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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2, MAY 6, 2016

Hello And Happy Spring To All The Neighbors In Ward 3!

BY KERRY MCCORMACK

Hello and happy spring to my neighbors in Ward 3! Please allow me to introduce myself as the new Ward 3 Cleveland City Councilman. After eighteen years of incredible service to our community, former Councilman Joe Cimperman transitioned to take on the role of President of Global Cleveland. Following his departure, Cleveland City Council had the responsibility to appoint someone to serve on council in his place. After being recommended by Joe Cimperman, I was sworn in to represent the people of Ward 3 on April 4th, 2016. As someone who was born and raised in the City of Cleveland and a current homeowner in Ohio City, I am passionate about

the wellbeing of our community. After studying International Relations, Spanish and Latin American Studies at Miami University of Ohio, I moved to Madrid, Spain to teach first grade English. Following two years of teaching in Madrid, I returned to Cleveland and worked on a United States Senate campaign. Most recently I was a member of the staff of Ohio City Incorporated, where I worked in community organizing for three years. I am very excited to work for the people of Ward 3 to continue the progress and growth of our community and to work together to take on the challenges we face. Ward 3 is a very special place with passionate and engaged

residents, unique small businesses, historic homes and buildings and a growing world-class arts and culture scene. The future of our community is bright. It is crucial that we continue to focus on quality of life issues in our neighborhoods, foster equitable growth and continue to encourage valuable community-building opportunities for residents of all different backgrounds. The strength of Ward 3 comes from our residents and I look forward to serving you each and every day. If I've had the pleasure of meeting you already, please keep in touch. If I have not met you yet, I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you in the



Our new Ward 3 councilman, Kerry McCormack. Photo courtesy of the City of Cleveland

coming months. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any thoughts, questions or concerns at Kmccormack@clevelandcitycouncil.org or at (216) 664-2691. Thank you, Kerry McCormack Cleveland City Council, Ward 3

A New Measure of Success

BY RON KENT II

I read an article in Fortune magazine by a millionaire man who says he worked for his millions. He said he had a father who taught him that hard work is the only way to success. His father's influence led him to define his life by hard work. And so through many ups and downs this man eventually "succeeded." At first glance this article may seem very straightforward and respectable. All you have to do is put your best foot forward, never give up, give up your social life and work 80

hours a week. These ideals were at the core of his message. If you can manage to do these things then everything is fixed. Equal opportunity means hard work. So what's the problem with this mentality? Some people fail to grasp the fact that there are societal hurdles, due to years of injustices as well as years of failed education which have created cycles that make it incredibly difficult to even garner the emotional, mental strength to accomplish the ethic of hard work. This man was already at an advantage in that he was born into a society

where his father was present. He was born into a home that valued hard work. Hard work is important, don't get me wrong. But it's not all that matters. If you are born in a 6 foot pit or ten foot pit with people teaching you how to work hard, eventually you can probably work your way out. If you are born in a 20ft pit with very little support, and most of the other people trying to hold you down, it's much harder to even find the strength to try. Society drowning in teen pregnancy? Dig deeper. Single parent homes? Dig deeper. Saturated

in substance abuse? Dig that pit even deeper. Some sad reality: There are great kids I've gotten the privilege to work with. Some beat the odds, overcome everything, and find the type of success this man refers to. Others I know get to age 16-17 and realize they've blown so much opportunity due to lack of guidance that they want to give up before they even realize what they are fighting for. If you live in a community where "No Child Left Behind" pushed you through grades of schooling regardless of academic failure, or "The

War On Drugs" jailed the parents of the poor by targeting more of the symptoms than the problem, there is a high chance this type of monetary success is a far reach. Yes laziness is a problem. Yes corporate greed is a problem. Yes we have to take the hands we are dealt and make the best of it. But notice, both of those problems are the result of selfishness. The greedy man wants insatiably more for himself and is willing to get it at the cost of others. The lazy man wants abundant life but is unwilling to work for it. Is there much moral difference? I believe the way to fix this is to make a fundamental change in our individual perspective. We have to redefine our goal of success. If we redefine our aim of success from, "How much can we acquire?" to "How can I lift up the people around me in love?" people will be generally lifted up by those around them. If we allow ourselves to be measured by the amount we lift up, educate, share, and serve others, society will be



Views from the Flats. Photos: Todd Feichtmeier

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

A LOOK INTO THE PAST

Our Shared History, 1960-2016

BY CARTER ELLISON

Self-proclaimed “Mayor of Ohio City,” John Katynski, 1917-1999, roamed his neighborhood during the 1970’s and 80’s in his red and white Thunderbird, license no. “OC-I,” taking thousands of 35mm color slides of the people, places and events around his home. Over 2000 of his images depicting the Ohio City neighborhood during this transformational period were given to Bruce Hedderson by Bea Katynski, John’s widow, before her death in 2007. The Ohio City History Project (OCHP) is chronicling the development of Ohio City with this photographic history to build a stronger community through developing a sense of shared common history.

One of the ways it is doing this is by recording the oral histories of the people who witnessed the neighborhood’s development, capturing the current appearance of the neighborhood and contrasting it with its historical appearance in photographs, and making the oral histories and photographic records more public. As funding is acquired, OCHP will host an exhibition and display of Katynski’s photographic legacy and a commemorative book to more fully document the neighborhood preservation movement that made today’s Ohio City neighborhood possible.

This effort began in 2012, when a group of Ohio City neighbors began hearing talk from older residents about the early days of Ohio City revitalization when block club meetings happened in people’s backyards and the Ohio City Tavern was ground zero of the neighborhood’s growing community of “urban pioneers.” Two years ago, Hedderson gave the Katynski slides to his neighbor, and my brother David, who began to catalog and research the history depicted in the images. Most of the slides have been digitized and many of them have been labeled through a process of comparison to current locations and by asking long-term residents of the neighborhood to help with the identification of events and individuals. As part of this research, each of the streets where Katynski took photographs have been re-photographed, and over 15 interviews have been conducted to learn more about the people, the times, and the places shown in the photographs.

Realizing the social and cultural value of the collection of images and the stories they illustrate, OCHP is seeking to help bring the images and the stories to the public and involve a larger number of people in the ongoing history of commu-

nity involvement and social activism of the neighborhood. The research reveals how Cleveland’s Near West Side was the focus of mid-century idealists who sought to organize the unemployed, of local residents who struggled for tenants’ rights and better city services, of individuals in the 1970’s who thought the neighborhood had potential and made a cause of recruiting young suburbanites to move to the neighborhood and live “in the city.” It recounts the accomplishments and blunders of a neighborhood that emerged from the grim effects of urban blight, the flight of population to the suburbs, of empty houses, fires, piles of trash and scurrying rats in the 1960’s. All the current conflicts and controversies have been present throughout Ohio City’s last half century and probably go back even further. History shows how our neighborhood has become the thriving, walkable residential and commercial neighborhood it is today through 50 years of rough and tumble politics and policy.

We’ve interviewed some of the native West Side residents who were born and raised in its enclaves and clung with determination to their homes and businesses during the hard times, the visionary people who moved to the West Side in the early days of its revitalization, and the most recent newcomers drawn to the inner city by its historic charm, diversity, and current prosperity. Interviews continue to be conducted with residents, business owners, religious leaders, politicians, planners, developers, architects, and others who have played a role in and witnessed the development of Ohio City. The interviews recall the red-lining by banks and insurance companies in the 1960’s, the wide-spread arson of the 1970’s, and the ongoing struggle of residents to save the houses on their blocks from demolition in the 1970’s through the present. People interviewed have remembered the creation of the Cleveland Landmarks Commission, the registry of the historic districts, and the landmarking of local buildings. They tell a story of the constant tension of preserving Ohio City’s unique character from the encroachment of crime, trash, spot zoning, drugs, asphalt, and other ubiquitous neighborhood challenges.

Current times are creating new stories of community activism and organization. The neighborhood and its many voices and proponents are revealed in OCHP’s images and form a backdrop for what is happening



Ohio City Clean Up Day 1976, photo by John Katynski

today. We are all in this living history together. If you have stories or photographs to share of Ohio City’s past 50 years, please contact the Ohio City History Project at carter.ellison@gmail.com.

Carter Ellison lives and works in Ohio City. She moved here from Boulder, Colorado where she worked as Director of Constituent Services for Congressman and Senator Mark E. Udall. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in the Humanities.

*** OHIO CITY | TREMONT ***

OBSEVER

Alternative Media by and for the People

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CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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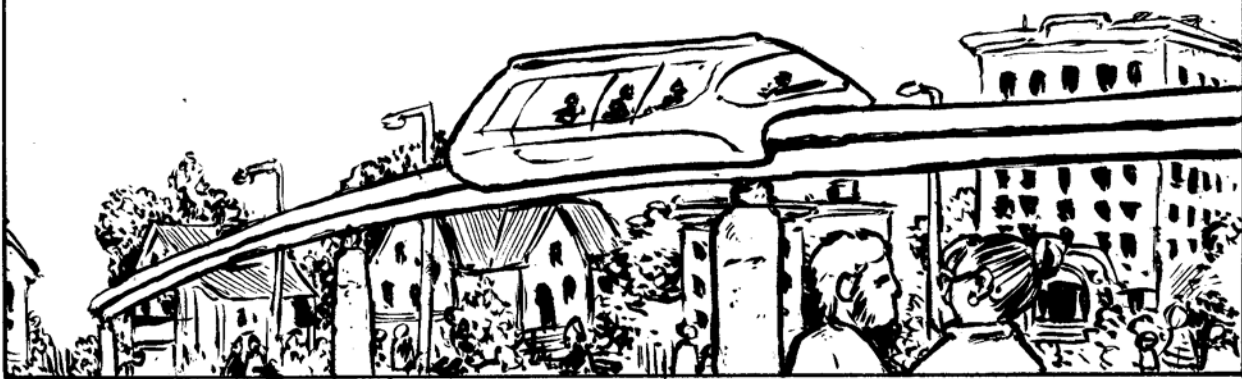
COMICS PAGE

by John G

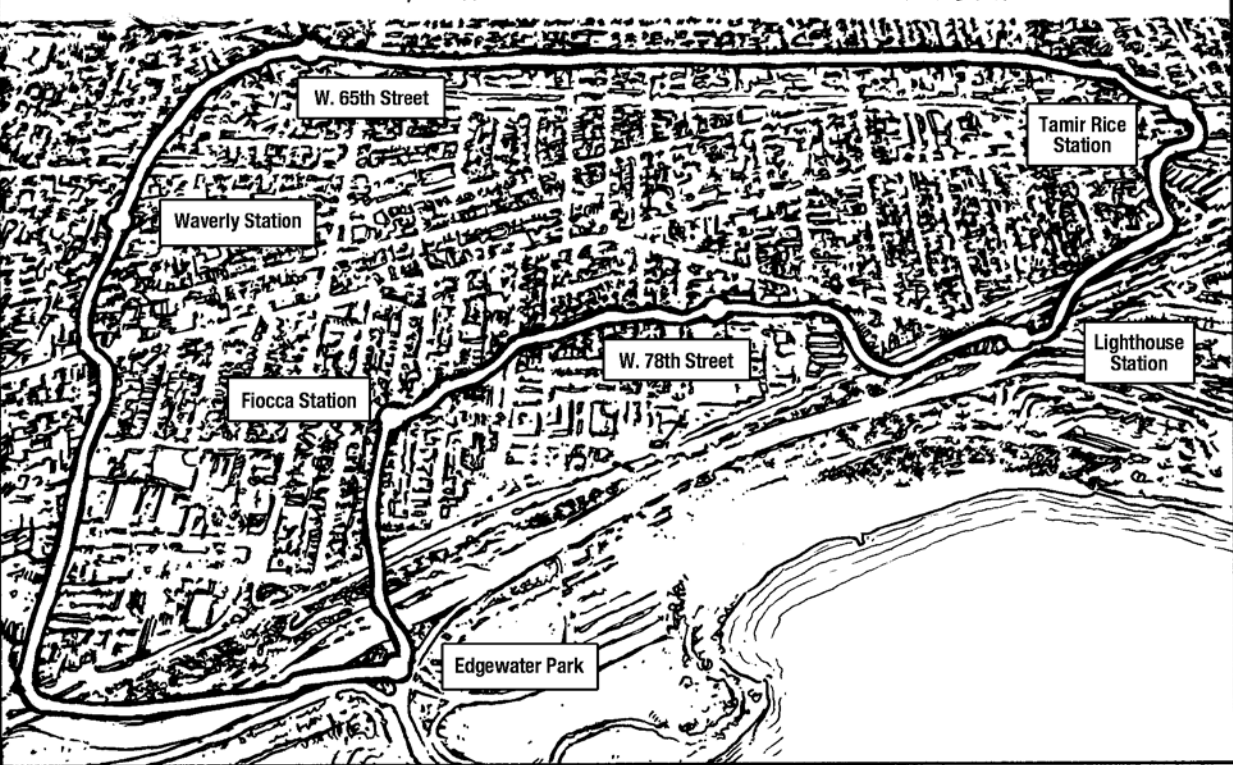
I HAD THIS ONE DREAM WHERE I WAS TRYING TO RAISE MONEY TO BUILD A SOLAR POWERED MAGLEV MONORAIL SYSTEM FOR MY NEIGHBORHOOD. (DETROIT SHOREWAY).



ONE OF THE MONORAIL STATIONS WOULD BE RIGHT BY MY HOUSE AT W. 69th AND HERMAN, AND THE CARS WOULD BE THESE COMFY LITTLE EIGHT SEATERS.



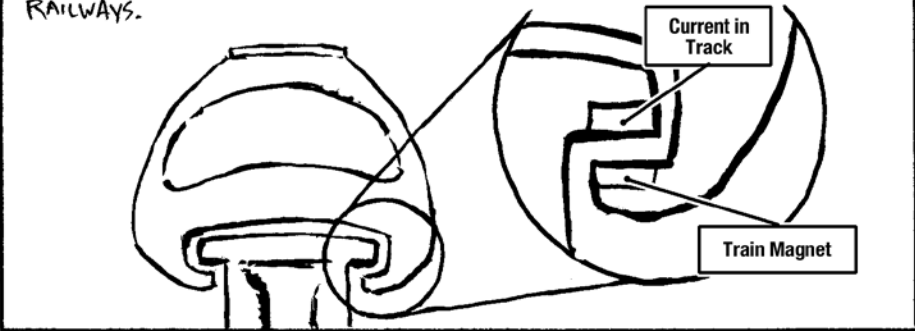
FROM THERE IT WOULD GO DOWN THE HILL TO EDGEWATER PARK, THEN BACK UP THROUGH THE STREETS TO A STATION ON W. 57th BETWEEN FRANKLIN AND BRIDGE. FROM THERE IT COULD WIND THROUGH ECOVILLAGE TO THE RAPID STATION AT W. 65th AND MADISON, THEN DOWN MADISON TOWARDS ANOTHER STOP IN CUPELL COMMONS AND ANOTHER STATION BY DON'S LIGHTHOUSE, THEN GO RIGHT TO A QUICK STOP INSIDE THE 78th STREET STUDIOS BUILDING, OVER BATTERY PARK ALONG HERMAN BACK TO W. 69th STREET.



LOOKING AT A MAP, THAT'S ROUGHLY 6 MILES OF MONORAIL, AVERAGING 20 MILES PER HOUR THAT'S 18 MINUTES TRAVELING-PLUS, SAY... 4 MINUTES AT EACH OF THE 7 STOPS, YOU WOULD GET A TOTAL OF 46 MINUTES ROUND TRIP. IF THERE WERE 4 CARS MOVING ALONG THE TRACK YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONGER THAN JUST OVER TEN MINUTES.



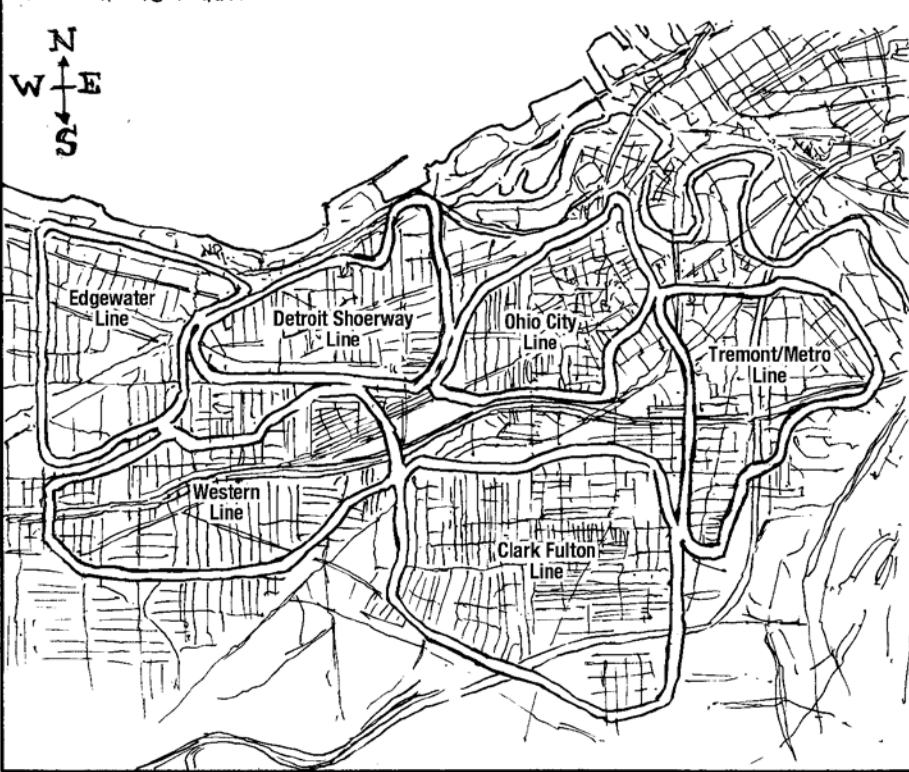
MAGNETIC LEVITATION USES MAGNETS TO LIFT THE CARS OFF THE TRACK AND PROPEL THEM FORWARD SO THE CARS NEVER TOUCH THE TRACK, MAKING IT A QUIETER, MORE EFFICIENT TRANSIT SYSTEM. IT'S ALSO LARGELY UNAFFECTED BY WEATHER AND LESS COSTLY TO MAINTAIN THAN TRADITIONAL RAILWAYS.



NOT TO MENTION EACH STATION COULD BE A PLATFORM FOR POP-UPS OR CIVIC RESOURCES (I ENVISION AN "ASK AN OLD PERSON" KIOSK WHERE YOU COULD ASK A RETIREE FOR QUICK ADVICE OR ABOUT THEIR LIFE). THE TRACKS COULD ALSO BE PERFECT FOR HANGING GARDENS.



OF COURSE, THIS MONORAIL SYSTEM COULD CONNECT TO OTHER WEST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD'S MONORAILS. LIKE THE EDGEWATER AREA TRAIN WOULD CONNECT AT DON'S LIGHTHOUSE AND THE OHIO CITY MONORAIL WOULD ALSO STOP AT THE W. 57th ST. STATION AS WELL AT THE TREMONT/METRO LOOP OVER AT THE MARKET.



WITH CARS THAT ARE BIG ENOUGH TO COMFORTABLY FIT MORE PEOPLE THAN AN AUTOMOBILE BUT NOT SO BIG THAT YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THE OTHER RIDERS, IT WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE CONTACT BETWEEN NEIGHBORS. PEOPLE COULD GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER FROM RIDING THE MONORAIL FOR TRANSPORTATION OR EVEN JUST FOR FUN.



I'VE BEEN WRACKING MY BRAIN ON A WAY TO KEEP IT FREE TO EVERYONE BUT I HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET.



OHIO CITY | TREMONT NEIGHBORS

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

Andrew And Jennie “Strangers To Neighbors To Friends”



Jennie and Andrew at their Ohio City homestead. Photo: Billy Delfs

Tremont ArtWalk Lives On

Through Walkabout Tremont

BY BRAD HAUBER AND JULIE GOULIS

Our first Tremont ArtWalk was in 1995. A co-worker invited us and we had never been to Tremont so we jumped at the chance to visit a new neighborhood. We fell in love with Tremont instantly. Little did we know at the time, we would eventually come to call Tremont home, the ArtWalk would become a regular monthly occurrence for us, and many of the things that fill our home would be purchases made during the ArtWalk.

We also never imagined that 20+ years later we would be part of a group of passionate volunteers working to transform the Tremont ArtWalk.

Walkabout Tremont is a re-imagination of the Tremont ArtWalk, which has graced our vibrant neighborhood for 23 years. The essence of Walkabout Tremont is a new emphasis on all that

is creative in our community: gallery art, performance art, fashion, food, music, specialty retail and services, as well as our churches and local history.

Walkabout Tremont kicks off Friday, May 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be extended hours at galleries and shops, pop-up tents featuring art and artists from within and outside Tremont, street entertainment, live music, and restaurant and bar specials. Many of our historic churches will be open Friday night and through the weekend, and you can participate in local history and neighborhood audio tours.

Walkabout Tremont still happens the 2nd Friday of every month, and visitors are now encouraged to make a weekend of it. There are more than 30 bed & breakfast and Airbnb locations in the neighborhood, Saturday and Sunday brunches, and shopping all weekend. You could even attend services at the church where your grandparents were married.

Every second weekend, we hope you'll put on your walking shoes and come play, shop, eat and experience everything we love about our creative neighborhood and how the artistic spirit continues to thrive.

Visit WalkaboutTremont.com for more specifics, an event map, neighborhood tours and gallery/store/restaurant hours.



The ArtWalk has been transformed into Walkabout Tremont, with a new emphasis on all that is creative in Tremont.

BY RON KENT II

Attempting to practice what I preached from the last “Know Your Neighbor. Love Your Neighbor.” article, my wife Ariel and I decided to take the first issue of the newspaper around to some shops that hadn’t gotten it yet and restock some who did. (It’s a good paper, it’s going fast.) We wanted to hand deliver them to neighbors and share some conversations that hopefully led to some new understanding or new relationships. As we strolled down 25th St. just south of Lorain we stumbled upon Room Service. It’s a shop that has been in our neighborhood for 10+ years run by an amazing couple in Andrew and Jennie.

We had just popped our heads inside and noticed that they still had a stack of papers. I hadn’t noticed anyone until I had already committed in my mind to walk out the door. But Andrew shouted over to us and we turned to see a welcoming spirit of peace and joy. We walked inside the shop (something everyone should do at least once in their life) to find a couple with great intentions and great perspective on life in our little pocket of Cleveland. As we began to dive into each others lives I saw a story that needed to be shared.

Jennie has been a Cleveland for over 10 years now. Andrew met Jennie the same way we met them. He walked into the store and was grabbed by the personality behind the counter. And what they have decided to do with their lives in Ohio City and the shop is pretty great. They set up their shop as well as their home with many goals I’m sure. But the value that grabbed me was the conscious effort to gather all that is beautiful, from places across the world all they way back home to Cleveland, and share it with those who cross their paths. They do this with the hope that those people might take what they find beautiful and share it as well.

We became so enthralled with our common care for community and sharing that we wound up exchanging numbers and visiting with one another later that day. Ariel and I walked. As it turns out they are only a block away. Not only are we neighbors in ideals but we are neighbors in proximity! A wonderful discovery. And you can probably believe that all they hold dear concerning their shop transfers to their lives at home. No lock on the gate. Surely a testament to openness, whether conscious or subconscious. But walk inside and you find chickens and an amazing garden. Gathering and growing beauty to share with others. We got to know each other more and eventually they sent us away with a little bounty.

I think we can learn a lot from our neighbors Andrew and Jennie. They have chosen to define success as gathering and sharing beauty. They consider themselves successful because they get to live out that vision side by side every day. Together, sharing the things they find beautiful with our community. Gathering stories, collecting friends. All of which was accomplished on this day. How did such a wonderful and successful day come about? We got outside. We walked the streets, and we opened our lives up to people who chose to do the same with us. Jennie said it best, “The community needs this. We need to hold physical papers in our hand. We need to share stories that don’t come to us through Facebook. This is a community building endeavor.” And it has been already.

I am making a conscious effort to know my neighbors. My family is already better for it. I’m sure Andrew and Jennie would say the same. So I encourage you as always. Get out there. Know your neighbor. Love your neighbor.

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CROSSWORD

A New Measure of Success

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a different place all together. When a person sets loving as the example of their life, others who benefit from it may not always follow that example, but they can surely see the value in it. If you benefit from love, you are more likely to return it to the next person.

We all must choose to be educated about the struggles of every socioeconomic class including our own. It is a choice to understand the difficulties of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, etc., of people that are not like ourselves.

We have to stop playing victims and start identifying the villains of hate, ignorance, and injustice. We have to learn to play the hero. And recognize that saving the day means being an educator, mentor, solution, friend, servant, hand shaker (instead of fist-shaker), relentless problem solver, active in kindness, difference-embracing (not difference-fearing), giving, selfless, individual.

I will do my best to set the tone. It's a powerful paradigm shift to embrace this message. I am not successful unless I am helping other people succeed.

Ron Kent II is a pastor of Cleveland. He loves all people. Every class, race, color, socioeconomic status He loves us all. He loves justice. He loves his wife. He wants to see peace and unity overwhelm the city. He wants to see justice for the marginalized. Leadership held accountable. He wants to see everyone grow because everyone has inherent value as a human.

He loves learning. He loves writing and making music and art to try and make it all happen.

- Across
1. Scissor sound

5. Fictional Motelier

10. Fly

14 Many a pope

15. Eliminate

16. Bart's teacher

17. Ice Age, e.g.

20. Org. with Williams and Williams

21. Loop

22. Start again

23. Act out

24. Sitcom star of 80's and 90's

26. Shade of red

29. Blanca prefix

30. Christ suffix

33. Type of hygiene

34. Go ____!

35. Pub quaff

36. Speedy raptor

40. Expert

41. Lubed

42. Very long time

43. Oft sought in personal ads

44. Middle of months

45. Florida native, maybe?

47. GPS directions

48. Some tea

49. 1966 Romantic comedy starring Michael Caine

52. Long ago

53. Pqr predecessor

56. Eliot protagonist

60. uptight

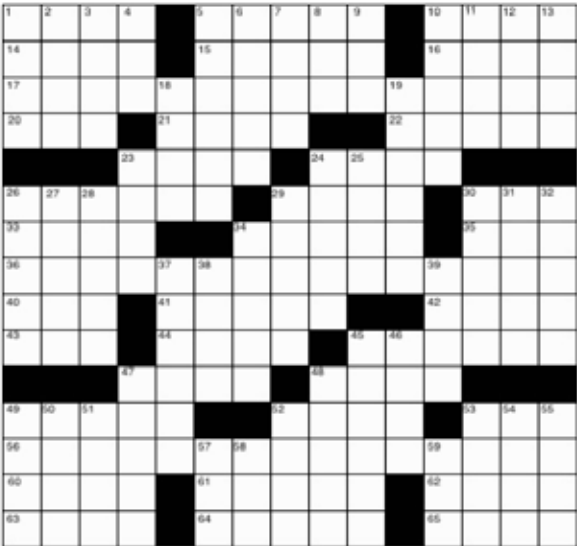
61. Less constrained

62. Fictional lioness

63. Descartes or Russo

64. Sees to

65. Popular advice columnist



- Down
1. Murdered

2. On deck

3. Bit

4. Tire meas.

5. Turn into

6. Comedian Lange

7. Follow

8. That in Oaxaca

9. Harry Reid e.g.

10. Cut through

11. Tributes

12. Rice or Murray

13. Hair band

18. CBS drama

19. List of mistakes

23. 63,360 inches

24. Exposed

25. Clueless quote

26. Type of tree resin

27. Put up

28. Harder to come by

29. Eye pieces?

30. City in Georgia

31. Beside

32. Smell e.g.

34. They're found in cabinets

37. Growth

38. Uber offer

39. Title Role

45. Transpires

46. Sandbar

47. Search (through)

48. Dressed like Santa

49. See 52 down

50. Nathan or Diane

51. Dessert in Barcelona

52. See 49 down

53. City in Utah

54. Educ. Act

55. Satisfactory

57. Young newt

58. Beats by ____

59. Protein synthesizer, for short

CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL GEORGE

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GOOD LIVING

The Best Things You Can Do For Your Health Are Free

BY STACEY PICKERING

All my life I've heard people complaining about two things: not feeling well and not having any money to do anything about it. I have seen the lives of way too many people I care about unfold in seemingly endless patterns of illness and disease. And changing this story has been my most lasting and certainly most beneficial familial rebellion. My journey has led me to discover some very simple ways to live a healthier life, and, you guys! not only are many of the most important facets of a healthy life inexpensive—they're free! And I'm going to share them with you.

Create time and space just for you, every day. This is the simplest and most essential thing we can do to achieve and maintain some semblance of tranquility in our lives. It's easy to fool ourselves into believing we don't have enough time to even accomplish all of the tasks on our lists, let alone find extra time.

But that's just it. We're fooling ourselves.

If we can't carve out fifteen minutes (at the very least!) to allow ourselves to just be, then there's no way we can expect to be well. And



Get outside! Photo: Todd Feichtmeier

there's no way we're helping anyone else by operating from the scattered and unaware state of being that results from this mode of operating. And I have been amazed to find that the more I commit to taking time for myself, the more time unfolds abundantly in ways I could not have fathomed when I was caught up in a pattern of perpetual motion.

As the Zen proverb goes: Meditate for thirty minutes every day. Unless you don't have time. Then, meditate for one hour.

Breathe. I mean really breathe. The most common complaints I hear from clients and other people in my life are of anxiety, stress, and tight or sore shoulders and neck. Guess what the easiest remedy for all of these symptoms is? Yes, breathing! So often we only inhale our breath as far as our chests, which is basically leaving three quarters of our body starved for oxygen, sending us into a primal state of panic, or fight-or-flight. Anxiety? Absolutely! Not to mention the tension created and stored in the head, neck, chest, and shoulders when all that air gets trapped. And the amount of relief we can experience by simply drawing the breath all the way into the abdomen, and exhaling with intention all the way down through the

feet is astounding. Yes, it really can be that easy.

Eat with mindfulness. It's amazing how much we can help our bodies digest nutrients from our food by simply slowing down and appreciating. And the positive effects on the mind and spirit are countless.

Drink water. You are water. Your body depends on a mostly liquid internal environment for proper functioning. Every time you breathe, speak and blink you expel water. Replenish! Your body will thank you. (It is best to drink water separately from eating meals, as cold liquids put out the digestive fire).

Go outside. Get your hands, feet, face, everything! into the earth and the air. If there's anything that works for me in resetting my energy absolutely every time, it's getting outside, especially barefoot, even if I only go as far as the tree lawn.

I'll tell you how I know these things work: because I practice them and they have changed my life. And for those of you who want some cold hard science to prove it, I promise it's out there, even if it's not in here. Enjoy the journey. Here's to your health!

Stacey Pickering is a Reiki, Reflexology, & Polarity Therapy Practitioner, as well as a Detox/Lifestyle Coach & Personal Nutritional Chef. I also love to dance, sing, read, write & rollerskate!



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CLEVELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Stargazer” hosted by doubting thomas Art Gallery



“And If I Should” by James Jenkins.
Images courtesy of doubting thomas Art Gallery



“The Traveler” by Maria Winiarski.

BY LAUREEN DEVENEY AND DIANE COLLINS

There are many places to eat in Tremont, but there is only one place where you can really feast your eyes on art. Located at 856 Jefferson St., is doubting thomas Art Gallery. Its most recent exhibition “Stargazer” featured painters Maria Winiarski and James Jenkins. Both artists had lived in NYC and were unknown to each other until recently. Born in Poland, Maria still carries a rich accent. James is African-American and hails from Connecticut. Now they reside and create here on the West side of Cleveland, Ohio.

An excellent draftsman, Maria employs the narrative, not only in her images, but also in the titles she assigns to them. Confined within a small corner is a round café table. Seated there is a blonde with cropped hair who is wearing an equestrian outfit. “The Traveler”, suit case at her feet, is drinking a full glass of wine and appears to be waiting on finishing the bottle. A window is behind her. The viewer can see an enlarged female head floating on a pedestal. Is it a dream or is there more to the story?

One’s psyche and soul are grabbed by the use of paint in James Jenkins’ canvases. His exploration predominantly uses female figures and heads. Most of the women’s gazes turn right at a three-quarter profile. His color choices, the blending, the movement, and surface treatments continue to evolve. He demonstrated various palettes. In some, the black paint’s character contrasts the light colored bodies which contain rich bronze and gold surfaces.

In his latest works, James employs a pastel palette along with juggled literary content. The soft blues and greens of “Sunk” contain a magnified surreal self-portrait. The effervescent bubbles and water do by no means drown the artist, but demonstrate an idealized masterpiece.

The “Stargazer” show is now complete, but you can view new exhibitions at doubting thomas Art Gallery on Fridays from 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM.

Things We Didn’t Learn in Civics Class

BY BRUCE GROSSMAN

All I know is what I read in the paper— or am otherwise informed by the Illuminati. Actually, I don’t believe in the Illuminati, although many people do. It’s much worse than that— we’re ruled by people much like ourselves, except they went to school to be trained in Planning— Urban, State, Regional, National, and International Planning. They have the Ph.D.’s and T-shirts to prove it, and mostly plan to make a profitable career from their expert credentials, Adam Smith and his Invisible Hand be darned.

What’s most interesting about this current era is the proliferation of or “the privatization of government”, or “governance without government.” Here the key players are brand-new to the scene. These private actors are the Foundations and Non-Profits, the so-called “Third Sector” who’ve only mushroomed in the last couple of decades. The Privatization of Government is the new Institution or Branch of Government we didn’t learn about in civics class.

In many ways, Cleveland is the

birthplace of the Third Sector. The Cleveland Foundation is the first city-wide example of centralized giving, and its Community Chest is now called the United Way. Currently, the Cleveland Foundation is led by a gentleman who has a graduate degree in International Planning and came to us via the CIA (Maybe i should rethink this Illuminati business.) From that perspective, he’s more interested in keeping up with the Joneses of China, Russia, and India than any local agenda. But the point is that the Cleveland Foundation controls a huge stash of tax-free money and are an unelected and unaccountable form of “governance without government.” For example, Foundations largely bankroll community development corporations (CDC’s) and other civic planners.

Here in Ohio City, we’re largely managed by Ohio City, Inc., a tax-free CDC, which besides foundation money relies on government money and rents from the properties it owns. They seem to do a really fine job insofar as they understand their mission, but again

the point is who elected them and put them in charge anyway?

The answer lies in those heroes of free enterprise, the small businessmen who don’t think further than their own doorstep and must be wheedled, cajoled, coaxed, tricked, and subsidized by a CDC into doing the right thing so far as the community is concerned. If a Chamber of Commerce doesn’t exist, a Foundation and Non-Profit will create one. The ultimate point is to understand that professional planners create long-term plans— five and ten year plans. Ohio City is also so planned out. Hence the title, The People’s Republic of Ohio City.

So keep an eye on those private but “meddling experts.” Insist to know how they have your community’s future staked out. After all, you live here. And give them a hand. They can use your help. As far as I know, our local “Illuminati” don’t dance naked before the Owl God at Bohemian Grove along with the Bush family. But maybe I don’t know them that well.

How Far Will You Go For Water?

BY GAIL PALMER

How far will you go for water today? If you’re like me, you just have to walk to your sink. Is that 4 feet? Maybe 4 meters?

On Saturday, May 7, you’re encouraged to run 4 Miles 4 Water because that’s the distance many poeple in the world travel for their water. Your Ohio City neighbor, “Drink Local. Drink

Tap,” (DLDT), works to shorten that distance by creating ACCESS to safe drinking water in Uganda. But the work starts here at home, with critical EDUCATION programs in Northeast Ohio (NEO) schools, many right here in our own neighborhoods. DLDLT also creates opportunities for ACTIVISM at beach cleanups and festivals just down the road at Edgewater Park.

EDUCATION + ACTIVISM + ACCESS = DLDT’s Life Changing Work

Our neighbors in Ohio City and Tremont are invited to participate in the race, Guinness World Record attempt, fun-filled festival, concert, or even the new vegan food court. The Grocery OHC will be one of our food partners that day (thanks Rachel) as well as some familiar food trucks like Barrio (yum). This family-friendly festival is FREE to attend. Participants will also have the opportunity to register for a 4-mile race or 1-mile walk.

As opposed to a traditional 5k race, this course is 4 miles because it is indicative of the average distance a person in developing areas of the world must to walk to obtain water. Runners will have the option of carrying a gallon of water for the last quarter-mile to signify the difficulty others face when forced to carry their water supply on a daily basis. Instead of receiving a race t-shirt, which requires roughly 700 gallons of water to produce, participants will receive a stainless steel water bottle to help them kick their disposable plastic bottled water habit!



2014 fastest male and female to finish the 4 mile race course carrying a gallon of water. Photo courtesy of DLDT

4 Miles 4 Water is presented in partnership with Pure Water Technology and Cleveland MetroParks with support from Kinetico, Moen, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, Great Lakes Brewing Co., Barefoot Wine & Bubbly, and more. 100% of the proceeds of the event will be used for projects to provide safe water to those in need in east Africa, clean up Cleveland’s water resources, and educate local students on the importance of water locally and globally. Registration and more details can be found at www.4miles4water.org.

OHIO CITY | TREMONT FOOD

The B and G Tavern: A Timeless Family Business

BY ERIKA DURHAM

For those of you who have been lucky enough to wander through the beige door at 4150 Lorain Ave., you already know what this article is about. For me, the magic starts with the huge, hand painted sign protruding from the building, proudly stating “B and G TAVERN, Est. 1980...Food, Liquor, Cold Beer.” In a city that seems already flush with bars and restaurants, with more opening every day, owners of those establishments have to be able to set themselves apart from the crowd, and the owners of the B and G Tavern have been doing that from the very beginning.

The B and G Tavern in fact has its roots in another location, in the building that now houses Hoopples in the Flats. Brothers Benny and Gilbert Camargo (B and G) opened their first bar there in 1974, called Riverside. When the building was sold in 1978, they moved on due to the significant amount of work that needed to be done to the space in order to keep it up. Instead they jumped at an opportunity to purchase the building at 4150 Lorain Ave, where the B and G Tavern still exists.

To backtrack, the Camargo family has been living in Ohio City since 1962, when Benny’s parents moved into their house on West 45th. During his childhood, Benny was the neighborhood paper boy for the Plain Dealer, and shined shoes at the bar that existed in what would eventually be the B and G Tavern. He spent his free time going to see movies at the Lorain Fulton Movie Theater, where Unique Thrift is today. During those years, the neighborhood was a diverse mix of Hungarian, Ger-

man, Italian, and Latino families. Benny and Gilbert opened their bar on Lorain Ave. on January 2nd, 1980. In the beginning years, the family lived upstairs from the bar in an apartment, held regular salsa dancing nights, and opened every day for lunch to accommodate the steel workers. They became known as the “shot and beer crowd,” coming through in the afternoon for a quick bite and some booze to take the edge off of a long and hard day at the steel mills. Benny’s son, Venancio (known as “V”), chilled in his playpen between the bar and kitchen while Benny ran the family business. As V grew up, Benny opened the bar around his schedule spending time with his son, taking him on adventures all over Ohio. Later, when V showed an immense talent for baseball, they traveled to different states with V’s team.

Starting in the early 2000s, V began to open the bar on his own and soon began to manage the business with his wife, Cynthia. Today, Benny lives next door to the couple and their four children on W. 45th, and still comes to work at the bar regularly.

V says they have always served a diverse crowd at their bar, but over the years have certainly seen a difference in who is in the neighborhood, who is walking the streets, and who is missing from the streets. They stuck it out through some difficult years in which most businesses in the neighborhood were shutting their doors. The B and G Tavern remains as one of the last bars left of that era, with many others closing due to lack of business or being shut down by the city. Benny remembers a time when there were upwards of fifty



The B and G Tavern's illuminated sign. Photo: Adam Jaenke

bars on the stretch of Lorain between West 25th and West 65th.

Traditionally a residential neighborhood, it became less so, when many residents began to move away as small industry (shipping companies with loud trucks for example) began to move in. It’s difficult to run a “neighborhood bar” when your neighborhood starts to disappear.

It seems that the Camargo family has made it through the worst of it. In the last few years, their section of Lorain has experienced a new breath of life with new businesses opening, people moving into the neighborhood, and a few generations of people who like to spend their nights drinking in local watering holes.

V has the outlook on the new influx of businesses you might expect from someone who is so welcoming to everyone who walks in his door. He says, “It’s not competition unless I’m making it competition. The more businesses, the more people...and I run a different type of bar.” Talking to Benny, you can see where this attitude comes from. Benny is one of the most welcoming individuals you can interact with; he has a very apparent love for our city and the people who exist here.

All of what the Camargo family embodies is something I truly believe in. The experience at the B and G Tavern is a unique and wonderful one. Their bar opens at 9:30 PM every night except Sunday. You can count on Benny or V being behind the bar, and V or Cynthia cooking in their windowed kitchen. They are three of the kindest and most tolerant people you can meet. V and Benny know what their regulars drink. Cynthia is probably the best cook in the city. All three of them are down for conversation, and have an obvious love and commitment for the place they live and run their business.

Once you’ve ordered your beer, go to the kitchen window and order from their simple but seriously bangin’ menu of burgers, fries, wings, and sandwiches. While you wait for your food to come out, grab a pool cue and play a few games with your buds in the other half of the bar. If you’re open to the experience, you can meet many different types of people while you’re there. And the best part is, all of those people are your neighbors. If you haven’t been in yet, trust me, you are missing out. I’ll look forward to seeing you on the other end of the bar.



Cynthia and V in the pool room of the B and G Tavern. Photo: Adam Jaenke



Honey BBQ wings, BBQ Burger, fries and a Mushroom Swiss Burger, cooked by Cynthia.

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OHIO CITY | TREMONT FOOD

Pop Up Shops Bring the Hustle in Gordon Square

BY BRANDI MCELHATTEN WOODWARD

If you live in, near, or just frequent the Gordon Square Arts District/ Detroit Shoreway neighborhood you may have noticed a flurry of activity the past couple of weeks. There have been men running around with cameras, and various men and women standing around with clipboards and earpieces looking official. All of the activity seemed to have centered on a bevy of pop-up stores hosted by a handful of local entrepreneurs.

Last Friday evening I was attending a birthday party for my friends’ son hosted at Superelectric Pinball Parlor (which was wonderful, side note). I noticed a man with a camera contraption over his shoulders following another man on the sidewalk outside. Being my nosey self, I slipped out of the party and investigated, and happened upon a Pop-Up for Old City Soda Co. I had seen quite a bit of social media activity the day before about a Pop-Up for Fount and hadn’t realized there was another Pop-Up. My interest was piqued.

I went back to the party and someone remarked, “Oh, I bet it’s that new LeBron show.” If you know me in real life, you know I know little to nothing about sports and star athletes. LeBron comment tucked away, moving on.

I played some pinball, hung out with my friends and some adorable kiddos, then noticed the Old Soda guys walking around again outside, passing out postcards. I snagged a postcard and made plans to pop in to the Pop-Up. When no one was paying attention, I snuck down and sampled a beverage because I have a serious love for Old City Soda Co. I ordered the Paloma (Silver Tequila & Old City Grapefruit Soda). It was amazing. I chatted with the owners and staff, wished them luck, and went on my way. Later on I started to realize there had been a whole slew of pop-up shows happening. After some social media digging, I realized there had been six pop-up’s hosted by different small businesses over the course of two weekends. I decided on a whim to reach out to the businesses, most of the businesses couldn’t give me a lot of details due to confidentiality reasons as the show is still in the works. I was able to compile a decent amount of background info and put together the

following recap as a faithful and curious observer, and as a lover of small businesses. The majority of the companies listed were started in 2013/2014, the newest – GroundSwell was started this year, but parent company Harness Cycle started in 2013.

First up, on Thursday, April 14th, a yoga pop-up at Cleveland Public Theatre hosted by GroundSwell Collective. GroundSwell Collective initially began as a slew of community sporting activities, including running, yoga, and paddleboarding. The events were organized by Harness Cycle owner Annie Hartnett, and garnered such strong support that it gave birth to a new brand. The pop-up event was GroundSwell’s official debut. Gina Kelly of Harness said of the event, “Talk about an incredible adventure! GroundSwell’s pop-up yoga event was one serious challenge for our team -- 36 hours to organize a large-scale, warm-flow yoga experience, that told the G/S story and connected with the neighborhood, from scratch -- and we couldn’t be more proudly giddy over the results. We were really excited to be part of this challenge...Nearly 250 people came to Cleveland Public Theatre, on very short notice, to join a unique yoga experience. Our goal was 70. The setting was perfect. Our instructors, Scott Supler and Diana Vitantonio, were awe-inspiring. The neighborhood businesses that dropped everything -- especially CPT -- to help us put on the event were golden. And the response we received from the Cleveland yoga community + Detroit Shoreway neighbors proved to us that these kind of movement community events have a place in Cleveland.”

Also, on April 14th, The Proper Pig Smokehouse quietly popped up in Gordon Square and featured collaboration between their selection of meats and BROWNUTS donuts. I did reach out to Proper Pig, but unfortunately, was unable to confirm if they were indeed participating in the show being filmed. The Proper Pig also opened their brick-and-mortar location in Lakewood the same week so the fact that they could pull off a pop-up as well is impressive.

On Friday, April 15th, Cleveland Bagel Company popped up in the storefront at 6602 Detroit Ave., with a social media call-to-arms to come on



The GroundSwell Pop Up at Cleveland Public Theater. Photo by Tim Kelly

down and try their pizza bagels, casually mentioning it would be filmed. I especially liked this image from the one-day shop. I love that this event resulted in all these other small businesses pitching in to help one another.

On Thursday, April 21st, Fount, the popular leather design house, popped up at 6507 Detroit Ave. with an impressive social media campaign ad the launch of new duffel appropriately christened the “Gordon Duffel.” Their interior seemed to be the most ornate thanks to interior stylist Jennifer Harrison of Flea Market Fab. Owners Phillip and Jackie Wachter had the following comment about their experience, “We were so thankful to the community and city as a whole for all the support that we received at our pop up store! We had so much fun in Gordon Square!”

Also, on Thursday the 21st, Akron Honey Company held court at 6511 Detroit Ave. and was also the only small business from Akron in the mix. Owner Brent Wesley started Akron Honey Company in 2013 by turning a vacant city lot into an apiary. Wesley said this was the first pop-up they had ever done. “Our set up had local honey batches, honey sticks, honey on tap, scented and unscented beeswax candles, lip balms, some sample salves (a sneak peek of our upcoming product line), and some apparel. Another first for us that day was an official honey tasting, which we branded as the ‘Keeper’s Table’. Our tasting was an fantastic journey through the world of food, filled with discovery of how honey impacts food when paired carefully.”

On Friday, April 22nd, Old City Soda Co. had their pop-up at 6602 Detroit Ave. This was the one I hap-

pened upon. They were serving up family-friendly drinks and ice cream during the day, and offered specialty floats and cocktails in the evening. Their interior was simple, yet rustic and featured a vintage pinball machine courtesy of Superelectric.

In regard to the show, for now, no one is able to say much – however, after a quick review of many of the photos of the pop-ups, one hashtag seemed to keep popping up, literally. #clevelandhustles

Remember that comment about LeBron James from earlier? Sometime back we read reports that Mr. James had teamed up to produce a show called “Cleveland Hustles.” CNBC reported back in January “LeBron James and his longtime friend and business partner Maverick Carter will give four aspiring local entrepreneurs the chance to realize their own dreams while also helping to revitalize a neighborhood in Cleveland. LeBron and Maverick will enlist the aid of four trusted business experts and associates, who will in turn invest in and mentor fledgling entrepreneurs who need a little jumpstart. In success, these four businesses will provide jobs and services for neighborhoods that desperately need investment.” It was also confirmed in later reports that the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood was going to be the focus of the show.

I am not saying definitively the pop-ups were for the show Cleveland Hustles – but I can say that it looks pretty likely. What I do know for certain is that Cleveland in fact does hustle. The small business community is a tight knit one and it was very cool to see so many people joining forces to pull these projects off. I’ll be keeping an eye on this story and as more developments are released – I’ll be revisiting



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OHIO CITY | TREMONT FORUM

Cleveland Centre – Cracking The Code

BY DANIEL ROTHENFELD

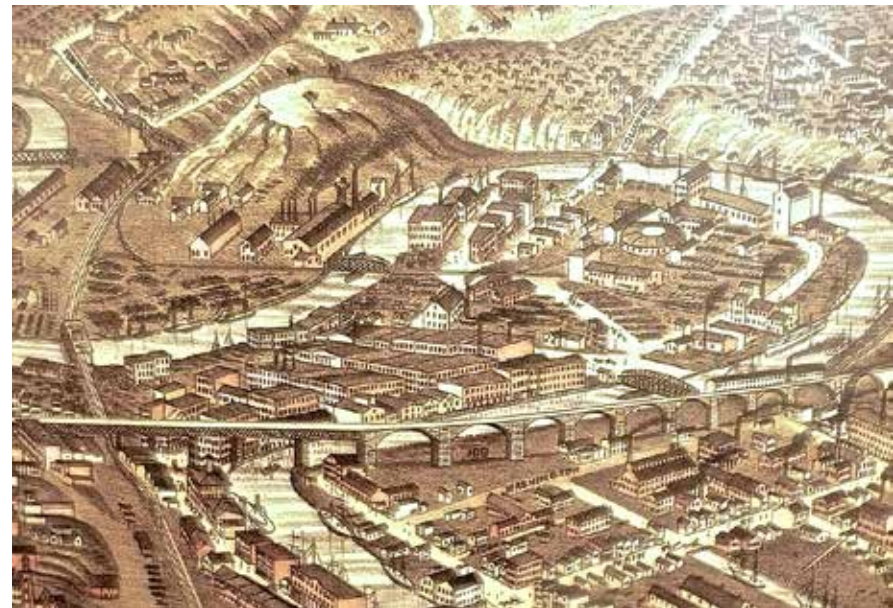
Hidden in Cleveland’s backyard lies the Cleveland Centre landmark of 1833. A surveying marvel of the 19th century it placed Cleveland within the center of America’s post-revolutionary epic expansion. Dedicated in 1833 by a consortium of prominent civic entrepreneurs including Cleveland’s first mayor John W. Willey and City Council president, Richard Hilliard, the strategic infrastructure improvement was developed to accomplish several priorities providing legitimacy in public affairs and economic development.

Rediscovering the legacy of our forbearers, Cleveland Centre rises again. Just as the 1833 plan offered a solution for Cleveland to develop into a cosmopolitan metropolis, the authentic road radius network illuminates how Cleveland can awaken its core and re-zip the East/West divide enticing new investment. Revealing the commanding placement, the coherence emanates, unifying Cleveland’s urban vision.

In 1796 Moses Cleaveland surveyed a Euclidian Grid imposing a New England town square in the Western Reserve frontier for real estate speculation. By 1833 the



I had to learn to think like them.



Columbus Peninsula 1850

Cleveland village had five thousand residents. As population spread out between East and West side settlements on the Cuyahoga River, “Public Square” was not adequate to provide unity for the city, divided by growth and demanding a greater order.

Breaking from the past, the Cleveland Centre Plan encompassed the Columbus Peninsula, fostering the idea of circulation to develop a lateral route across the river valley. Dedicated with the Ohio Erie Canal, the Centre established Columbus Road as the N/S axis in the environment. Originating dynamically from its midsection, the centerpiece division named “Gravity Place” astronomically fixed its hub on the rising and setting sun. From this central relationship Cleveland’s true

point zero appears, a still point in the movement of time. At this midpoint a sunburst pattern of streets fanned westward across the peninsula creating interior allotments intended for residential and commercial growth. Streets named for various migrating nationalities ~Russia, China, German, English French~ bisected roads named for the seasons: A Symbol of Hope, penetrating barriers of language, as kinship with nature and productivity were linked.

Ten years after Cleveland Centre and the Canal were established, Cleveland population zoomed to 20 thousand. Railroads, a cheaper source of transport moved in. Taking the path of least resistance, tracks followed the low-lying lakeshore and rivers edge routes. Cleveland Centre streets became active rail

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



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Cleveland Centre – Cracking The Code

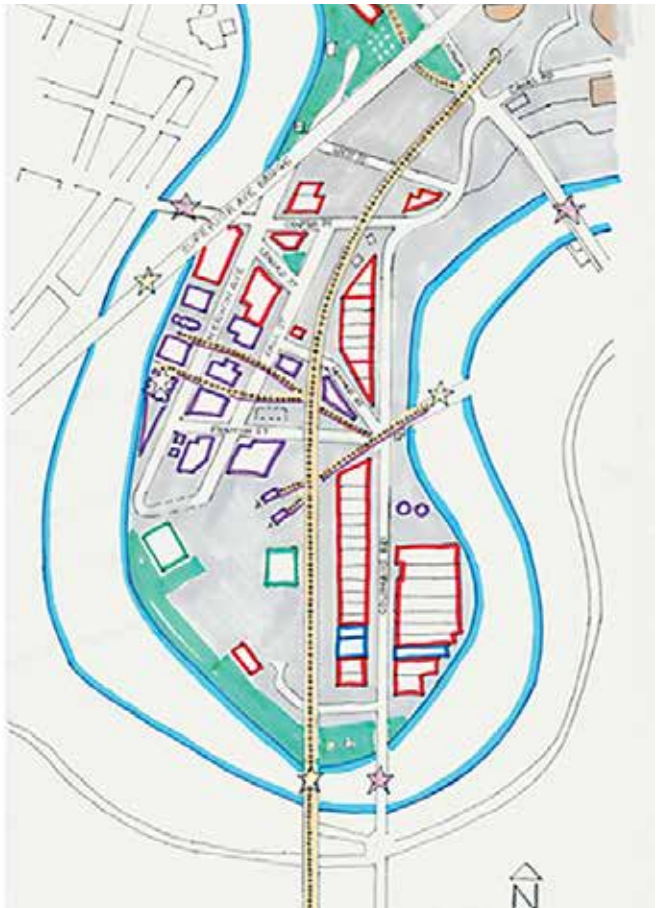
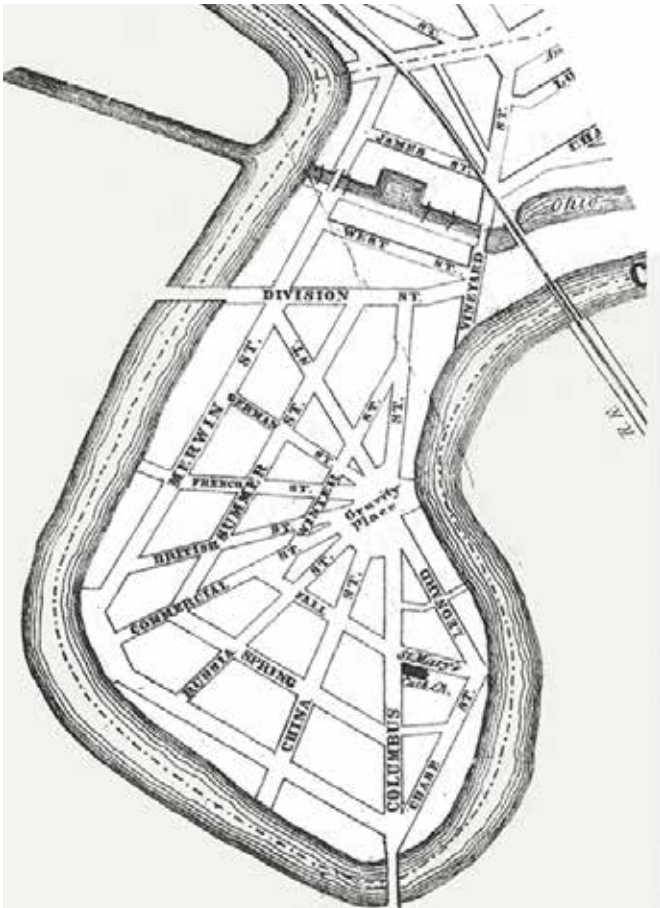
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yards, erasing the west end of the peninsula, altering the road radius circulation. All land uses remained except for residential, driven away by industrial growth. For the next 180 years, without the critical circulation function, the organizing principle of Cleveland Centre was forgotten.

Giving way to cars, life in the central city declined, ironically preserving Cleveland Centre from further land use development. The area has not been gentrified or totally bulldozed, as a result key elements and iconographic influence remain.

Today, under the shadow of the Federal Courthouse, this southwest corner of downtown is a neglected urban landscape, yet tantalizing features of Cleveland Centre are everywhere, dotting the pathways and streets. From Public Square it's a ten-minute walk to Columbus Road. Initially relieved to locate a few triangular buildings at Gravity Place, indicated on the map of 1833, with trains, light industry and recreation inhabiting the plan, parking and Impound lots now substitute historic areas. Land uses like residential disassociated from the original Centre, represent the opportunity to rescue Cleveland's founding heritage.

The rediscovery of Cleveland Centre is a significant find. In such an initial theme exists the cue, providing a higher aim of compre-



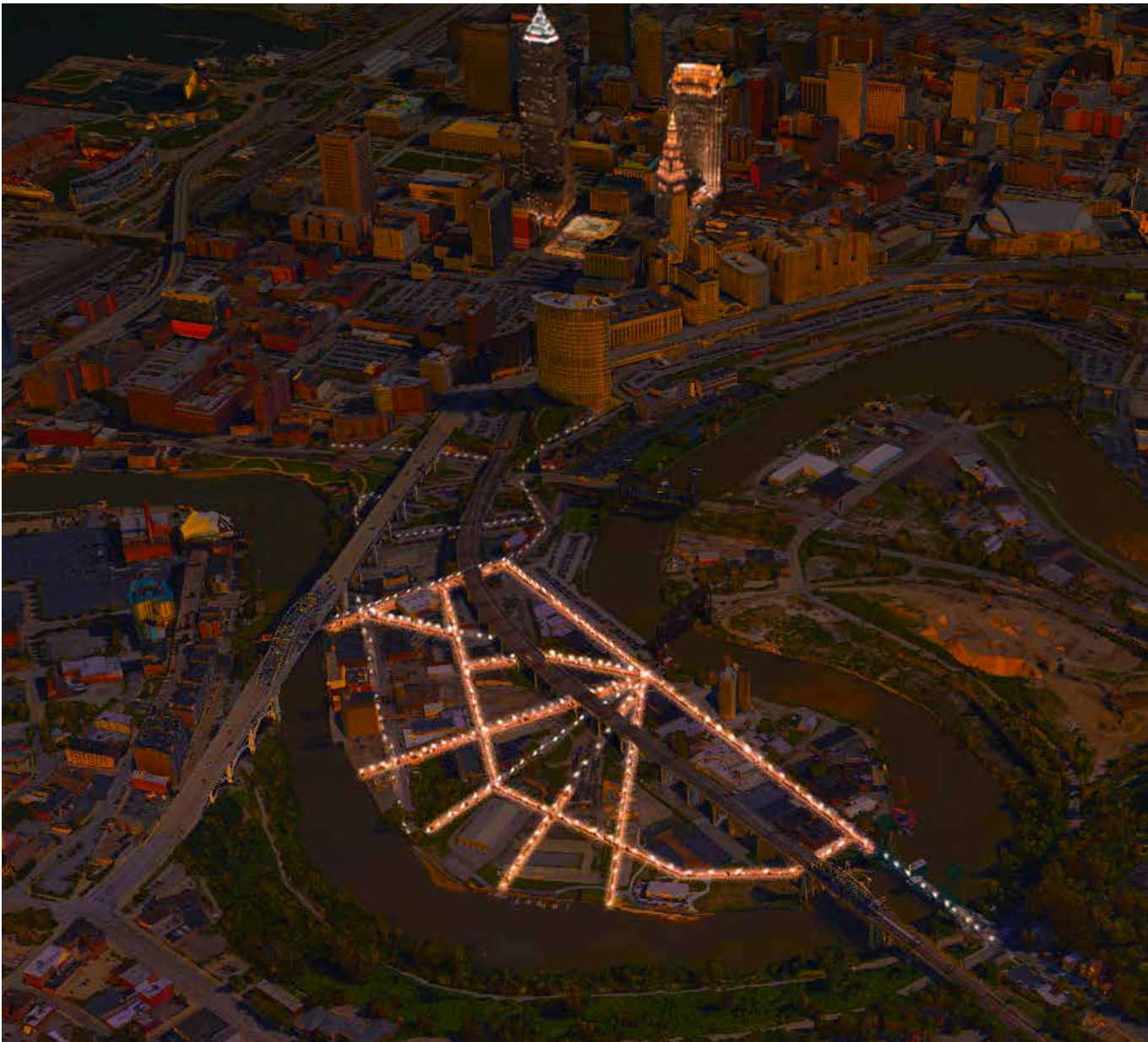
1833 & existing map~ representing Landscape Architecture as a Heritage Resource asset

hensiveness to our perception and state of being. Knitting the divided radius together again, the road construct becomes reactivated, extending the west end of Fall Street between the Rowing Club, Skateboard Court and Merwins Warf Restaurant parking areas to Columbus Road. The crucial reconnection puts points back together and associated networks reappear, fitting the

Canal Basin/Tow path trail redevelopment plan with existing land uses, returning circulation, coordinated function and intentional purpose.

Placed within the larger tradition of American Transcendentalism, the Centre Landmark is a genuine symbol of cosmic scale, allowing heaven and earth to meet. Experienced on the spot, the sensation is the sensation of time converging toward the

present. Holding life in this total vision is in its essence the truest human deed. A place of collective pride for stimulating growth and economic prosperity; these are the influences inherited by the Cleveland Centre of 1833, based on the space-time extension, gathering multiplicity into unity at our center.



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OHIO CITY | TREMONT ART AND ARTISTS

OCTO ARTIST OF THE MONTH

The Mural Work of Haley Morris

BY HALEY MORRIS

Exploring businesses in the neighborhood you may have come to familiarize yourself with a lot of diverse murals. Several of them are painted by me! I'm Haley Morris and I've lived around the near west side since 2009.

My family moved to Cleveland in 1999 by way of Alabama, Tennessee, and California. My sister and I grew up with our mom who would do all kinds of creative things to make ends meet and always encouraged us to explore that side of life.

While attending Cleveland School of the Arts high school 2005 – 2008 I finished my first mural project in my bedroom! A very teenage thing to do, the subject I chose was my favorite band. In pencil, my favorite medium at the time, I drew the band Tears For Fears from their album "Songs From The Big Chair" on my 14'x 20' wall. I was/am a very dedicated fan and I kept at those pencils for 6 months. The result was a pretty dreamy teenage bedroom in that loft apartment. Something Annie Potts might have fashioned herself in "Pretty In Pink"... or maybe I'm thinking more of the giant Billy Idol looking face in Demi Moore's apartment in "St. Elmo's Fire." Cooler still, when we moved out of that apartment, we ended up sawing the drywall off the studs and taking the mural with us! It has spent most of its life since wrapped in plastic but has made a few appearances displayed once at the Slovenian National Home during one of the first Cleveland Fleas and also for a period of time at Mahall's 20 Lanes in Lakewood. This was the beginning of my love for doing large scale work.

One of the great things about living on the near west side is that just about everyone I've met works for a local business in some capacity or even owns one! I've had the pleasure of working for some greats too like The Root Cafe, Rising Star Coffee, & Mason's Creamery. All of the above have provided opportunities to meet and share ideas with others in the community. Stephanie Sheldon of the Cleveland Flea recruited me for one of my first murals in the neighborhood after seeing my work at the Root Cafe. We brainstormed and were inspired by vintage travel postcards which helped me create an interpretation of the Cleveland skyline. This mural is located at The Market Garden Brewery on W. 25th in their "Harbor Room" which can be

booked for special events. I went on to paint another mural for Sam McNulty, the outdoor brick sign for Nano Brew.

I was very lucky to see my good friend Alex Nosse open up his bike shop, Joy Machines, in the neighborhood and was able to do some work that was a little closer to my heart. We used the theme of the Guardians of Transportation from the Carnegie bridge, inspired by a similar piece done in The Root Cafe by Nathan Melaragno. I'm heavily influenced by Suprematism in my designs as well as lots of 80's album art like that of Peter Saville & Factory Records. I also relish the opportunity to use bright colors. This played a role in reimagining a minimal sporty graphic from an old coffee mug to come up with the Victorian ladies and the African tribesmen on bikes connected by lines that span the whole shop.

Shortly before Mason's Creamery opened in the old OHC Ice Cream/ Dari Delite spot, Helen, Jesse and I had been talking about painting something fun on the property. I came up with a cartoony version of Forest Gump from the scene where he's chowing down on ice cream cones in the hospital bed. With the outdoor movies in the summer, I had a lot of fun making posters with movie/ice cream puns, and thus I found it perfect. The Mason's font and patterns were inspired by a lot of 90s cartoons. A trip to get ice cream makes me think of being a kid, and the mural reflects that for me. You can find Forest on the barn in the grassy yard behind Mason's where they show movies!

Murals are grand scale pieces that go a long way to change scenery and alter people's moods. I see potential mural sites everywhere I look. I think of them as a relatively simple way to create positive drama in an otherwise plain or forgotten space.

In all of my dabbling I've created a brand for my work that I call "Memorabilia Productions." I use it when creating accessories, murals, themed dance parties, and counting. It's a great pleasure to take part in the stories of so many businesses and people in a town I love. I hope you have enjoyed the work I've created in the neighborhood so far! I hope there's plenty more to come. Keep your eyes peeled for my signature symbol!

You can find more of my work at www.memorabiliaproductions.com



Tears For Fears, from their album "Songs From the Big Chair." Mural done in pencil by Haley Morris.



Mural work by Haley, done in Joy Machines Bike Shop on West 25th.



Another mural by Haley, inside the Harbor Room at Market Garden Brewery on West 25th.



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CITY WIDE

Do You Want to Be An Ambassador For Cleveland?

BY ALEX BELISLE

Curious about how the Republican Convention is going to impact Cleveland (my new home, but actually in Lakewood and more people know where Cleveland is than Lakewood), wondering how the city is preparing for it and being a former member of the NYC Press Corps, I did some digging around and stumbled upon the Destination Cleveland site through some connections I had at my “Faces of Lakewood” Twitter page. Before I continue, I must make a disclaimer that I’m not publishing this in the Lakewood Observer but here in the Ohio City/Tremont paper simply because you’re way closer and things that might happen downtown will affect you sooner and more directly than the inner ring suburb city of Lakewood.

Destination Cleveland has a CLE Travelbackers training program sponsored by PNC that was launched in 2013 that provides Cleveland’s front-line travel and tourism staff with the knowledge and tools needed to help enhance a visitor’s experience. It just so happens that Cleveland is expecting a ton of visitors this summer for the GOP Convention (RNC). In preparation, Destination Cleveland has created a program to teach participants (they call “backers”) who have a passion and vested interest in Cleveland and have an interest in the goal to ensure visitors who travel here will want to come back and spread good words about Cleveland. Destination Cleveland calls

these individuals “Travelbackers,” but I prefer to call them “Ambassadors.” They’ve been holding three hour interactive workshops on every Tuesday, striving to make the \$3 billion investment in Cleveland’s visitor-related infrastructure a profitable and wise investment, by offering volunteer “travelbackers/ambassadors” suggestions, instructions and information so that the face(s) they present to visitors will be the best one(s) possible.

Ideally this program is designed



Eric Embacher leading the presentation. Photo: Alex Belisle

for Cleveland’s frontline hospitality staff (cab drivers, bus drivers, tour guides, concierges, service industry personnel etc.), but the program is open to anyone who would like to attend. There is a cost but through the generosity of PNC Bank, up to five members from an organization can attend May and June training programs for free. Otherwise it is available for \$35. More information is provided

at www.cletravelbackers.com. Even if you’re not a part of this group, you can still share your Cleveland pride through social media using #ThisisCLE. Photos are always welcome and that’s why we have Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and blogs, right?

I decided to ask for a media invite to their May 3rd session at Pickwick and Frolic on E. 4th St. They were happy to oblige and the following is my take on one of their training seminars. Lead by Eric Embacher (Visitor

don’t. Aiding this whole process were handouts that were nicely and attractively packaged to help in the audio/visual presentation.


At intermission I was given permission to briefly interview two of the participants, both of whom worked at The House of Blues, which happens to be next door to the site. Alexis Castros was approached by her managers asking her if she would be interested in this program and she agreed to participate. Quite interestingly, when I asked her if she had a personal stake in this, she told me that she only knew Cleveland as the route to her garage and to work. In an effort to expand her experience, she said she wanted to get out of that comfort zone and see what was out there. Living in Strongsville, she realized that Cleveland had a lot more to offer, such as concerts and arts and cultural events she couldn’t get in her hometown. As a host in her place of employment, she would be the liaison and connection between her many convention guests and Cleveland proper. Kayli Diar was also asked by her boss, who was looking for employees who radiated energy and a happy demeanor, and she fit the bill to be an individual who could put a happy face on The House of Blues and the City of Cleveland. She also moved to Cleveland “blindly” not knowing anything about it and wanted to learn more about its history. She specifically referred to the keystone structures she saw. They both agreed that they liked this hospitality part of the overall program and both were looking forward to the “learning Cleveland” aspect to come.

There you have it. An interesting way to allow Clevelandites to have a vested interest in their community. If you’d like to get involved, go to www.cletravelbackers.com.

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CALENDAR

MAY 3
Ohio City Inc. Board Elections
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM at Franklin Circle Christian Church
Resident Members of Ohio City Incorporated who have obtained membership prior to April 1st, 2016 are eligible to vote in the 2016 Board of Trustees Election.

Tremont Farmer’s Market
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM in Lincoln Park

MAY 4
Zoning Public Meeting
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM at Urban Community School
Ohio City Incorporated will be hosting a public meeting to discuss the proposal for rezoning in Ohio City.

MAY 5
Broken Codes
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM at Rising Star Coffee Roastery
Theater Ninjas continue their tenth year of out-of-the-ordinary experiences with Broken Codes, an immersive performance of new works melding dance, theater, music, video art, and game design with stories of digital life. Broken Codes runs May 5-21, thurs-sat+mon @ 8pm
Tickets \$10-\$25 at www.theater-ninjas.com

MAY 7
4 Miles 4 Water
2:00 PM - 10:00 PM at Edgewater Park
On this day -and with your help- we will bring clean, safe and sustainable water to even more of those in need in Uganda and clean up our water here, at home. You can run or walk with us as an individual or as a team- you can even race virtually!



STANDS 80 & 82
at the West Side Market



Night At the Races - Benefit for Cogswell Hall
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM
Cogswell Hall is a permanent residential housing solution for adults with disabilities and/or financial needs. Join them for their annual fundraiser, “Night at the Races!” Tickets: \$25 For information or tickets, call (216)961-1568 or e-mail hholznagel@cogswellhall.org

Riversweep
9:00 AM meet at Lincoln Park
For more information, please call Scott at Tremont West, 216-575-0920.

The Ad Hominem Attack Show
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM at Canopy
The first Saturday of every month six (or more) comics go head to head swapping slams and trading taunts. The Ad Hominem Attack Show is inspired by the very popular roast battles that originated in LA and are popping up all over the country.

ZION UCC FLOWER SALE
8:30 AM - 12 PM at Zion Church

MAY 9
Computer class: Buying and Selling on the Internet
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM at Carnegie West Branch Library
Learn the ins and outs of buying and selling merchandise from online auctions such as eBay, Craigslist, and Amazon.com. Please call 623.2980 to register.

MAY 10
Tremont Farmer’s Market
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM in Lincoln Park

Second District Community Relations Committee Meeting
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM at the Applewood Center
An excellent opportunity to interact with Second District Police officers, residents, businesses, organizations and others. This is true “Community Policing” in action!

MAY 13
FUCK W U HEAVY: a showing of art by Katy Kosman & Patrik Carter
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM at LOOP in Tremont
Katy Kosman & Patrik Carter present “FUCK W U HEAVY” a series of original collaborative works and independent works from each artist. In addition to

the original paintings, there will be t-shirts and prints available. Lets PARTY!

BODY PLASTISCH: The Works of Shari Wilkins
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM at Canopy
Shari Wilkins, director of the Cleveland Print Room, will be displaying her latest work in the Canopy Gallery. Opening night will include tunes, good vibes, and MORE.

WALKABOUT TREMONT - MAY
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM throughout Tremont

MAY 14
Evening In Ohio City
5:30 PM - 11:45 PM at the Bop Stop
Includes the Ohio City Homes Tour. Tickets on sale through www.ohiocity.org.

Tremont Gardeners Flower Sale
9:00 AM - until sold out at Lincoln Park.

MAY 15
Sticker, Patch, Button and Pin Swap
2:00 PM at The Black Market
SWAPS ONLY, NO SALES!
Come trade all of the stickers, patches, buttons, and pins you’ve been hoarding but not using! The Black Market will also be accepting merch donations for any leftover items that you don’t feel like lugging back home.
*Please bring a table or surface to display items on if possible.

RITE AID CLEVELAND MARATHON
7:45 AM - 9:45 AM, city wide
Marathon and Half Marathon runners will be on a course through Duck Island and Tremont. Come cheer them on along the route!

MAY 16
Computer class: Resume Workshop
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM at Carnegie West Branch Library
Need a resume? Have a resume that needs updating? Learn how to create a resume or improve your existing resume during this workshop. Beginners and experienced resume writers are welcome. Please call 623.2980 to register.

MAY 17
Tremont Farmer’s Market
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM in Lincoln Park

MAY 18
Ohio City Contra Dance
7:30 PM - 10:30 PM at St. Pat’s Church
Contra dancing is social interaction, meeting people and making new friends set to music.

MAY 19
TREMONT WEST ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
6:00 PM at Annunciation Greek

Orthodox Church
MAY 23
Mobile Device Workshop
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM at Carnegie West Branch Library
Session will address the difference between Apple and Android, app downloads, and general trouble shooting. Please call 623.2980 to register.

MAY 24
Tremont Farmer’s Market
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM in Lincoln Park

MAY 27
TREMONT GREEK FEST
11:00 AM - 11:00 PM at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Runs May 27th through the 30th

MAY 31
Market Square Park Beautification Day
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Market Square Park
The Cleveland 2016 Host Committee and Ohio City Incorporated invite you to participate in a Beautification Volunteer Day at Market Square Park in Ohio City made possible through a generous contribution from The ScottsMiracle-Gro Company.
The Host Committee will provide coffee and pastries, t-shirts to be worn on Beautification Volunteer Day and gardening tools onsite. Volunteers must RSVP through www.ohiocity.org.

Tremont Farmer’s Market
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM in Lincoln Park

TUESDAYS IN TREMONT:
10% of your purchase supports the 2016 Arts in August program by dining at the selected restaurant each Tuesday.

MAY 3: Prosperity Social Club
MAY 10: The South Side
MAY 17: The Tremont Tap House
MAY 24: Press
MAY 31: Civilization

Cleveland City Council Meetings:
Every Monday at 7:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

DID YOU KNOW...?
Over the last three school years, 58.4% of kindergarten students and 56.1% of first grade students missed 10 or more days of school.

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PHOTOS | OPINION



Views from the Flats and Lake Erie. Photos by Todd Feichtmeier

Is There a Cleveland Cuisine?

BY BRUCE GROSSMAN

Last week the Cleveland Pravda (we call it the PD) asked if there is an authentic Cleveland cuisine. I think not, because this post-modern culture is also post-cuisine. Eating is no longer about sharing the common pot of grub, it’s now about identity creation, pastiche menus, and a certain claim to being cosmopolitan, or having good taste. But what is good taste? And what is American good taste, let alone Cleveland good taste? In good post-modern form, this can best be explained by deconstructing a 1960’s T.V. commercial, to wit, Charlie the Tuna, the pitchman for the Starkist brand tuna co.

It is significant that Charlie the Tuna flourished on the airwaves in the early sixties. Then America was blessed by the triumph of industrial manufacturing techniques, and the issue was no longer scarcity and mere survival, but overabundance and how to stimulate consumption by constructing consumer dreams, desires, identities and habits. Also, America was blessed with an economy not ravaged by WW II. But mainly those were the good old days of the Cold War, when America fought the specter of International Socialism with the Capitalist Welfare State. It was a time of unprecedented prosperity and confusion of the hierarchical class structure. An this is where Charlie the Tuna comes in.

Charlie the Tuna was a social climber and voracious consumer of “high-brow” culture, or Culture with a capital “C.” Charlie was a pretentious beatnick forever dabbling in abstract expressionism and hi-fis to mask his working class origins and claim for himself the most elevated status of an aesthetic elite. The joke of the commercial was that Charlie was forever trying to prove his “good taste,” so to be worthy of being selected, slaughtered and canned by the Starkist company. Because Starkist tuna were the acme of good taste. But the punchline was, “Sorry, Charlie. Starkist doesn’t want tuna with good taste, it wants tuna that tastes good!” And so the cultural pretender was vanquished until the next installment in this series of repetitious ads.

When I think of Cleveland, I think of Charlie the Tuna, only an updated version, with sleevefuls of tattoos. When I think of Cleveland, I think of the Starkist tuna noodle casserole and the Betty Crocker Cookbook and how we’ve all become so embarrassed by our mother or grandmother’s style of cooking. You can’t have a cuisine if you cut off all your roots. How there can’t be a cuisine if there is not a common pot or a common American casserole. But mostly I think about Dean Moriarty and hope Starkist reads this blog.

Help Secondhand Mutts find Reuben a Home!

BY SANDY SMITH



Reuben, ready to find his new family! Photo courtesy of Secondhand Mutts

Secondhand Mutts is a dog rescue based in the Tremont neighborhood. Founded in 2006 by Becca Riker, owner of doggie daycare The Mutt Hutt in Tremont, Secondhand Mutts has placed more than 1,000 dogs in great homes since it started.

Each rescue dog has a history and its own story. Although they can’t tell us about their past, the dogs can show us their desire for a new life. Our mission is to provide them with every resource possible to ensure they find loving forever homes and a fresh start. Many of the dogs that come into our program are pulled from high-kill or at-risk city and county shelters where their time has run out or the shelter is full. Some of our dogs come to us through other rescue organizations, and a few come from owners who can no longer keep them. Sometimes it takes a village to rescue a dog.

Reuben is one of those dogs. He’s a light colored brindle, male, pitbull mix.

He was found in Cleveland and taken to the Cleveland Kennel and determined to have non-contagious mange. He was transferred to Westpark Animal Hospital for care through Fido’s Companion Rescue until another rescue could take him under their wing. That’s how he became a Secondhand Mutt. Reuben is 6-8 months old and has a friendly disposition. He is up to date on shots and neutered. He recently got an all-clear from the vet that his mange is gone. Reuben lives in a foster home where he is being crate trained and given the structure a young dog needs and where he lives with other dogs and a toddler.

If you are interested in meeting Reuben, please call Secondhand Mutts at 216-664-9660. Secondhand Mutts always is looking for volunteers to walk dogs or bring our dogs to events or volunteer at events, so give them a call if you want to get your volunteer on.

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When CMSD students miss 10 or more days of school their scores on state math tests drop by an average of 15 points.

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