

Harbour and Bridge United Meth-

odist Church is located at 4321 Bridge Avenue.

The Harbour and Bridge building was built by Germans. The stained-glass windows inside the church are original and each window has the names of Germans in memoriam, who probably helped fund the new church.

Pastor Whisenhunt said, “People are welcome to email me.” His email address is mattw@harborand-bridge.com

A website is being developed as well. Look for it at Mosaicfaithcommunity.org

This Sunday at 10:30 a.m. the service will be at Saint Paul's Community United Church of Christ at 4427 Franklin, you are welcome to come and join the other 50 congregants to hear Pastor Whisenhunt's sermon.

COMMUNITY BOARD

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gmail.com. Register now at juliadeburgos.org/calendar.

October 13 Cleveland Westside Village Happy Hour The Cleveland Westside Village is hosting a “happy hour” for older adults to learn more about our organization. We are a group of seniors working to age in place and enjoy life. We invite folks, age 55 and older, who live in Ohio City, Detroit Shoreway, Cudell and Edgewater neighborhoods to learn about our organization at Forest City Brewery (3135 Columbus Rd.) on Tuesday, October 13, from 4 pm to 7 pm. Join us for a complimentary beer or a glass of wine. Please register at Clevelandwestside.helpfulvillage.com/events.

October 15 Memory Café is a place to explore engaging experiences in a supportive environment designed for individuals with dementia and early memory loss and their care partners. Each café has a unique focus to facilitate social connection. Light refreshments will be provided. We meet from 1 pm to 2:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month at the West Park Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (3805 W 157th St). This month's café will be on Thursday, October 15. Questions? Contact Heather Tuck-Macalla at 216-623-2921.

October 15 Senior food boxes Seniors may register for the Cleveland Food Bank's Senior Food Box Program, which provides a box of shelf-stable food each month to income-eligible people who are 60 years old or older, in person at the West Park Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (3805 W. 157 St.). Thursday, October 15 from 10 am to 6 pm.

October 17 Street Studio This month's Street Studio will be Saturday, October 17 from 1 pm to 3 pm at St. Paul's Community Church, 4427 Franklin Ave. All are welcome to share music, poetry, and spoken word – or to listen in support. Piano, drums, guitar, and microphones provided – as well as coffee and snacks. For more information contact Ian Heisey at heisey2140@sbcglobal.net or Trennell Garrison at sapphire1497@yahoo.com.

October 21 Books and Bites Kids, tweens, and teens! Join library staff as we read some great stories and have fun chatting about them over pizza, the third Wednesday of each month at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (8216 Lorain Ave.) from 4 pm to 5 pm. This month's event will be on Wednesday, October 21.

October 27 Monster Bash Calling all ghouls and goblins! Join us for a spooktacular afternoon of Halloween fun. Enjoy Halloween-themed crafts, games and more during this yearly celebration at the Fulton Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (3545 Fulton Rd.) on Tuesday, October 27 from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

October 31 Big City Boo A Halloween-themed event for kids and families, Big City Boo returns to city recreation centers on Saturday, October 31 from 5 pm to 7 pm. The event features candy, refreshments, and games – all in a safe

and fun environment. Every Cleveland rec. center will be participating, including Cudell (1910 West Blvd.), Estabrook (4125 Fulton Rd.), Halloran (3550 W. 117th St.), and Michael Zone (6301 Lorain Ave).

October 31 Trick-or-treating Traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating will be held in Cleveland on Halloween night, Saturday, October 31, from approximately 6 pm to 8 pm. Households participating in passing out candy should turn their front porch light on to indicate to trick or treaters that they are participating.

Throughout the month

Garden Markets at Kentucky Gardens are open every Saturday from now until October 31 (harvest dependent) 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 noon. For more information, visit kentuckygardens.com.

Eat Smart and Move More for Older Adults Learn about the nutritional needs of older adults, participate in physical activities and make quick and easy recipes Tuesdays at the Eastman Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (11602 Lorain Ave.). For additional information, contact Heather Tuck-Macalla at 216-623-2921.

LegalWorks Clinics LegalWorks is a non-profit organization that provides legal consultation and assistance for qualified, low-income youth and adults in underserved communities, helping with expungements, sealing records, obtaining certificates of qualified employment, clearing outstanding warrants, restoring driving privileges, and other select legal matters. Assistance is available at the Fulton Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (3545 Fulton Rd.) on Tuesdays from noon to 3 pm. By appointment only! To schedule an appointment now, visit legalworksneo.org.

Trucktober on Public Square Through the month of October enjoy food trucks Tuesdays through Thursdays every week from 11:30am to 1:30 pm on Public Square, accompanied by live music.

Community resources

ID cards for kids You can get a free Ohio identification card for your child (17 years old and younger) at any Ohio Deputy Registrar. Having an ID card for your child has many advantages, plus it may help police if a child is reported missing. Visit bmvo.ohio.gov to learn more.

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 Rd. For Additional information, contact via email the Bureau of Community Relations at CommunityPolicing@clevelandohio.gov.

Free piano and violin classes for youth The Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center is launching a pilot program offering piano and violin classes for youth ages 6 to 10 years old. Days and times are still being determined, and we want your input on when classes should take place. The program starts in October and will run for 8-10 weeks. Instruments provided at no cost. Visit <https://juliadeburgos.org/calendar> and click on “Piano & Violin” to learn more.

Kids Cafe Afterschool Meals: The Kids Cafe program provides free, nutritious afterschool meals for children and teens. Meals are available 2:30-3:30 p.m. at select branches of the Cleveland Public Library, including these westside branches: Carnegie West (1900 Fulton Rd., 216-623-6927), Eastman (11602 Lorain Ave., 216-623-6955), Fulton (3545 Fulton Rd., 216-623-6969), Jefferson (850 Jefferson Ave., 216-623-7004), Rockport (4421 W 140th St., 216-623-7053), South (3096 Scranton Rd., 216-623-7060), and South Brooklyn (4303 Pearl Rd., 216-623-7067). No registration required. For more information, call your local branch.

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, 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.

0 to 3 Read to Me Support your child's early learning through reading, singing, talking, and play! Designed for children ages 0-3 and their caregivers, this interactive experience features engaging books, music, movement, and sensory-rich activities that support language development, early literacy, and social-emotional growth during the most important years of brain development. On select Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 11:15 am at the Lorain Branch of the Cleveland Public Library (8216 Lorain Ave.). This month's sessions will be on October 6 and October 20. Older siblings are welcome as well. Questions? Call 216-623-7011.

Homelessness

NEOCH Navigation Center now open The Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH) is reopening the doors to our shelter (at 1530 E 19th St.) under a new name, our Navigation



PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON

Sunday, August 23, 2026; Southeast Asian Festival, Edgewater Park: Sherry Kwan and Henry Huynh from Copley, Ohio display items from their business, Pocky Printworks. They say Pocky Printworks specializes in “language learning reimagined through play.” Among the items they sell are puzzles designed to teach the images used to spell out the years of the Chinese Zodiac.

Center! The center is intended as a low-barrier, housing-focused shelter to provide critical overnight refuge to individuals who would otherwise remain unsheltered in our community. Shelter guests will need a referral from NEOCH outreach staff to apply. Call us at 216-432-0540 for more information, or visit neoch.org/nav-center.

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

Transportation

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accessible to Cleveland residents and encourage more people to use e-bikes for everyday transportation. The program, sponsored by Bike Cleveland and the City of Cleveland, will provide vouchers worth between \$500 (for all residents) and \$1,500 (for people meeting its income guidelines) to go toward the purchase of an electric bicycle at a participating local bike shop. To qualify, you must be at least 18 years old or older and be a permanent resident of Cleveland. Only one e-bike per household can be awarded. At the end of the application period, approximately 100 qualifying applicants will be chosen at random to receive a voucher. Please note: Because vouchers are limited, not all qualified applicants will receive a voucher. To learn more, and to apply, visit ebikecleveland.com.

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WON'T STAY SILENT

continued from page 5

Ohio Senate has 17 seats open, with 99 seats in the Ohio House of Representatives, two Ohio Supreme Court justices, and multiple intermediate appellate and municipal judges all subject to the judgment of voters.

State Issue 3 is a proposed con-

stitutional amendment to make the state's voter photo ID requirement a constitutional mandate. A "yes" vote supports amending the state constitution to require a government-issued photo ID for voting permanently. A "no" vote does not eliminate Ohio's existing photo ID requirement for voting, which has been state law since 2023.



PHOTO BY BRUCE CHECEFSKY

Monday, September 14, 2026; Repairers of the Breach's Moral Monday Protest, Cleveland Public Square: Repairers of the Breach member Duane Drotar stressed the importance of voting, and expressed concern of the impact of President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill on friends and family members who can no longer afford healthcare.



St. Paul's Community United Church of Christ
4427 Franklin Blvd. 216-651-6250

Worship Service
Sundays at 10:30am

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Jason R. Lewis, Parish Administrator
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SATURDAY EVENING VIGIL: 5:00PM
SUNDAY: 9AM AND 11AM

Eucharistic Adoration:
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PHOTO BY BRENDA THEURER

Sept. 18, 2026; Pearl and Memphis: This photo was taken just days before the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation began demolishing the St. Luke's School of Religion building to make way for new development. It shows the top portion of the beautiful stonework window frame (after stained glass was removed) on the second floor of the Saint Luke's 1925 addition. It's been reduced to rubble now.

RIPPED APART

continued from page 6

the building — at what was clearly "the eleventh hour". It is now gone forever.

PEARL ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Meanwhile, Pearl Road United Methodist Church (PRUMC), 4200

Pearl Rd., is sitting untouched behind the rubble. Perhaps in the new site plan it will end up totally unchanged on the exterior and thus escape even partial destruction. The faithful remnant of PRUMC's congregation have been meeting at its temporary (perhaps three-year) home at 8235 Memphis Ave. for the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service. For now,

they are content worshipping in this former Lutheran church just west of St. Elias Melkite Greek Catholic Church. And they have been planning some community activities.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF OLD BROOKLYN

The Historical Society of Old Brooklyn (HSOB) continues to organize its new space at 2221 Broadview Rd. and has not yet established regular Museum hours. They did open on Sunday, September 13th, for the Ohio History Connection's "Open Doors" biennial event.

Eighteen HSOB members gathered on the previous Friday, September 11th, for what was to have been the first meeting of their 2026-2027 year at St. James Lutheran Church, 4771 Broadview Rd. When things didn't work out as planned the group moved across the street to the new patio at Metropolitan Coffee. With the permission of the shop's owner, they conducted a casual, very productive meeting there, including informative presentations by two of the organizations' members. Jeff Lennartz spoke about the Old Brooklyn history walking tours he'd been conducting from Loew Park during the Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation's (OBCDC's) weekly Farmers' Markets; and Brenda Theurer spoke about setting up the new Museum space.

TAKE A HIKE AT BROOKMERE CEMETERY

On three Saturdays in October — the 10th, 17th and 24th — Take a Hike Cleveland will be partnering with the Brookmere Cemetery Preservation Coalition to conduct a tour at 1 pm. Two sisters, Linda Cameron and Karen Parks, will be leading the free, one-hour walks. The cemetery is located at 3645 Broadview Rd. at the far western end of the street. Please register in advance at www.takeahikecle.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION RE: MEMPHIS PEARL

In researching the information for this article, I read the Minutes of OBCDC's Board of Directors meetings from January through June of this year. Anyone so inclined can get a wealth of information in what is available to the public. I hope to delve into some of it next month.

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
ALL LIVES HAVE DIGNITY, ALL PEOPLE ARE LOVED AND ALL ARE WELCOME.

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