Aetna Foundation seeks community partners to address health disparities in Cleveland neighborhoods

by Chuck Haven

The Aetna Foundation is looking for community partners to work in addressing health disparities in some areas and to help improve neighborhood and healthy lifestyle opportunities in those neighborhoods. Dr. Garth Graham, president of the Aetna Foundation, says research indicates “your zip code matters more than your genetic code in determining health outcomes.” Even with a mobile population, Dr. Graham says people tend to stay within the same social economic strata where they move — moving to similar neighborhoods. He says social determinants in those neighborhoods, such as access to quality education, access to transportation, availability of health food options and availability of safe places to exercise, help determine health outcomes.

Dr. Graham, who has been involved in researching health disparities at the University of Florida School of Medicine, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Office of Minority Health, agrees with the findings and focus of the Cuyahoga Health Improvement Partnership’s plan. For more information on the plan see Community Health Improvement Plan seeks health and wellness for all the people in Cuyahoga County in the July issue of the Plain Press at www.plainpress.org.

Of the seven neighborhoods with the lowest life expectancy (72.7 years or less) in Cuyahoga County, The Cuyahoga Health Improvement Partnership’s plan includes four neighborhoods in the Plain Press readership area: the Stockyard, Clark Fulton, Brooklyn Centre and Edgewater neighborhoods.

Dr. Graham says he recently looked at the Cuyahoga County Health Improvement Plan and was impressed that the plan was “focusing on a pretty robust strategy” that looked at some of the social determinants of health such as access to education, transportation and presence or absence of various community assets and resources.

Dr. Graham says for example that Cuyahoga County’s plan to track hypertension cases by zip code fits with the focus of the Aetna continued on page 6

PRE4CLE increases number of quality preschool slots

Last August, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District announced the launching of PRE4CLE, an effort to expand the number of quality preschool seats available to children ages 3-5 years living in the City of Cleveland (see PRE4CLE sets goals to expand quality preschool offerings in city of Cleveland, Plain Press, September 2014, www.plainpress.org). The expansion effort, announced last year, specifically targeted four year olds with a goal of increasing the number of four year olds in quality preschool slots by 2,000 students from 2014 to 2016. When the goal was announced there were 1,200 four year olds in quality preschool seats.

Last August, when the PRE4CLE program started, a Case Western Reserve University study indicated that in the 2013 school year “only 2,857 Cleveland children ages 3 to 5, fewer than one in five, were enrolled in high-quality preschool.” The study noted that, while there were 10,013 preschool slots available in 2013, only 3,530 of those slots were rated as high quality by the State of Ohio and, of those slots, only 2,857 continued on page 5

Park and multipurpose trail proposed for Big Creek Valley in Stockyard neighborhood

In hopes of creating a new park, just south of Denison in the Stockyard neighborhood, Big Creek Connects, a non profit organization dedicated to the stewardship of the Big Creek Valley, hopes to seek funding this fall from the Northeast Ohio Area Wide Coordinating Agency’s (NOACA) Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI). The TLCI grant would allow further study of the group’s proposed Big Creek/I-71 Relocation and Restoration Initiative.

The March 2015 Big Creek/I-71 Relocation and Restoration Initiative, prepared by Big Creek Connects, outlines a number of options for restoring the Big Creek, where possible, to its original stream bed in the Stockyards neighborhood, just south of Denison Avenue, and creating a park with a multipurpose trail. One possibility involves the elimination of the entrance and exit ramps to I-71, just east of W. 58th and Denison. This scenario calls for the conversion of the land to a park area that would also link the Big Creek Valley from Brookside Park, extend south through Brooklyn, to the Big Creek Reservation in Parma.

One option, outlined in the study, calls for the removal of most of the Denison access ramps to I-71 and relocating the Cleveland Police Firing Range (south of Denison at W. 58th). The study says this would open up over 50 acres of land to use for potential environmental remediation and recreational use. The study estimates 10 acres would be used for the stream and floodplain, 25 acres for recreational use.
Cleveland Police Foundation Safety Tip of the Month

PERSONAL SAFETY: General Safety Tips (while at home)

1. Keep your doors locked while at home or away. Don’t leave keys hidden outside. Install a peephole at home or away. Don’t leave keys in writing and remind children not to give out information.

2. Don’t provide information to wrong number callers. Instead, ask them what number they were trying to reach. On answering machines, simply request that callers leave their name and number.

3. Hang up immediately on any threatening or harassing phone calls. If the caller persists, call police and phone company immediately.

4. Don’t offer information to wrong number callers. Be cautious of threatening or harassing phone calls. If the caller persists, call police and phone company immediately.

The Safety Tip of the Month is a service of The Cleveland Police Foundation in partnership with the Ohio Crime Prevention Association provided to the Plain Press courtesy of Cleveland Police Captain Keith Sulzer.
Ohio State Budget fails low and middle income Ohioans

by Byron Solomon

This year’s Ohio state budget, once again, shows how little the state legislature cares about low and middle income Ohioans. In November, members of Northern Ohioans for Budget Legislation Equality came together to develop a community platform of needs. These needs ranged from more money for K-12 education, health and human services, more money to our local governments so that they can fix the number of potholes and provide the services that we need for our community, and greater tax equity among all Ohioans.

American students need an engaged team based experiential learning environment with that allows them room to grow

by Dick Resch

American students need to hit the books. According to the latest international data, the United States ranks 24th among 34 developed countries in math and science achievement – well below countries like Slovenia, Vietnam, and the Czech Republic. Our dismal academic performance has real consequences for our economy, our future workforce, and our communities. Students need opportunities to match the test scores of their Canadian peers – who rank 17 spots higher -- the American economy would generate $10 trillion in additional growth over the next 35 years. That’s an average of $285 billion a year.

COMMENTARY

In order to improve the bottom line level of American students, our schools have to do a better job teaching them. That means scrapping the age-old lecture model in favor of an approach that engages students directly and allows them to learn by doing.

Even modest improvements in educational outcomes would deliver significant economic gains. Raising math and science scores to the developed-country average would boost our economy by 1.7 percent by 2050. That’s equivalent to $2.5 trillion of extra growth over that period.

Sadly, our students show little sign of making such progress anytime soon. Despite aggressive education reforms and billions of dollars in government spending, America’s performance in math, science, and reading has remained mostly unchanged for at least the last decade.

Improving these stubbornly low levels of achievement will require a dramatic shift in the way we educate our children. We can start by abandoning the traditional classroom.

A growing body of research has demonstrated the importance of an “engaged learning” environment – that’s a classroom that promotes team-based, experiential learning. Students must be free to sit in small groups, collaborate on hands-on projects, discuss ideas with one another, and interact with technology.

Instead of holding court at the front of the classroom, teachers roam freely, providing individualized assistance and coaching.

The evidence shows that this approach works. Consider the case of North Carolina State University – one of more than two dozen schools to implement an engaged-learning approach for large undergraduate classes.

According to one recent study of 16,000 students, failure rates in these classes were typically 50 percent lower than in traditional lectures – particularly among women and minorities. Students in engaged-learning classes also ended up understanding key concepts better and posted higher attendance rates.

The approach has also worked in secondary schools. In 2009, for example, the math department at Minnesota’s Byron High School abandoned the continued on page 4

Commitment to Health Improvement Partnership includes our selves

To the Editor:

In the July issue of the Plain Press, the following article appeared “Community Health Improvement Plans seeks health and wellness for all people in Cuyahoga County”. In it, the writers quoted Cuyahoga County’s Health Commissioner, Terry Allen, when he said, “Everyone deserves the right to be healthy.”

LETTER

As participants in the Health Improvement Partnership (HIP-Cuyahoga), we take this seriously and are committed to a partnership that must include health care providers, non-profit organizations, hospital systems, grocers, government entities and most importantly our selves. If we are to improve health outcomes by eliminating structural racism, providing access to healthy eating and active living, establishing a true partnership between clinical and public health and increasing our ability to manage chronic illness, changes have to be made and partnerships must be formed.

A healthy population is not only one that combines excellent health outcomes (reducing obesity, drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, heart attacks and cancer rates; and preventing diabetes, strokes and suicides). It is combining care with many other things that influence whether or not we are a healthy community. This health improvement plan has an excellent perspective on how to do this by combining health care; how institutions view their patients; how many things influence our health; and how we can take change of our own health.

We strongly urge you to get involved in the implementation of this plan. Please call Martha Halko or Nichelle Shaw at 216-3052447 or go to the HIP-Cuyahoga website at http://www.hipcuyahoga.org.

Take care of your health. Gloria Aron and Gail Long

PHOTO BY CHUCK HOVEN

Sunday, August 2, 2015; Cleveland Shakespeare Festival performance of The Merchant of Venice, Arts in August, free art programming in Tremont’s Lincoln Park: Portia (portrayed by Faith Whitacre) shares her hopes with her maid in waiting, Nerissa (portrayed by Hillary Wheelock) that her favorite suitor, Bassanio, will pass the test designed by her father for those seeking her hand in marriage.
AMERICAN STUDENTS NEED SPACE TO GROW

continued from page 3

traditional lecture setup for a form of engaged learning known as the “flipped classroom.” The share of students who passed the state mathematics test quickly rose from 29.9 percent in 2006 to 73.8 percent in 2011.

The success of engaged-learning classrooms only confirms what education researchers have known for years. Indeed, team-based learning has been shown to improve knowledge retention among school districts to adopt teaching techniques that deviate from the status quo -- even if they’ve proven effective -- it’s no wonder that student achievement has been stagnant.

Worse still, investments in school improvements have been declining. Spending on school construction averaged more than $20 billion a year between 2000 and 2008. In 2012, however, school districts spent only $13 billion on building projects.

America’s educational leaders must commit to modernizing our schools to reflect the latest pedagogical research. Without learning environments that allow students to engage in active, hands-on learning, America’s educational performance will remain lackluster and the achievement gap between our nation and others will widen.

That’s a detriment to not just our students but our economy, too. Dick Reash is CEO of K1 Furniture.

High-quality preschools have openings for 2015-2016 school year

SPACES AVAILABLE AT PRIVATE AND CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT CLASSROOMS

There is good news for families in Cleveland who wish to send their 3- or 4-year-old preschoolers to a high-quality program this school year. According to PRE4CLE, Cleveland’s high-quality preschool expansion plan, private preschools and Cleveland Metropolitan School District classrooms that partner with PRE4CLE have openings for the 2015-2016 school year in many Cleveland neighborhoods.

Preschools that partner with PRE4CLE are high-quality programs, meaning they have at least three out of five stars from Ohio’s Step Up to Quality Rating systems, or are in the process of obtaining that rating. High-quality preschool programs offer: environments that are fun, welcoming, safe and caring; staff and teachers who are well-trained and professional; curriculum based in research with lesson plans for each day’s activities; educational activities to prepare your child for kindergarten; creative and imaginative play to inspire a lifelong love of learning; and information about your child’s learning and progress.

High-quality preschool programs help prepare children to enter kindergarten ready to learn and give them the tools to be successful students throughout their school careers,” said Katie Kelly, PRE4CLE director. Many of these programs also offer free or low-cost services to parents who qualify.

High-quality preschools in areas served by the Plain Press that have openings for the 2015-2016 school year are listed below, by neighborhood. Families wishing to enroll their children in a Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) preschool should call CMSD’s Office of Early Childhood Education at 216-638-0231. Families wishing to enroll in a private preschool, or who need information about financial assistance and how to apply, should call Starting Point at 216-575-0061.

High-Quality Preschools with openings

BELLAIRE-PURITAS
Bellaire Head Start
Puritas Head Start
CUDELL
Willard Head Start
Marion Seltzer Elementary School
DETROIT-SHOREWAY
Gordon Square Early Learning Center
St. Augustine Manner Child Enrichment Center
DOWNTOWN
Cleveland Fed Kids
OHIO CITY
Orchard School of Science
Ohio City Early Learning Center
STOCKYARDS/ CLARK FULTON
The Salvation Army City of Thomas Jefferson Elementary School

PHOTO BY DEBBIE SADLON
Saturday, August 8, 2015; 20th Anniversary Celebration, Bigelow Garden Site, 3164 W. 82nd Street: Flowers keep the pollinators coming to Tom Mullen’s garden.

AMERICAN STUDENTS NEED SPACE TO GROW
Gund Foundation gives $950,000 to CMSD schools

CMSD NEWS BUREAU: The George Gund Foundation has awarded $950,000 to support new and innovative CMSD schools.

The foundation approved $780,000 for three small high schools that make up the new John Marshall Campus, as well as the Cleveland High School for Digital Arts and the Cleveland School of the Arts.

The John Marshall School of Engineering, John Marshall School of Information Technology and John Marshall School of Civic and Business Leadership are geared to needs in the regional workforce and will provide smaller, personalized learning environments.

Each school will open with the ninth and 10th grades. Juniors and seniors who attended John Marshall High School will remain on the West 140th Street campus until they graduate.

The Cleveland High School for Digital Arts was developed in partnership with the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning, formerly Young Audiences. The year-round school, which opened downtown last year, integrates core subjects with game design, digital filmmaking and recording arts technology.

The Cleveland School of the Arts is now in its new building in University Circle. CISA is revamping its academic curriculum while beginning a transition from a school for grades six through 12 to a four-year high school.

Gund also approved $170,000 for Bard High School Early College Cleveland, Bard, which also opened last year, allows students to seamlessly earn both a high school diploma and associate of arts degree – tuition free – in four years.

Gund also gave $400,000 to charter school operators who work closely with CMSD. The foundation approved $300,000 for Friends of Breakthrough Schools and $100,000 for the new Stonebrook Montessori School.

Gund approved $300,000 for PRE4CLE, a partnership between CMSD and private providers that is expanding access to high-quality preschool. Another $137,500 went to the Cleveland Transformation Alliance, which promotes school choice and holds the District and charters accountable for carrying out Cleveland’s Plan for Transforming Schools.

PRE4CLE INCREASES

continued from page one

were filed.

This July, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District released an update on the PRE4CLE program indicating that PRE4CLE now offers 4,700 high-quality seats at 90 sites including 59 CMSD schools. This marks an increase of 1,170 high quality preschool seats available to Cleveland children since the 2013 school year. The goal now is to fill all those seats. Openings are still available for this coming school year (see related article on page)

If PRE4CLE is able to fill all 4,700 slots it will have increase the number of 3-5 year olds in quality preschool seats by 1,843 since the 2013 school year.

The majority of the quality preschool slots available in Cleveland are provided by the 31 private providers, which are now offering 2,857 quality preschool slots. The Cleveland Metropolitan School District offers the remainder of the slots.

When the Cleveland Metropolitan School District joined in the launch of PRE4CLE, in August of 2014, it announced it had just increased its preschool slots by 230 spaces bringing its total to 1,020 quality spaces for children. As this school year opens, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District announced it now has 59 preschool sites with 1,846 prekindergarten seats available. This marks an increase of 826 seats since the beginning of last school year. New seats include additional classrooms at Joe M. Gallagher and Tremont Montessori schools as well as the addition of a new preschool site at Marion C. Seltzer School. Of the 4,700 quality preschool seats now available, it is not yet clear how many will be filled by four year olds. So, it is difficult to access how far along PRE4CLE is in its goal of having 3,200 four year olds in quality preschool seats by 2016.

However, the PRE4CLE is making progress toward its goal of having 6,000 quality preschool seats by the end of 2016. Reaching that goal would mean PRE4CLE would be able to serve about 37% of the estimated 16,500 children ages 3-5 years old by the end of 2016. Currently, the 4,700 available, quality, preschool slots represent seats for just over 28% of the estimated preschool age population.

Last year, PRE4CLE’s new Director Katie Kelly said, “While the ultimate goal of PRE4CLE is to make high-quality preschool available to every pre-school aged child in Cleveland, but we anticipate, based on research from other similar programs the ‘take up rate’ will be 70%.” Last year, Director Kelly said with the current population of 3-5 year olds, a 70% mark would mean serving 11,447 children in quality preschool seats.

AFFORDABLE HOME REPAIR LOANS

NHS of Greater Cleveland

NHS provides homeowners assistance with contractor selection, job specs and
Free Financial Counseling
Home Maintenance Classes
Roofs, Furnaces, Air Conditioning, Siding, Kitchens, Bathrooms, Windows, Basements, Driveways, Garages
Please call for an application today.

216-458-HOME (4663)

NHS of Greater Cleveland, 5700 Broadway Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44127
Lou Tisler, Executive Director

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Cleveland Clerk of Courts
Earle B. Turner
and the BMV
Address old Cleveland tickets and warrants

Coming to:
Lee Memorial A.M.E. Church
861 E. 105
Sat. Sept 19th
9 am
first 300 visitors serviced
corresponding his bad behavior. [portrayed by Omarri Vargas] confronts Susanoo, God of Storms and Seas (portrayed by Amaan Dixon), inspired by the The Gods.

AETNA FOUNDATION SEEKS PARTNERS

Tuesday, August 4th, 2015; Cleveland Public Theatre’s Student Theatre Enrichment Program performance of an original new play, Lost in the Water, Herman Park, W. 58th and Herman Avenue: in the Act, Storm of the Gods, inspired by the Susanoo-no-Mikoto story of Japan, Amatarasu, Goddess of Sun and Fire (portrayed by Omari Vargas) confronts Susanoo, God of Storms and Seas (portrayed by Amaan Dixon) concerning his bad behavior.

of an original new play, Lost in the Water, Herman Park, W. 58th and Herman Avenue: in the Act, Storm of the Gods, inspired by the Susanoo-no-Mikoto story of Japan, Amatarasu, Goddess of Sun and Fire (portrayed by Omari Vargas) confronts Susanoo, God of Storms and Seas (portrayed by Amaan Dixon) concerning his bad behavior.
Housing market in Cleveland rates as one of the worst in the nation

A recent study, by WalletHub, compared 300 United States cities, large and small, on the health of their housing market. Cleveland ranked 294 of 300 on the study. This means, according to the study, that Cleveland does not fare well as a place to live compared to housing markets across the country. The cities worse than Cleveland were studied: Hartford, CT; Elizabeth, NJ, Dayton, OH; New Orleans, LA; and Flint, Michigan. Among cities studied with populations over 300,000, Cleveland ranked 152 out of 150 cities. The housing market here was ranked worse than in Detroit which was 11th, Milwaukee at 65, Baltimore at 59 and Chicago at 58. The five best housing markets among large cities were: Austin, TX at number 1; Seattle, WA at number 2; Denver, CO at number 3; San Jose, CA at number 4 and San Francisco, CA at number 5. The 300 cities were measured on 14 key metrics. The data sets ranges from median home-price appreciation to home price as a percentage of income, to job growth.

Here is how Cleveland fared on some key metrics:

**Health of the Housing Market in Cleveland** (1st = Best, 150th = Avg.):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>186th – Average Number of Days Until a House Is Sold</td>
<td>264th – Job Growth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cleveland ranks 294th overall and 62nd among large cities.

For the full report, please visit: http://walletHub.com/edu/healthiest-housing-markets/14898/

---

**COMMUNITY BOARD**

continued from page 2

216/575-0920. Ext 102 or buzz: maydays

---

**DEMOCRATIZATION OF COCINAR SALUDABLE.** Aprende a cocinar mociones saludables en la cocina brasileña en 5 de septiembre en el Side Community House. Los lugartenientes de la cocina brasileña deben ser manejados y familiares que no necesitan estar bien cuidados y estar bien en el hogar del corazón de los Arts District every Wednesday throughout the year. For more information, visit http://www.gordon-squares.org/egreek.

---

**HOMEOWNERSHIP**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY renovates homes in partnership with qualified and low-income families. Individuals or families must need better housing and be willing to complete home ownership classes, put in housing, and make house payments on time. Call 216/429-1299 or visit www.clevelandhabitat.org

---

**COMMUNITIES**

Individuals or family members experiencing MENTAL HEALTH, ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUG-RELATED EMERGENCIES can receive immediate assistance by calling the 24-hour Ohio Mental Health Crisis, Information and Referral hotline at 216/623-6888, 211 or 216/429-1299.

---

**LA PLACITA CLEVELAND**

AN OPEN-AIR MARKET that celebrates the rich culture and entrepreneurial spirit of Cleveland’s Hispanic Community, is scheduled for Saturday, September 26th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bank Building at 3161 Walton Ave.Gratis.

---

**LA PLACITA CLEVELAND**

THE NEW GORDON SQUARE MARKET will be open from 4-7 pm on the corner of W. 61st and Detroit Avenue in the heart of the Gordon Square Arts District every Wednesday throughout the year. For more information, visit http://www.gordon-squares.org/egreek.

---

**SALES/THRIGHTS**

FREE ONLINE CLASSES WITH YOUR LIBRARY CARD. Log onto www.greaterclevelandvolunteers.org, call 216-861-9073 or email Accountant GBP@GCP.org.

---

**COMMUNITY BOARD**

continued from page 2

216/575-0920. Ext 102 or buzz: maydays
Reconstruction and Development Program

The March 2015 Big Creek/I-71 Relocation & Restoration Initiative reviews a multitude of planning studies for the area; includes maps of the original Big Creek bed; and offers multiple options for the restoration of the Big Creek to some of its natural streambed. The initiative even looks at the possibility of creating a new entrance and exit for I-71 at Ridge Road, saying this could benefit area industry with greater freeway access and relieve truck traffic congestion on Denison. It is hoped this will spur economic development opportunities for both the City of Cleveland and the City of Brooklyn.

The plan also looks at the possible impact of creating a full freeway entrance and exit for I-71 at Ridge Road, saying this could benefit area industry with greater freeway access and relieve truck traffic congestion on Denison. The plan suggests that the amenities provided through the plan would increase the housing values in the Stockyard neighborhood, reduce traffic and congestion on Denison Avenue and make the area safer and more livable.

The plan looks at the value of creating a natural streambed—reducing the amount of erosion downstream and runoff from the massive amount of concrete that would be eliminated from converting the area under the I-71 ramps into parkland.

The study examines the possibility that the City of Cleveland would relinquish the Police Firing Range at the southern end of W. 58th to be used as part of the park. This proposal was turned down, NOACA staff promised to work with Big Creek Connects and the City of Brooklyn to “identify key project elements for an application for the next round of TLCI expected this fall.”

The Big Creek/I-71 Relocation & Restoration Initiative March 2015 report cautions that, even if the proposed TLCI planning grant is received, the project will take many years to reach fruition. The study says under the best conditions it is likely to take 10 years or more for any construction to begin on this project. It also cautions that the Ohio Department of Transportation District 12 has committed its funds for many years to the completion of the Cleveland Innerbelt.

For more information about Big Creek Connects and this proposal visit www.bigcreekconnects.org or contact Bob Gardin, Executive Director at bgardin@bigcreekconnects.org.

For information about advertising email Tom Sheehan at plainpressads@yahoo.com or call 216-621-3060

Plain Press: Plain Press • September 2015

The Adult Diploma Program at Tri-C will offer you free:
• Preparation for in-demand careers in Northeast Ohio
• Career advisement
• A National Career Readiness Certificate
• Preparation for in-demand careers in Northeast Ohio requiring a high school diploma

Are you 22 or older and ready to complete your Ohio high school diploma?

The Adult Diploma Program at Tr-C will offer you:
• Career advisement
• A National Career Readiness Certificate
• Preparation for in-demand careers in Northeast Ohio requiring a high school diploma

art’s Tree Service
Storm Damage Clean Up
• Stump Chipping
• Tree Removal
• Tree Pruning

Spring & Fall Clean Up
Landscaping
Loader & Backhoe Work Shop
(216) 326-4377
Emergencies (216) 326-4377
Firewood
Patio Paver Stones
Wood Fence Repair
Plain Press For information about advertising email Tom Sheehan at plainpressads@yahoo.com or call 216-621-3060

Plain Press: For information about advertising email Tom Sheehan at plainpressads@yahoo.com or call 216-621-3060

Art’s Tree Service
Storm Damage Clean Up
• Stump Chipping
• Tree Removal
• Tree Pruning

Spring & Fall Clean Up
Landscaping
Loader & Backhoe Work Shop
(216) 326-4377
Emergencies (216) 326-4377
Firewood
Patio Paver Stones
Wood Fence Repair