

THE REAL DEAL PRESS

APRIL 2014 • VOLUME ONE • NUMBER ONE



'STICK UP' BY LAPTOP

If you own a business or have a personal checking account, a banker has some surprising news for you.

➔ PAGE 3

Primary election feature some wide-open races

Redistricting, Retirement, Ambition combine to create ballot excitement

By R.T. Andrews
Editor

When the Democratic Central Committee members caucused in late February to select a replacement for County Council District 10 representative Julian Rogers, it marked the first time that any of the elected officials who won county races in 2010 was leaving office.

Since Rogers resigned mid-term for personal reasons — his growing family mandated that he take a fulltime job with fulltime pay — electoral law provided that the Party select his successor. Party insiders passed over the aloof politician with the highest profile — longtime Cleveland Heights mayor Ed Kelley — in favor of Anthony Houston, a low-key but hard-working candidate they knew, liked, and trusted the most. In an intraparty election, being liked and trusted counts for more than a ballot name and a bigger war chest.

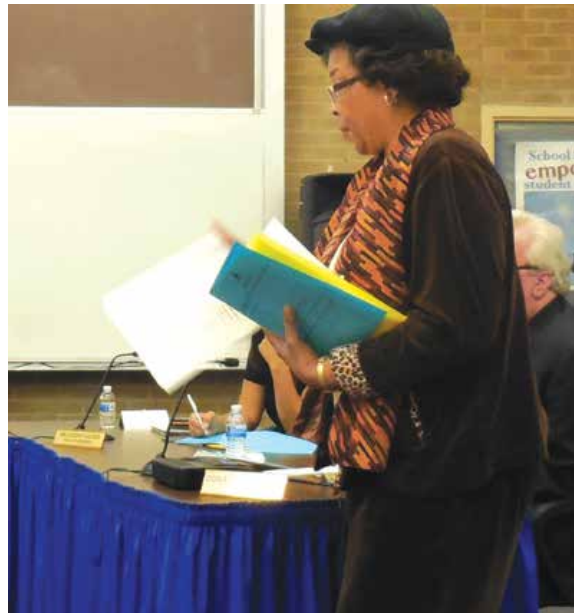
This article profiles several local races where the electorate gets to do the choosing. The contests we examine are those we have been following since well before the candidate-filing deadline in early February. We will continue to follow these races throughout this primary season.

County Council District 9

Next month begins the election process to replace another original county council member, District 10 councilwoman Ellen Connally. A long-serving judge with an excellent political

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Kasich's 'Reading Guarantee' about to sting third graders



School district resident Gloria Jefferson speaking at March 26 School Board meeting. Photo Credit: EC Narrator

By M. LaVora Perry
Special Correspondent

WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS —

Imagine being in third grade and discovering that when your classmates move on to fourth, you won't. That could be the

fate of many children in Greater Cleveland, including those in the Warrensville Heights City School District. Like Cleveland Metropolitan school district, Warrensville is designated as a "Challenge District" by the Ohio Department of Ed-

"It's going to show us whether or not our district is on top of the reading curriculum... whether they are teaching the children phonics and reading comprehension."

— Dorothy Blackmon,
Retired School Board Member

ucation. These districts score in Ohio's lowest 5% for academic achievement. They are also overwhelmingly black.

Saying he wanted to combat low achievement in Ohio schools, Governor Kasich proposed Senate Bill 316 in 2012. The bill passed and is known as The Third Grade Reading Guarantee. According to the guarantee, third graders either pass the reading test on the Ohio Achievement Assessment or flunk third grade.

"I think the guarantee is a good idea," said Denise Ward, Executive Director to Warrensville Superintendent Marva Jones. "It's unfortunate that we needed it to make sure our

kids can read in third grade. We should have already been doing it." In fact, said Ward, her district had been "pushing" students. "It's just that retention piece," she said referring to children being held back. "We know that retention isn't the best thing." But she said the district plans to make the best of it by taking steps such as placing retained students in smaller classes.

That plan is in line with recommendations the Ohio Educators Association made when they opposed the guarantee before it passed. Their representative testified before lawmakers that a better way

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Black Philanthropy Takes Center Stage



AAPC co-chair Constance Hill-Johnson with husband Kevin Johnson. Photo Credit: RDP Photo

By R.T. Andrews
Editor

More than two hundred locals are expected to attend this year's Third African American Philanthropy Summit on Saturday, April 26 at Corporate College East in Warrensville Heights.

This every other year event is a production of the African American Philanthropy Com-

mittee, which operates under the aegis of The Cleveland Foundation. The summit is aimed at raising the visibility of black charitable giving, increasing the understanding of the benefits of wealth and community preservation through philanthropy, and offering tools and insights into how to make such giving more effective.

The AAPC established a Leg-

acy Fund in 2010 in conjunction with putting on the first summit in 2010. Constance Hill-Johnson, who co-chairs of the committee along with Justin R. Horton, recently shared in a *Real Deal Press* interview that the committee's goal this year is to grow the fund principal to \$100,000. The Fund has been the recipient of gifts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

NEWSMAKERS

BUSINESS



Eddie Harrell, Jr. has been named Vice President/ General Manager of Radio One's Cleveland radio stations.



Will Tarter Jr., of Broadview Heights is the new Director of Community Engagement at OneCommunity.

CIVIC



Helen Forbes-Fields has been appointed to the East Cleveland Fiscal Commission.



Rachel Von Hendrix of Beachwood has been appointed to the Cuyahoga Community College Board of Trustees.

Warrensville State of the City set for April 16



Warrensville Heights mayor Bradley D. Sellers
Photo Credit: Richard Andrews

WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS — Warrensville Heights Mayor Bradley Sellers will deliver the State of the City address on Wednesday, April 16 at 7PM at the Warrensville Heights Branch Library, 4415 Northfield Road.

The event is open to the public but space is limited and an overflow audience is expected.



JILL MILLER ZIMON

DEMOCRAT FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

"Jill Miller Zimon has a keen understanding and unlimited passion for good government and what it can accomplish. She is smart and uses her talent for collaboration to build relationships and get things done. She would be a great State Representative for the people of House District 12."

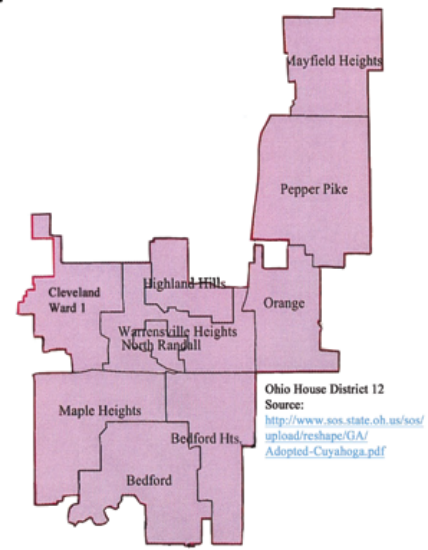
Stanley Miller , Former Executive Director NAACP and Businessman

Vote ZIMON on May 6

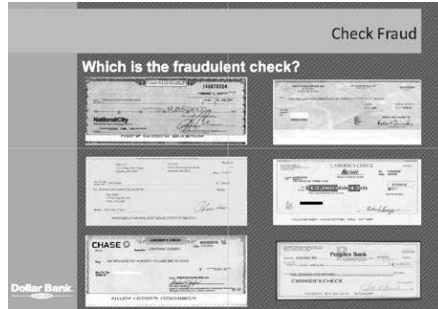
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- Voting Rights
- Senior Services
- Public Education

TAKING ACTION. GETTING RESULTS.



'Stick up' by laptop



By R.T. Andrews
Editor

So you own a business. I invite you to attend a luncheon talk on check fraud. Excited?

Neither was I, but I went anyway. The food was good, the company and networking outstanding.

And the speaker? Well, who knew a banker could make a presentation on check fraud so fascinating?

Basically, the speaker, Dollar Bank vice president Kevin Hennessey, blamed Microsoft's Bill Gates for the check fraud explosion. It was tongue in cheek, of course, but Hennessey's point was that computer software, coupled with high resolution printers and the ready availability of check paper at your local Office-Max, means that an amateur, unlike the forgers of yesterday, can set himself up in the fraud business in a matter of hours and for a small capital investment.

Essentially, Hennessey said, all

a thief needs to rob you blind is your checking account number and your bank's routing number. The latter is easily obtainable if the thief knows your bank. It then becomes a simple matter to print fraudulent checks that are virtually undetectable.

Hennessey cited statistics that on average, U.S. organizations lose about 7% of their revenue to financial fraud, and that the average fraud scheme goes undetected for 18 months.

While wire fraud, credit card fraud, internet fraud gather the headlines these days, Hennessey said, checks were the payment instrument with the highest average value of unauthorized transactions in 2012, with an average value of more than \$1,200.

Had you eaten too much at lunch and dozed off despite Hennessey's captivating presentation, you would have been jolted awake when he said that U.S. courts are beginning to side with banks and finding that if a

thief captures your account information, and uses fraudulent checks to empty your account, you may be unable to recover your loss from the bank.

The best antidote to check fraud, Hennessey said, was something Dollar Bank calls "positive pay". Most banks have similar programs under various monikers. Essentially, to protect your business, you need to work with your bank by providing them with a list of the checks you write before you hand them out.

After all, Hennessey said, if you signed your checks "Mickey Mouse", most banks would honor them, notwithstanding the signature cards you have on file.

Hennessey was the guest speaker at the monthly luncheon of the Warrensville Heights Chamber of Commerce. It's a fair bet that a good number of those in attendance went back to the office and made a phone call to their local branch to learn more about "positive pay".

BALLOT continued from page 1

name, an active and loyal political organization, and a proven vote-getter, Connolly was pretty much a shoo-in from the moment she declared for the sprawling District that is only an Oakwood Village shy of running from Shaker Square to the county line. Connolly parlayed her political talents to become the first president of County Council. Her decision to retire from electoral politics, announced earlier this year, has brought forth a number of veteran, fresh, and former legislators eager to grab the District 10 brass ring.

District 10 encompasses the cities of Bedford, Bedford Heights, Shaker Heights, and Warrensville Heights, Cleveland Wards 1 and 4, and the villages of Highland Hills, North Randall, Orange, Pepper Pike and Woodmere. The latter three villages were added to the district in the redistricting that followed the 2010 census.

If it seems like every one of those communities has its own candidate, the reality is not far from the impression. In the running to replace Connolly on the County Council are: Bedford Heights city councilman Lloyd Anderson; Warrensville Heights city councilwoman Shontel M. Brown; Highland Hills village councilwoman Leah Lewis; former Shaker Heights city councilwoman Lynn Ruffner; Bedford city councilman Donald Saunders political operative Andre P. White, and Adam Trumbo of Shaker Heights. Trumbo is assured of a ballot place in November as the sole Republican candidate.

Some observers have installed Ruffner as the favorite because she is from the largest political subdivision. She also boasts a solid professional resume as both a licensed professional counselor and a college professor. She has been endorsed by the mayors of Shaker Heights, Highland Hills, and Woodmere.

Businesswoman Shontel Brown is a first term councilwoman from Warrensville. Her political resume may be slight but she has endorsements from what passes as the District's political establishment: Congresswoman Marcia Fudge, outgoing county council president Connolly, and Warrensville Heights mayor Brad Sellers.

A licensed attorney and a minister, Leah Lewis was appointed to Highland Heights council last fall, elected to retain the seat in November, and is now running to secure a broader platform. She won a straw poll over the other candidates at a recent campaign event and was hands down the best candidate at dealing pleasantly but effectively with the aggressive moderating style of former East Cleveland mayor Eric Brewer.

The southern segment of the district features two candidates with impressive professional resumes outside of politics, though neither shows much in the way of campaign charisma. Councilman Donald Saunders of Bedford is a retired county engineer who is stumping on the grounds that the lower half of the district got little respect or attention during Connolly's first term. Lloyd Anderson, a councilman from Bedford Heights, a fraternal twin to Bedford, has a distinguished resume that includes bank management and insurance agency ownership, but the hesitancy he showed in response to Brewer's battering him on insurance issues that Bedford Heights is dealing with suggested that he may not be ready for wider council service.

Andre White is on the ballot but has made little noise and been seen less. He is scheduled to appear at the next joint appearance of the candidates at 7PM on Thursday, April 10 at Shaker Heights Middle School. The League of Women Voters of Shaker Heights and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

The Real Deal Press

The Independent Source for
Your Community News

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OPINION**May Primary has added importance this “off-year”**

Election cycles are strange. Most people seem to be aware that the outcome of a Presidential election can shape the country's policies in ways that have enormous consequences for good or ill. Kennedy-Nixon, Carter-Reagan, Gore-Bush, Obama-McCain and Obama-Romney are examples of those kinds of campaigns.

But local elections, and primary elections at that, also have consequences, because it's at that basic level that decisions get made that can have both a more immediate critical impact on quality of life as well as contribute to the political climate that shapes who wins the electoral college vote in a presidential campaign.

This is especially obvious in a swing state such as Ohio, which still retains outsized power as a battleground state. But what is generally less recognized is that when voters either fail to go the polls, or go vote only the top of the ticket and skip “the less important races” down towards the bottom, they are often shooting themselves in the foot.

They are handicapping themselves in ways they don't even think about until they are in court before a judge, running into obstacles at their child's school, getting attitude from a social worker, being denied health care, or even getting their street plowed.

Here in the United States of America, it is becoming ever more clear that in this form of representative democracy and this capitalist economy [in public schools they don't always teach that these are not the same systems], politics, like race and gender issues, are present in all kinds of ways and places we don't expect. So it pays us to be alert to our surroundings, and not to surrender absentmindedly or haphazardly whatever control we have over those who are elected as our representatives.

As of April 1, we can start voting for the candidates and issues of our choice. Many of you may already have decided who to vote for and will be quick out of the gate to complete your ballots from top to bottom and

mail them in. Others among you may not even be registered because you moved recently and maintaining your registered voter status slipped your mind. [The last day to register to vote on May 6 is Monday, April 7.]

An educated guess is that tens of thousands of registered voters who live, say, in County District 9 or State House District 11 or State Senate District 25, have yet to decide or even begun to focus on who is running to represent you for the next two to four years.

The easy road is to dismiss next month's vote because it's only the primary, and vow to educate yourselves about issues and candidates before the general arrives in November. Like the Julia Roberts character said in *Pretty Woman* to the jaded sales clerks on Rodeo Drive who were ignorant of her buying power, “Big Mistake!”

Cuyahoga is pretty solid Democratic Party territory, in part because Republicans have crossed eastern, western, and southern county lines, leaving behind problems they helped create and feeling superior because those

problems haven't caught up yet. This means that whoever wins the Democratic primary in a host of legislative and judicial races will likely be your next representative: downtown on county council, in the General Assembly in Columbus.

Moreover, the Democratic candidate who prevails in the county executive primary race will probably ascend to what some say is the most powerful elected position in Ohio after the Governor.

Suffice to say, elections have consequences that affect your wallet, your environment, your health, your neighborhood, your grandchildren's schools, your quality of life. So get yourself out to a candidate forum, visit candidate and issue websites, speak with your neighbors, and get ready to vote.

Carl B. Stokes is not returning to earth to electrify the electorate again. But have you done your homework to see who has earned the right to follow the path he blazed? Or who has forfeited it? Or who has placed landmines on it? Or just maybe, who might be blazing a new trail?

BALLOT continued from page 3

the Shaker Public Library are co-sponsors of that campaign forum.

House District 12

This contest stands in marked contrast to the county council race to succeed Connally. There are only two candidates in the Democratic primary, and while the John Barnes is technically the incumbent, this District has been almost totally reconstituted, meaning that many District members will be seeing his name on the ballot for the first time. Barnes has also distressed many in his own party for what they see as his penchant for playing footsie with the Republicans. While his voting record is not

that different from fellow Democrat Bill Patmon of District 10, Barnes is far less adept at defending the merits of his maverick tendencies, and less likely to stand where you can find him.

Barnes' opponent is Jill Miller Zimon, who served one term as Pepper Pike councilman before stepping down and opting to challenge Barnes. She benefits from the favorable realignment of this seriously redrawn district, which added several communities that are less likely to embrace Barnes' sense of privilege.

Zimon is a licensed social worker and a lawyer. She is also Jewish, a white woman in a district that skews black demo-

graphically. But she embraces diversity, sits on the board of the Urban League, has a good relationship with many influential members of the black community, and is unafraid to go anywhere in the district to meet with anyone concerned about the district's welfare. This gives her a decided edge over the incumbent, who would need a GPS device to navigate some of the areas that have been added to the district.

District 12 now encompasses Bedford, Bedford Heights, Cleveland Ward 1, Highland Hills, Maple Heights, Mayfield Heights, North Randall, Orange Village, Pepper Pike, and War-

rensville Heights.

County Executive

This race reeks of money, and the smell comes from only one corner. Armond Budish basically has a castle full of dough, and his rivals — former Bedford City Manager and County Sheriff Bob Reid, and longtime state legislator, Sen. Shirley Smith — have, despite enviable records of public service, neither a pot nor a window between them. An air of inevitability has hung over this race since last year, and it has been completely spiritless as a result.

Budish is a former Speaker of the Ohio House, a successful attorney, and a prodigious

fundraiser. Some say he is an excellent legislative colleague but in public he often appears ill at ease, especially when surrounded by the hoi polloi. Still, with his sizable bankroll, even a combination of bad dental work, halitosis and the aroma of a stevedore after a double shift wouldn't be enough to derail this primary campaign.

State Senate District 25

Nina Turner has held this seat since 2008 and is eligible to run for another term. She opted not to stand for reelection but to run of Secretary of State, a perch from which the GOP has worked
CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Six Questions for Chris Nance



Contractors Dominic Ozanne, Lonzo Coleman, John W. Todd, and Josh McHamm were recognized for their efforts at 2014 annual meeting of Urban League. Photo Credit: RDP Photo

Christopher B. Nance was recruited about two months ago by the Greater Cleveland Partnership Director to direct the Construction Diversity & Inclusion Program of its Commission on Inclusion.

The GCP and its Commission are integral to the success of major efforts to address the chronic inequities in our local economy, most notably — but certainly not exclusively — in the construction and building trades. These injustices extend back past the memories of any living person and have a lot to do with the deplorable conditions of many neighborhoods and school systems, and directly support the prison pipeline.

Thanks to an initiative powered by the Cleveland of Cleveland and several of the city's largest minority contractors, including Ozanne Construction, JWT, ColemanSpohn and [Perkins], a more inclusive local economic environment may be dawning.

The Real Deal Press believes that the success of this effort is infinitely more vital to the success of our community and our region than any glossy re-branding efforts Positively Cleveland can dream up. But we also believe that the success of well-meaning efforts to integrate people of color and black-owned businesses in particular

into the local outpost of what is already a globalized economy requires several things of African Americans in Greater Cleveland. Foremost among these demands is that we educate ourselves about where the opportunities are and will be. Next is that we prepare ourselves to seize them.

It is for these reasons that we put some questions to Nance shortly after he started in his new job. Here are the questions and his answers, mildly edited for considerations of space.



Chris Nance, Commission on Economic Inclusion
Photo Credit: RDP Photo

Give us an introduction to what's going on in our local economy.

The economic transformation of Cleveland, Greater Cleveland and indeed the Northeast Ohio region continues on a variety of fronts. One of those

transformations is in the arena of our physical infrastructure and the resultant construction boom associated with those activities. Consequently, an urban redevelopment strategy called a community benefit agreement has been identified and now being used as a key component of driving the economic success for the Northeast Ohio region.

What is a Community Benefit Agreement?

A Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) is a collaborative model that is designed to develop effective workforce equity strategies with real community input on inclusion goals. One of the core objectives of an effective CBA is to create both job and wealth creation (contracting) opportunities for women and for communities of color on specific public and private construction projects. Moreover, the CBA is an urban redevelopment strategy used in major cities to define the elements of a "major construction project" which will be initiated to ensure the project produces positive impact to the community in which it resides. The agreement is most often between a developer and a representative community organization, which will ensure accountability to the public.

The success of this effort is infinitely more vital to the success of our community and our region than any glossy re-branding efforts Positively Cleveland can dream up.

What's the history behind Cleveland's CBA?

The effort of establishing the policy of CBA's converged from three separate efforts, sparked by a meeting hosted by the Commission on Economic Inclusion — a programmatic strategy of the Greater Cleveland Partnership — on March 17, 2011. This meeting was called to examine the historical exclusion of minority worker and contractors in the construction trades in the midst of a \$6 billion construction boom.

From this meeting, a group of four black contractors convened and engaged former Congressman Louis Stokes to develop a recommended path to remedy the exclusion. Also, Mayor Frank Jackson directed the City of Cleveland to study the practices in other major cities towards better inclusion in the industry.

The Commission on Economic Inclusion engaged Richard Pogue former managing partner of Jones Day and Dennis Lafferty to study several areas of the current industry to make recommendations. A memorandum of understanding (MOU), signed after 18 months of planning and negotiation, was a merger of all three efforts in a groundbreaking Public/ Private partnership.

What is the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed in Cleveland, February 26, 2013?

The MOU signed by nine organizations in Cleveland is a document that creates a shared responsibility among the par-

ties to promote CBAs as a preferred method and policy for major developments within the city. The parties also agree to study the demand for construction, creating both high school and adult training programs for pre-apprenticeship as well as creating mentor protégée relationships for minority and female contracting. Further the parties agree to set goals for: pre-apprentice and apprenticeships; local hiring; female hiring; and minority hiring. Finally, the MOU directs the parties to identify and implement a working committee to engage the community and report its results.

Who's responsible for the implementing and monitoring the MOU and Community Benefits Agreements?

The Construction Diversity & Inclusion Committee will facilitate the process for establishing community goals. This committee will be supported by a staff director within the Commission on Inclusion — a programmatic strategy located at the Greater Cleveland Partnership — Northeast Ohio's Chamber of Commerce. The focus for the board and staff will be to help ensure a collaborative approach going forward. Its members will include representatives from various sectors involved in the construction industry. In addition to goal-setting, objectives will include recruiting owners (developers) and projects; developing mentoring relationships for minority business enterprises

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

NANCE continued from page 5

(MBEs); developing recognition and awards for success; supporting and encouraging capacity-building for organized labor and MBEs; and providing support to businesses and developers that pursue a CBA.

What's happening with the CBA now?

On March 13, 2014, ten students successfully completed the Pre-Apprenticeship Training at Tri-C. Efforts are underway to assist these graduates to get into apprenticeship programs. Interested contractors have stepped up to help with the process. Organized Labor, the Urban League of Greater Cleveland and Towards

Employment provided referrals and financial support to launch this pilot effort. Each of these class members successfully completed both a soft skills program and an 8 week curriculum. In addition to the classroom training held at the state of the art Tri-C Advanced Technology Training Center the students also had a number of

“hands-on” opportunities.

A second Pre-Apprenticeship Training class begins June 2, 2014. There will be more opportunities for contractors and apprenticeship programs to offer opportunities of construction career paths for future graduates of the program. Referral partners, the Urban League of Greater Cleveland,

Towards Employment, El Barrio, and the Spanish American Committee, are recruiting people for up to 20 training slots.

To reach Nance for information on training or contracting opportunities associated with the CBA process or the Construction Diversity & Inclusion Initiative, call 216.592.2383 or email cnance@gcpartnership.com.



- **Issue 7 protects our public-owned sports facilities.** It extends – not increases – Cuyahoga County's small tax on cigarettes and alcohol to pay for required major repairs and updates.
- **Our sports facilities have brought us:** 75 million visitors, \$5 billion in economic activity, and thousands of **good jobs.**
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Emery Woods project gearing up for relaunch



By **R.T. Andrews**
Editor

The Chateaux of Emery Woods development sits quietly in the southeast corner of Warrensville Heights. It was conceived as the city's signature residential piece more than a decade ago, at a time when the city's current mayor Brad Sellers was serving as community liaison director under then-mayor, now

Congresswoman, Marcia Fudge. The upscale development stalled after an impressive start when the Great Recession of 2008 dropped the bottom out of the housing market. Other developments in the city were stopped in their tracks as well. When Sellers ran for mayor in 2011 he pledged to restart some of those projects, including Emery Woods where he now lives. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**



Cell Phone Ban in Shaker Heights

A ban on using hand-held cell phones to talk or text while driving is now in effect in Shaker Heights.

Police will issue warnings to drivers in violation until Memorial Day, when they will start issuing tickets.

Leon Bibb selected as Black Professional of the Year



The Black Professional Association Charitable Foundation has selected TV 5 news broadcaster Leon Bibb as the Black Professional of the Year. The honor was announced at BPACF's annual meeting on March 26.

Bibb is one of the longest-serving television journalists in Cleveland history. He was born in Alabama but migrated north to Cleveland in the 1940s.

Raised primarily in Glenville area, he has called Cleveland home ever since.

Bibb will be feted at BPACF's annual banquet, which usually takes place in the fall. No date has been set for this year's event.

BPACF raises and distributes scholarship funds every year. Its endowment fund is housed at the Cleveland Foundation.

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Democrat  ★★

KENNY YUKO

FOR 

STATE SENATOR District 25

Powered by Friends of Kenny Yuko, Pamela J. Yoko, Treasurer, 415 Pleasant Drive, Richmond Heights, OH 44142

BOLD launch for new Young Professional Minority Women's Group



(L to R, Front) Shaina Munoz, Jazmin Long, Lauren R. Welch and Ashley Hawthorne. (L to R, Top) Isharon Reynolds, Ashley Hawthorn, Devon Marbuary, and Ashleigh Johnson
Photo Credit: McKinley Wiley, the Dark Room Company

By **Mordecai Cargill**
RDP Reporter

Almost one hundred of Cleve-

land's best and brightest young women gathered downtown after work on a recent Friday to celebrate the launch of the

Cleveland Young Professional Minority Women's Group, the latest arrival in the lineup of area organizations for young people.

The group is the brainchild of Lauren R. Welch and Jazmin Long, two emerging leaders on the Cleveland young professional scene, who saw a need for young women of color to connect, to celebrate their accomplishments, and — perhaps most importantly — to provide support and professional development grounded in their unique perspectives.

The inaugural event, “BOLD: the Launch Party”, held March 21 in the sleek offices of the Rosetta Marketing Group at 629 Euclid, witnessed the gathering of a wide range of women of

“I was completely unaware that there was a community of successful, educated young women of color.”

color representing public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and included both recent college graduates to upper management executives. The prevailing vibe seemed one of celebration and discovery as new friends and comrades connected over spirits, a choice spread of finger food, and memorable floor-to-ceiling views of the Euclid Ave-

nue streetscape.

Several of Cleveland's foremost women of color — some of whom serve as mentors to many of the group's members — were invited to the launch, and came to express their support for the new group. Notable among this group were Barbara Danforth of Ratliff & Taylor, Sheila Wright

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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BLACK PHILANTHROPY continued from page 1

over the past several years from churches, businesses, ethnic affinity groups of all types, as well as by many individuals.

Hill-Johnson, who grew up Cleveland's Glenville area and graduated from Collinwood High School and Case Western Reserve University, said this year's Summit is designed to help people realize that you don't have to have Oprah-like resources to be a philanthropist.

"You don't need a lot of money," she said, pointing out the existence of more than 50 African American donor-advised funds that have been established at the Cleveland Foundation. Member organizations or donor circles established several of these funds. Donor circles are a growing trend, and Hill-Johnson said they would be an important topic at the Summit.

Harvard professor to keynote

This year's Summit will feature prominent Harvard University professor Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., who will deliver the luncheon keynote. The keynote will actually be a moderated discussion with WKYC news anchor Russ Mitchell. Director of the

Hutchins Center for African and African-American Research at Harvard, Gates is the author of sixteen books and twelve documentaries, including the recent PBS series, *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*. He is the recipient of more than 50 honorary degrees and numerous awards, including the MacArthur "genius grant."

This year's forum, "Inspiring 100 Acts of African-American Philanthropy", is designed as both a celebration of existing philanthropists and a call-to-action for aspiring ones. Attendees will be able to choose two educational sessions during the morning.

Pastor R. A. Vernon of The Word Church will speak at the opening session.

Terri Eason, the Cleveland Foundation's director of gift planning, is coordinator of this year's Summit.

Corporate College East is located at 4400 Richmond Rd. in Warrensville Heights. Early bird registration [\$30] is open until April 11. Ticket information follows this article.

Cleveland Black Philanthropy has rich history

Like so much else in the black community, African American philanthropy often seems to fly under the radar. In a town where the expansive plans of the major hospitals and universities result in new buildings adorned with the familiar names of some of the area's wealthiest families, even the term African American philanthropy sounds oxymoronic to some.

The reality is actually quite different than such perceptions however. Greater Cleveland blacks have a long history of looking out for others less fortunate. Eliza Bryant, the daughter of a freed slave, came to Cleveland as a young woman in 1858. Her family in short order became well known for their humanitarian efforts on behalf of "people of color." Her legacy endures today in the Eliza Bryant Village, founded the century before last as "The Cleveland Home of Aged Colored People".

The name Jane Edna Hunter is probably best known because it adorns the county social services building on Euclid Avenue and East 40th St. She saw a need to provide housing for the single

black women who were coming north in the first Great Migration of southern blacks fleeing domestic terrorism and seeking opportunity during and after World War I. Her passion to help and serve led to the establishment of a home for single working girls that in time became the Phillis Wheatley Association.

Despite the perception that the black community is not as philanthropic as others, nearly two-thirds of African-Americans donate, giving \$11 billion each year, according to a 2012 report from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, cited by the Cleveland Foundation.

This is consistent with data reported by the Joint Center for Political Studies [now known as Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies] as far back as 1986. Eugene Carson, then a JCPS research associate, wrote in *The Charitable Appeals Fact Book*, of black Americans "long and rich history of donating money for benevolent purposes, dating back to dues-paying mutual aid and fraternal organizations formed by free blacks before the Civil War." Joint Center research indicated that more than 70% of its 1986 survey of black re-

TICKET INFORMATION

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.ow.ly/surJ4

.....
spondents reported contributing money to religious, social, educational and political groups.

In recent years a movement has been developing in Cleveland to systematize this pattern of giving symbolized by Bryant and Hunter, and carried on throughout the city in churches and fraternal organizations, and in myriad informal ways in even the most desolate parts of our community.

The African-American Philanthropy Committee was created as an advisory committee of the Cleveland Foundation in 1993 under the leadership of former Cleveland Foundation Executive Director Steven A. Minter. It has served as a national model in community engagement. The summit was launched in 2010 as a signature event to educate and engage the African-American community on the various ways to give back to the community.

BALLOT continued from page 4

to increase the difficulty of voting with single-minded fervor.

Turner's decision helps to accelerate the likelihood that this seat will counter typical representational patterns and pass from a black representative to a white one. This may be partly due to a reported agreement reached between the late US Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Armond Budish that saw Budish stay in the state representative ballpark and allow her protégé Lance Mason, to take the seat. When Mason, now a county judge, resigned the seat because of the wear and tear the travel imposed on his family, Turner was appointed.

Demographics and the aver-

sion too many black politicians have about campaigning for the votes of white constituents probably make it inevitable that the seat will revert to a white candidate in 2014. The Republican redistricting of 2012 extended this district from Maple Heights all the to Painesville in Lake County.

The May primary will see two former state legislators, Ed Jerse and Kenny Yuko vying for the Democratic nomination, along with long time politico, science teacher and current Bedford Heights councilman Thaddeus Jackson.

House District 11

We are following this race although save for portions of Garfield Heights, it is largely out

of the present footprint of this newspaper. Sandra Williams has represented this district credibly for the past eight years. She is now the prohibitive favorite to succeed Sen. Shirley Smith in Senate District 21. Smith is term limited as and is running for county executive.

Williams' move to the upper house thus creates an open race for her seat much like the one created by Connally's retirement. Six Democrats, including some with very fresh but capable faces, are vying to succeed Williams. We will have more to say about this race in our next issue, which comes out the week before the primary.

House Districts 9 and 10

These races fall into the same category as House District 11: intriguing but beyond our immediate reporting jurisdiction.

In House District 10, incumbent Bill Patmon squares off against former Cleveland councilman Eugene Miller. Miller, you may recall, put his foot so deep in his mouth during a series of recorded calls to a Cleveland police dispatcher that not even the criminally insane gerrymandering of his district was enough to get him re-elected. Soundly defeated by fellow councilman Jeff Johnson, Miller is now turning to a broader electorate to seek quick redemption.

In Patmon, however, Miller faces a veteran politician who

once made the same mistake. Patmon lost his Glenville council seat and too quickly thereafter ran for county commissioner, losing decisively. One can only imagine Patmon's eagerness to impress that lesson upon Miller.

In House District 9, Cleveland Heights councilwoman Janine Boyd is seeking to win election to a seat that her mother held for two runs of eight years each. Boyd shows considerable potential as a legislator, but she may be damaged by the negative publicity her mother drew last year when a series of physical ailments, punctuated by a fall, made the incumbent's visits to legislative sessions about as rare as sightings of Halley's Comet.

United Black Fund gala set for May 3

The United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland will celebrate 33 years of service to the community at its annual gala on Saturday, May 3. The event will

be held at the InterContinental Hotel, beginning at 6PM.

The gala will feature an up close and personal performance by Grammy nominee Kenny

Lattimore. The evening will culminate dancing to the music of Cleveland's own DJ Johnny O.

Tickets are \$150 per person, and can be purchased by calling

216.566.9263. For more information and updates, visit www.unitedblackfund.org.

UBF funds over 80 non-profit agencies that provide program-

ming in the areas of basic needs; workforce development; children, adult and senior services; as well as cultural education and arts programs.

Race, Food & Justice Confab at Case, April 4-5

Conference will look examine urban food movement through lens of social justice

Environmental Health Watch, Rid-All Green Partnership, and the Case Western Reserve University Social Justice Institute are co-sponsoring a two-day conference on April 4-5 in University Circle. Race, Food & Justice Conference 2014: Analyzing the Urban Food Movement through

a Social Justice Lens. Conference will be held at Case Western Reserve University and University United Methodist Church on Chester Ave at East 107 St.

The goal of the conference is to create a space for dialog and discussion about social justice issues, how the history of farming, culture

and race factor into economics, land use policies, land ownership, health, jobs, community programs, and decisions that impact our most vulnerable communities and communities of color.

The Friday evening portion of the conference begins at 6:00pm in the Case Western Reserve

University's Allen Memorial Library. It is sold out.

Saturday's schedule features Mistinguette Smith with the Black Lands Project, Malik Yakini with the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network and Jonathan Ferrer with the United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset

Park. Saturday's presentations will be given at the University Circle United Methodist Church on 107th and Chester.

For more information about the conference please contact Kim Foreman at 216-961-4646 x104 or kim.foreman@ehw.org or Shelley at 216-368-7568 or stw3@case.edu.



WOODS continued from page 7

The first weekend in April will mark the renewal of the development when a grand opening of sorts will take place. Details on the opening are not available at press time but we have spoken with Tony Kucia of Blossom Homes, a well-respected area builder who is preparing to build homes on the remaining available parcels.

Julius Cartwright of Dream Team Realty in Solon, a leading

area real estate broker, will handle marketing of the new development. Cartwright is excited about the prospect of marketing the new homes, whose design, quality and park-like setting make them rare products in Cleveland's first-ring suburbia. Cartwright, who recently completed a term as president of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, said in an interview that financing for the new

homes would be offered through First Federal Lakewood.

The pictures on this page show a model in the development. Kucia said in a phone call that there are several basic plans from which buyers can choose, and a variety of options are available to customize their homes. Prices have not set been firmed up for the various models but may start in the low to mid-\$200s.

READING GUARANTEE continued from page 1

to raise third graders' reading levels would be to use proven strategies such as funding preschool, all-day universal kindergarten and smaller classes.

While these suggestions were ignored, the guarantee was revised in 2013 to allow more flexibility in terms of who was qualified to be a reading teacher for students who scored too low on the test.

The guarantee requires that students, except those with special needs, must have scored at least 392 in reading on the OAA given in the fall and on the one

coming up April 12 - May 16. Those who remain in third grade must receive 90 minutes of reading instruction at school every day. They can take other fourth grade subjects if they are ready and they can enter fourth grade in the middle of the school year if their reading levels improve.

Warrensville will take advantage of being able to promote students mid-year, said Ward. The district is also set to prepare students who didn't pass the fall test or who fail the upcoming one to take optional retests over

the summer. "Our ultimate goal is that our students can read at grade level," she said, stressing that the district won't promote students who can't.

About a dozen audience members attended Warrensville's school board meeting on March 29. During the public comment session, Mrs. Gloria Jefferson, a senior citizen who tutors at Eastwood Elementary, read from a prepared list of questions and suggestions. "In September, why not give OAA practice sheets to start the

school year?" she asked.

In addition, Jefferson said, "The school district has an 'F' rating," [from the Ohio Department of Education]. She wondered why, in the fall, before students took the OAA, the school board renewed Superintendent Jones's contract for three years. According to Jefferson, OAA scores should have been a factor in the board's decision to retain Jones or not.

Recently retired school board member Dorothy Blackmon also believes in the guarantee. "It's go-

ing to show us whether or not our district is on top of the reading curriculum," she said, "whether they are teaching the children phonics and reading comprehension." She also sees the guarantee as a way to test teachers. "It's going to show whether or not we've got good teachers who are doing their job?"

M. LaVora Perry has been a columnist and reporter for Neighborhood Voice newspaper and is launching The East Cleveland Narrator newspaper in May. Learn more at ecnarrator.com.

BUSINESS CALENDAR



Two local organizations sponsoring week-long programming in early April
Northcoast Minority Media LLC is hosting Business Summit Week from March 31 through April 4 at various venues in Cleveland and Lorain.

Session topics range from diversity issues to developing relationships with financial institutions to politics. For more information, visit NorthCoastDiversity.com or call 216.394.0772.

The Cleveland Realists Association will celebrate National Realist Week April 6-12 all over town. The week starts with a worship service at New Community Bible Fellowship in Cleveland Heights and culminates with a program at Mt. Pleasant Development Corporation on Saturday, April 12. In between the CRA has scheduled events at Eliza Bryant Village, Shaker Heights, Solon, Warrensville Heights, Slavic Village and downtown.

Call 216.926.5644 or visit clevelandrealist.org for more information.

• • •

2014 NE Ohio Entrepreneur Expo is April 7

The 2014 Northeast Ohio Entrepreneur Expo takes place Monday, April 7, at the Cleveland Museum of Art. The annual gathering, which is open to the public and usually attracts 1000+ people, celebrates entrepreneurship in the region and gives select companies the opportunity to share their ideas and businesses with investors, entrepreneurs, community members, media, civic and foundation leaders and educators attending the event.

For more information: <http://www.neoexpo.org>

• • •

Warrensville Heights Chamber of Commerce luncheon April 16

Roxanne Kaufman Elliott, founder and president of ProLaureate Ltd., will be the featured speaker at the monthly luncheon at the Warrensville Marriott. Register at <http://www.whacc.org/>.

• • •

ODOT offering DBE Workshop on April 17

The Ohio Department of Transportation is sponsoring a workshop on Thursday, April 17 from 10AM until noon for businesses wishing to be certified as DBE [Disadvantaged Business Enterprise].

The workshop will be held at the Hispanic Business Center, 3104 West 25 St., at the corner of Clark Ave., Cleveland Ohio 44109.

Certifying agents will be on hand to guide you through the online application process and to receive the supporting documentation.

Registration is required. If you wish to attend, call 614.466.3957 or email Debra.Pryor@dot.state.oh.us.

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HEALTH CALENDAR



Young men in middle and high school are invited to attend the 2nd Annual Boys to Men Health Summit on Saturday, April 5th at Cleveland State University's Main Classroom Building, 1899 E. 22 St.

Check-in and breakfast start at 9:15 am. Summit programming begins at 10 am sharp and will end by 3 pm. Lunch is also provided.

The event is free, but space is limited. Youth and the adults they count on can register now at allaboutyourhealth.org.

Participants will attend workshops in three rounds designed to inform and empower them. Topics include financial literacy, violence prevention, wellness, resilience and emotional strength, self-love, leadership, and spirituality. The summit is a grassroots event presented by volunteers with the support of MyCom and Neighborhood Leadership Institute. Bus passes are available, call (216) 658-1356. Parking meters in the area are free on Saturdays.

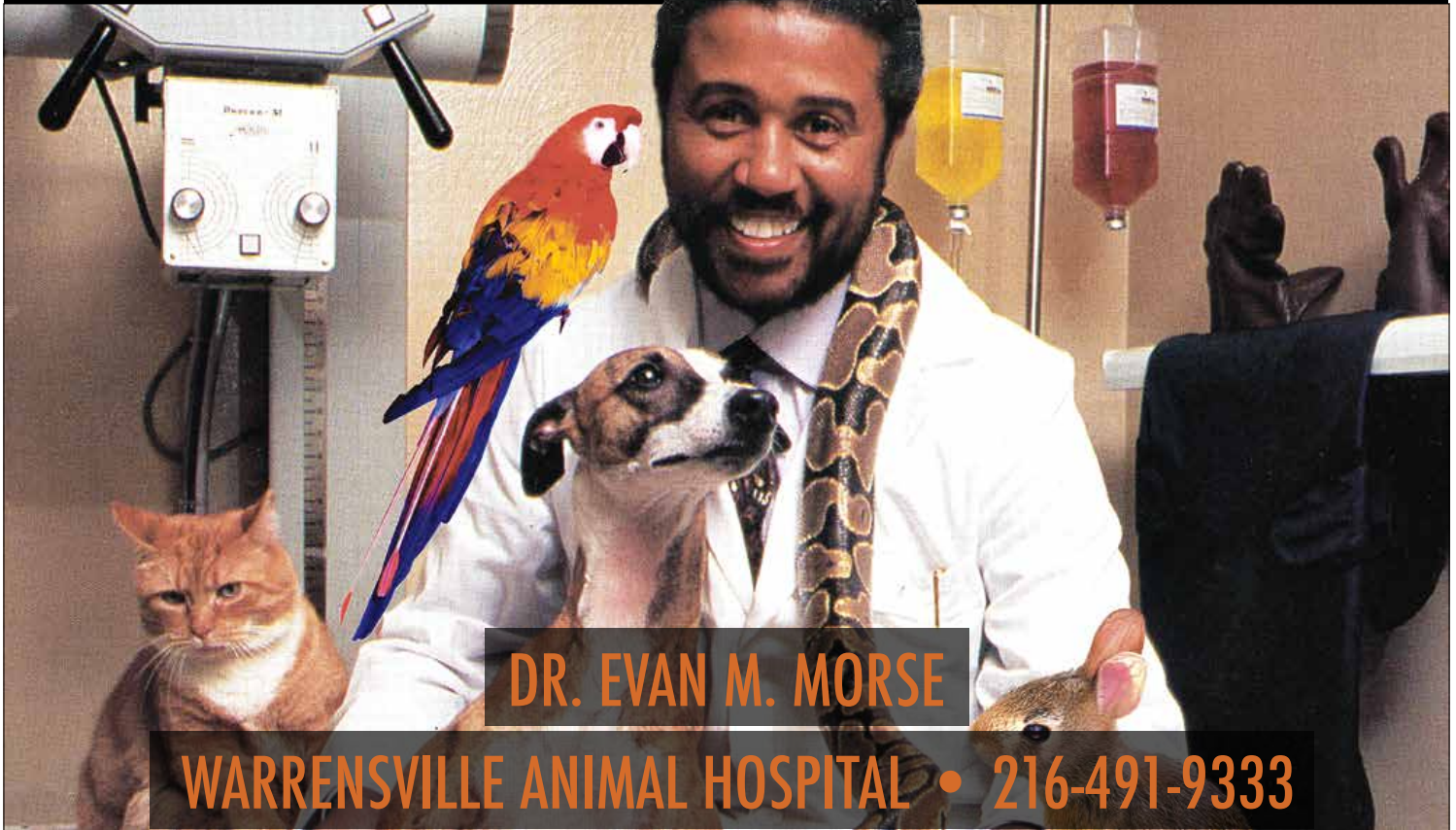
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12th Annual Minority Men's Health Fair set for April 24

The Minority Men's Health Fair offers free screenings and information on a range of topics including diabetes, dental screening, glaucoma, heart disease, hepatitis, HIV, kidney function, lung health, prostate cancer, sickle cell, skin cancer, stress/depression, and wellness.

This free health event runs from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the main campus of the Cleveland Clinic.

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BOLD continued from page 8

of the Cleveland NAACP, LaToya Smith of Fifth Third Bank, and Teleangé Thomas of Sisters of Charity Foundation.

Following a robust networking session, the group's co-founders introduced the board, the upcoming slate of members-only programming, and the organization's mission. The group's website describes this mission as an inclusive effort "to provide a supportive community for women of color through networking initiatives, community engagement, and leadership development" (cleypmwc.com).

In the spirit of that community engagement, invited representatives of Sankofa Fine Art Plus were on hand to talk about the importance of supporting community arts initiatives and the artists whose works being auctioned off that night.

Recently installed District 10 County Councilman Anthony T. Hairston was on hand to present the newly minted group with a certificate of recognition from the Council.

The overall feeling among many of the attendees at the end of the event was overwhelmingly positive. One young woman, a Cleveland native and recent Emory University graduate, talked about the need for an organization to connect smart, ambitious young women and present the wealth of talent that exists to the larger community.

"Other than me and the women I have come to associate with since returning to the area," she said, "I was completely unaware that there was a community of successful, educated young women of color. Being able to see so many of them in one place was incredible."

The group's inaugural event in its Women in Action series is Thursday, April 3 at 5:30PM at the Case Western Reserve University Alumni House, 11310 Juniper Rd. on the Case campus. It will feature Dr. Marilyn Mobley, the University's Vice President, Office of Inclusion, Diversity & Equal Opportunity.