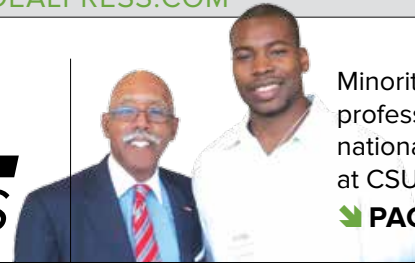


THE REAL DEAL

OCTOBER 2014 • VOLUME ONE • NUMBER SEVEN PRESS



Minority STEM professionals hold national conference at CSU

➔ PAGE 8

ANALYSIS

Looking at Richmond Heights Recall

By **R. T. Andrews**
Editor

The successful recall of Mayor Miesha Headen less than a year into her term as the first ever female and first ever African American mayor of Richmond Heights is a sobering lesson that winning an election does not equate to a congenial handing over of the reins of government. Her brief tenure also tells us much about



Mayor Miesha Headen was recalled by voters only ten months after her election. Courtesy of electionprofiles.blogspot.com

the continuing challenges we face in trying to achieve open, fair and representative government in the many fiefdoms of Cuyahoga County.

Headen was elected in a four-way race last November, defeating three opponents — the six-term incumbent Daniel Ursu; fellow councilwoman Eloise Henry, and political newcomer and successful businessman David Ali. The campaign was short and intense and played to Headen's strengths: she is diligent, thorough, and analytical. She knew how many votes it would take to win, and unlike any of her opponents, she walked steadfastly door-to-door to get them.

It was a formula Headen first successfully applied in 2009, when she walked the city of nearly 11,000 residents to become a councilwoman at

large on her first try. It was a signal achievement for an outsider. Richmond Heights was founded as a village in 1917. It had fewer than 1000 residents as late as 1950, and was incorporated as a city only in 1960. A narrow and very closed political system has been in operation since then. Council members have routinely served for decades, and one — Marcia Starkey Morgan — has been in office about 40 years.

Headen's victory last year ended her predecessor's six-term 24 year run. She ran on the basis of offering a more open, inclusive, and active, and technologically advanced government. But both the need for change and resistance to it were deeper than she knew. Only after she got into office did she discover the mayor's office had no computer. Ursu had his secretary

Headen's ouster reinforces the kind of exclusive, secretive governance that caters to the short term interests of a few and has long since lost any connection to the duty and art of public service.

print out every email and stack them on his desk. He would then write his answers out for her to type and send. Ursu was disengaged in other ways, remaining aloof as the Richmond Heights electorate rejected six straight levies and a damaging strike by the local teachers union. Ursu also was silent as the city's name was sullied by the union's president, who as the high school basketball coach, verbally

abused his all-black team with racist slurs and failing to support any of them for going to college, and creating such a negative atmosphere that they threatened a boycott until he was removed. The turmoil and controversy that followed arguably gave the city a blacker eye than anything that Headen did as mayor, and ultimately led to an almost total takeover of school leadership,

Continued On Page 9



African American Cultural Garden Task Force, as shown on the group's website. Carl Ewing is at far right. Courtesy of africanamericanculturalgarden.org

AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL GARDEN: Struggling, but Progressing

By **Derek Dixon**

Carl Ewing is pulling out all the stops.

Before next spring, the sixth president of the African American Cultural Gardens Association intends to galvanize the world's most well known Northeast Ohioans to lead an unprecedented fundraising and

volunteerism campaign. The campaign's purpose will be to finally realize the construction of the model first proposed in 2011 by local architect W. Daniel Bickerstaff.

"We need support from as many outlets as possible — corporate, civic and grass roots," Ewing says. "We've already

Continued On Page 6

Small Business Can Lift the Community, says Nina Turner

By Kirby Freeman
Real Deal Press Correspondent

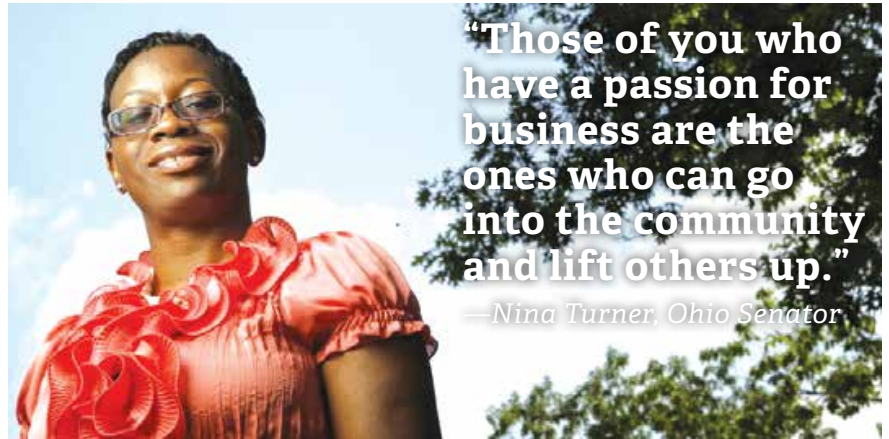
Concerns about the growing wealth gap and income disparity in communities throughout the state and nation will only be solved by aggressively growing small businesses in the neighborhoods, State Senator Nina Turner recently told a minority business forum.

“Those of you who have a passion for business are the ones who can go into the community and lift others up,” Senator Turner told a supportive crowd attending the Christian Business League breakfast earlier this month.

Turner, who is the Democratic Party nominee for Ohio Secretary of State in the upcoming November election, exhorted small business owners to be more aggressive in using their power and influence in the political process to improve their financial position.

She said minority businesses need to understand how government works. Minority businesses need to form lobbying groups, as other special interests have, that will work on a full-time basis at the state and federal level, said Turner.

Turner said that minority community and business interests often find themselves



“Those of you who have a passion for business are the ones who can go into the community and lift others up.”

—Nina Turner Ohio Senator

Ohio Senator Nina Turner. Courtesy of themarysue.com.

at a disadvantage simply because they do not attend important meetings or events, where they can get important information that will facilitate growth. “He who is absent is always wrong,” Turner said, quoting an African proverb.

About 100 businesspeople were in attendance for Turner’s remarks, delivered at the

Christian Business League’s quarterly “Faith and Finance” breakfast.

Turner identified several initiatives she said the community should focus on to increase opportunities, including creating more microloan centers, expanding bond capacity for minority construction companies, and increasing small business

technical support.

She also said small minority businesses are the best portals for ex-offenders in the community to find employment and training. “Small business is the institution that will give those of us who have had public transgressions a second chance,” Turner contended.

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THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Every month we work to bring you news reports and analysis of what is happening in our community. We want to be accurate, we want to be fair, we want to be interesting. We really want to be indispensable.

Every issue we leave stories and reports on the sidelines. We are not yet big enough in terms of the pages we carry to report all the stories we'd like to tell and we think you'd like to hear.

Even amidst all the setbacks and challenges we face as a community, we can tell what untapped potential we have. Whether we the issue is health care, or education, or civic affairs, or business, or entertainment, we have our fair share of accomplished performers.

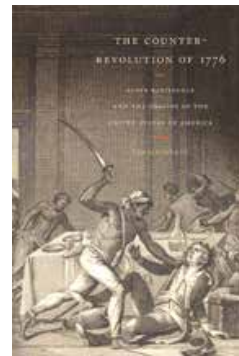
This richness of talent was especially apparent this past month as we moved from place to place. We did not have space to share the positive things that are happening in the business arena for black entrepreneurs. It may not be too much to say that these are the best times in more than half a century to be an African American businessperson.

Let me hasten to add that this is not so because of any favoritism or any kind of affirmative action laws. Those have pretty much gone the way of the

dodo bird. [The reasons for that are one of those stories we haven't had the resources to write yet. Give us time.]

Rather it's a better time to be an African American businessman than in the past because there is overall, we believe, less discrimination in the business world than there used to be.

This doesn't mean that race is less of a critical factor in American life than formerly. Skin prejudice and structural racism are more deeply rooted in the American psyche, we dare say, than love of the frontier or freedom of religion. In fact, a book near the top of my reading list,



The Counter-Revolution of 1776, Slave Resistance and the Origins of the United States of America.
Courtesy of netread.com.

The Counter-Revolution of 1776: Slave Resistance and the Origins of the United States of America, by the historian Gerald Horne, argues that the main cause of the Revolutionary War was the colonies' desire to become a slave nation, a status that England opposed.

In the little space that remains, I will simply say that the economy's need for skilled personnel in the workplace has never been greater, and therein lays great opportunity.

R. T. Andrews

NEWSMAKERS • OCTOBER 2014



Margaret Bernstein is now Director of Advocacy and Community Initiatives at WKYC-TV.



Erwin Hines is now Director of Business Development at **The AKA Team**

Ronald Hill is retiring this month after 24 years as CEO of the **Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging**.

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

Opportunity Corridor Pre-Bid Meeting and ODOT Matchmaker, Oct. 6

A pre-bid meeting and matchmaker event have been scheduled for Monday, Oct. 6 from 8AM-noon at the Bureau of Workers Compensation, 4800 East 131 St, Garfield Heights 44105.

Contact Deborah Green at 216.584.2003 / deborah.green@dot.state.oh.us with any questions or to register.

Public Speakers Assn. to hold first monthly meeting Oct. 16



JaTaya
Wiley

JaTaya Wiley and Shaunna Stephens have launched a local chapter of the Greater Cleveland chapter of the Public Speakers Association, an organization devoted to helping its members build public speaking businesses, learn the latest marketing and technology trends, and provide networking opportunities.

The founders and chapter directors believe the new group should appeal to current or aspiring life coaches, consultants, authors, speakers, trainers, or entrepreneurs. Wiley and Stephens say that want members to be able to “change the world from the front of the room”.

Chapter meetings will be held the third Thursday of each month at Mavis Winkles, 5005 Rockside Rd., from 6-8PM, starting this month.



Shaunna
Stephens

Norman S. Minor Bar Association honors three Trailblazers Oct. 24



Melody
Stewart



Stephen
Rowan



Michelle
Johnson

Rev. Dr. Stephen Rowan, senior pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Judge Melody J. Stewart of the Ohio Court of Appeals, and Michelle Johnson

Tidjani, deputy chief legal officer of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, will be honored for their contributions to the legal profession and the larger community at the annual Trailblazers Luncheon of the Norman S. Minor Bar Association.

The luncheon will be held at the Marriott at Key Center at 11:30 on Friday, Oct. 24. Proceeds from the event help underwrite scholarships for students. Tickets may be purchased online at www.nsmba.org. Questions? Email the group at trailblazer@msnba.org.

Second Annual MBE to MBE Showcase at Convention Center Nov. 17

One of the biggest challenges MBEs seem to face is figuring out how to cooperate with fellow MBEs. This annual MBE showcase aims to assist MBEs in growing and developing their businesses, and to build robust relationships with fellow MBEs as well as corporate, government and community partners. Attendees will also learn how to navigate through the Ohio Workers' Compensation System, and gain a greater understanding of the Affordable Care Act and its implications for businesses. After the morning and noon sessions, there will be a trade show from 1 to 4PM. The event will take place at the Convention Center, 300 Lakeside Ave. Call 216.771.8702 for details.

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volunteering 100,000 hours of their time. From refurbishing homeless shelters to replenishing local food banks to cleaning up parks to helping soldiers and their families, we're donating the most precious resource of all: our energy. Learn more by visiting dom.com/foundation.



dom.com



HEALTH CALENDAR



Email/fax Health Calendar items to rta@TheRealDealPress.com/216.672.4304 six weeks in advance

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH!

Business of Wellness Conference at Corporate College East on Oct. 9

Dr. Michael Roizen, chair of the Wellness Institute at Cleveland Clinic, will keynote this all-day conference on educating employers on corporate wellness programs in the wake of the Affordable Care Act. Other presenters include AdvoCare co-founder Karen Agnich; Françoise Adan of University Hospitals; and Steffany Larkins, EVP and chief diversity officer of Medical Mutual, who will provide an insurer's perspective on the ACA. The conference is designed for HR, insurance, healthcare, wellness, and finance professionals. For more information, visit corporatecollege.com/businessofwellness.

American Cancer Society sponsoring 5k fundraising walk at Metroparks Zoo, Oct. 12

The American Cancer Society is sponsoring a 5K fundraising walk at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on Sunday, October 12. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer begins at 8:45AM with registration starting at 7:45AM. To learn more: visit makingstrideswalk.org/Cleveland, Christine.grapo@cancer.org, or 888.227.6446 x 1210.

Breast Care Awareness Fashion Show set for Oct. 12 at Acacia Country Club

I'm A Survivor Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Fashion Show was created in 2010 by siblings Robin and Paul Sadler following the news of their mother's

second diagnosis of breast cancer.

To honor their mother and all other survivors of breast cancer, Robin [aka Bijou Star] and Paul organized their charity fashion show to bring awareness to the disease and raise funds to donate to various cancer organizations.

Partner beneficiary of this year's fashion show is the Northern Ohio Breast Cancer Coalition.

The show features local and national designers, boutiques and clothing lines all participating to help find a cure for breast cancer.

For tickets/information, visit imasurvivorfashionshow.eventbrite.com.

Dialogue on Women's Health set for Oct. 15 at Lutheran Hospital

The Cleveland Clinic SALUD Employee Resource Group is hosting an intimate discussion on health trends, health challenges, and how you can be better equipped in healthcare discussions and decision making with your physician. The event takes place at Lutheran Hospital's Castele Learning Center, 1730 West 25 St, and leads off with a networking reception at 5:15PM-5:45PM networking reception followed by an hour long panel discussion starting at 6PM. Invited panelists include expert practitioners in obstetrics and gynecology, dermatology, sleep disorders and internal medicine. Call/email 216.445.7318 / SALUD@ccf.org to register.

Brookings expert to discuss sex and parenthood without marriage, Oct. 21

Isabel V. Sawhill, Ph.D., co-director of the Center on Children and Families at The Brookings Institution, will speak on "Generation Unbound: Drifting into Sex & Parenthood without Marriage" at MetroHealth Hospital on October 21 as part of a 10AM-noon program.

Affordable Care Act 101 Webinars every Thursday at 2PM

SBA and Small Business Majority host free Affordable Care Act 101webinars so small business owners can learn the basics of the Affordable Care Act and how they can enroll in health insurance marketplaces. Every Thursday at 2PM. Register here: www.sba.gov/healthcare.

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Celebrate Sisterhood, featuring Montel Williams, set for Oct. 25

Celebrate Sisterhood, the Multicultural Health and Wellness Summit event founded by Dr. Linda Bradley, and now in its 11th year, is scheduled for Saturday Oct. 25 at Landerhaven.

The daylong event, which sells out regularly, begins at 7:30AM and goes until 5PM.

This year's keynote speaker is television personality Montel Williams who will speak on "How You Can Become an Empowered

Patient". Dr. Mark Hyman will offer a six-week plan for a healthier life.

The day will include presentations on natural hair, common skin conditions for women of color, cooking, financial well-being, raffle prizes & gift bags, free health screenings and assessments, breakfast & lunch.

Tickets [\$50] are required. Visit/call clevelandclinic.com/celebratesisterhood/855.897.7727 for more information



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African-American Cultural Garden: Struggling, but Progressing

Continued from Page 1

been in contact with Antwone Fisher in California. I'm reaching out to LeBron James, Arsenio Hall, Halle Berry and others. But we're not limiting our efforts to African Americans."

Ewing and the AACGA have a renewed sense of urgency, fueled by a meeting last month that became the latest in a series of disappointments concerning funding for the garden's development. Former mayor Michael R. White earmarked a quarter million dollars of a "train settlement" the city received during his first term. The money was donated by CSX and Norfolk Southern railroads after their purchase of Conrail supplied the city with rail service and a much-needed commercial boost. However, frequent automobile jams and noise pollution came with it and the city received a lump sum compensation from which White allocated \$250,000 toward the AACGA's upgrade.

"Since then, different architects have submitted designs for building the garden. Those plans come with a cost. So the settlement money has slowly eroded," Ewing said. Though that initial stake is gone, the association and various individual community groups have given various smaller amounts to keep alive hope that waning interest in the project may be rekindled. "There's about \$127,000 available now, but

"We've already been in contact with Antwone Fisher in California. I'm reaching out to LeBron James, Arsenio Hall, Halle Berry and others. But we're not limiting our efforts to African Americans."

—Carl Ewing

public trust has diminished over the years and it's an uphill climb at this point to gather support within our own community."

Since its official dedication ceremony in October 1977, the African American Cultural Garden, which represents Cleveland's largest ethnic community, has ironically remained the least developed of all the garden sites. The Cleveland Cultural Gardens is a network comprising 29 individual land plots that run two miles southeast from Interstate 90 along Martin Luther King Blvd. Each dedicated plot has a support group comprised of members of the ethnic group their garden honors. Collectively, CCG also has the backing of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation, of which Ewing is an executive board member.

"We've made appeals to black church organizations, civic groups (such as the local Urban League and NAACP chapters), etc., but there's not been a single dollar so far. Once I was giv-

en two minutes to speak at a meeting of black church pastors, but it wasn't enough time to adequately advance our purpose, let alone make an appeal."

The approach of the fall season means the end of bidding for construction company contracts until next year. Neither Ewing nor the constituency his association represents is willing to wait any longer after having what he acknowledges as minimal progress over 37 consecutive years. The city is aware of his personal fundraising proposal and has been asked for the most visible venue available — as soon as possible — to host the mega event. "We're aiming to secure a major public venue, like Public Hall or the Public Auditorium. We need that scale of visibility to attract the participants we want and the support we need." Ewing emerged from the September 15 meeting with the realization that momentum had to be recreated to secure approximately a half-million dollars just to implement "Phase 1" of the proposed

garden construction project. Bickerstaff's firm, Ubiquitous Design, has provided a YouTube video that captures the vision in moving 3-D imagery. The elaborate \$2.5 million proposal will include pavilions representing the past, the present and the future, along with a cascading waterfall.

Ewing retains hope that city officials will back his efforts to make the fundraiser happen. "After approaching (Cleveland City Public Affairs Chief) Natoya Walker Minor about the need for a high-profile public venue, she told me that a search committee is being formed. She indicated that she would check several possible outlets, and that she just wants to be kept in the loop."

In the meantime, Ewing and the association are busy contacting recognizable Cleveland personalities to join the fight. "We've taken a lot of heat for lack of progress. I don't want to be known as simply the next association president who left the post but got nothing done."

THE REAL DEAL
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Cleveland School Levy Renewal Back Before Voters

By Kirby Freeman

Real Deal Press Correspondent

Cleveland voters will get a chance in November to renew an approximately \$200 million tax levy earmarked to rebuild or refurbish over 40 school buildings throughout the city, with school district leaders confident that they have made sufficient efforts to seek community involvement.

The willingness of Cleveland parents and voters to approve the district's operating levy two years ago, made leaders seek to engage community residents to renew the building levy, according to Pat Zohn, chief operating officer of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

"Given the trust and the investment the residents made in passing the operating levy ... they were full partners in the process," Zohn said, adding that the district made an unprecedented effort to host a number of community forums to seek community input.

The levy, which will continue to fund the city's efforts to rebuild or maintain approximately 90 school district buildings, will refurbish about 20 to 23 buildings, while constructing approximately 20 new buildings to replace current facilities. The levy also includes a 0.5 mill tax, earmarked to generate approximately \$2.5 million a year for 10 years to fund building maintenance efforts.

"Now it's our responsibility to just assist parents to make the right decisions," said Terry Butler, former principal of East Technical High School and vice president at Cuyahoga Community College, who is leading the bond levy campaign.

Administrators contend that the upcoming November levy will

not result in a tax increase. Passage of the levy will simply represent a continuation of a levy – Issue 14 – which was approved by voters in 2001. It should be noted that for every \$1 expected to be generated from the facilities levy, the State of Ohio, through the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, will provide approximately 68 cents.

Under the facilities renovation plan, administrators have broken the district into 12 neighborhood "clusters", which is designed to encourage quality school choice opportunities in every neighborhood throughout the city. Seven of the clusters are designated to be conglomerations of East Side neighborhoods, with the remaining 5 designated as West Side.

"We looked more organically as to how those neighborhoods functioned. You are not going to see the same model of building in the same pattern in every cluster," said Patty Choby, principal of Cobalt Group, the consulting company hired by the school district to help implement the master plan and gather neighborhood feedback.

Zohn and Choby stressed that community feedback indicates that traditional frameworks of insular "academic neighborhoods", where students only attended the schools nearest where they lived, is outdated. Choby said parents and students want the freedom to attend whatever schools will provide them the best academic opportunity.

However, administrators also said that neighborhood residents still wanted to know that they had updated school facilities and high quality instruction in their areas. Choby said the district's new facility plan strongly incorporates the idea of choice, while balancing the effort to keep high-quality schools in all neighborhoods of the city.

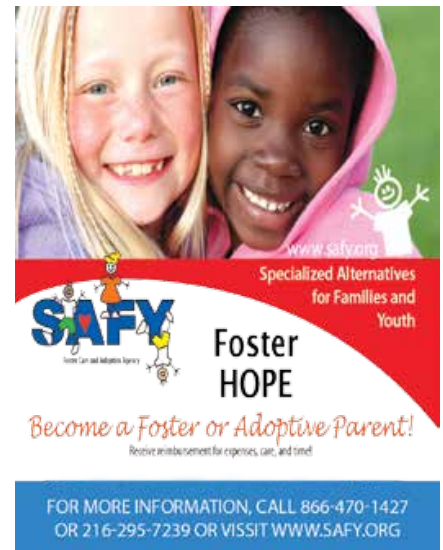
Choby indicated that the level of community input extended to whether certain school buildings within the 12 designated clusters would be refurbished, abandoned and demolished, or torn down and rebuilt. "We have engaged the public quite extensively... that community has been established as to whether a building needs to be rebuilt or refurbished," she said.

Choby said their community feedback showed that most parents, with children in kindergarten through Grade 8, tended to want to be in neighborhoods with very good goods near their homes. She said that about one-half of the parents of high school students very much valued the concept of school choice, and were not opposed to travelling through different areas of the city to get their children to high performing schools.

Despite the administrators' contention that they have aggressively sought community engagement, some neighborhood leaders have questioned the District's ability to maintain its financial condition.

However, Zohn said he has not heard of any organized opposition, which he attributes to the campaign's strategy of engaging city council members, community development corporation leaders, and other community partners. "We have a very good case to make," he added.

Butler said that for the most part, parents did come out, however more residents could have been more aggressive and consistent in their participation. "Many of the people that I have had the opportunity of sharing this bond levy with did not take the initiative of participating in the process. ... It's incumbent on each of us to be informed," he added.



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Community Forum Discussion Justice for Whom? Who Wins, Who Loses, & Why? Sunday, October 5th, 9:30-10:45

Is mass incarceration a moral, economic, or legal failure? U.S. prisons are a growth industry with the highest rate of incarceration in the world. What are the priorities for prison reform, and where do we start?



**Shakyra Diaz, Policy Director,
ACLU of Ohio**
First Unitarian Church
21600 Shaker Blvd.,
Shaker Heights, 44122

Business owner, scholars among honorees at Warrensville affair

The Northeast Ohio African American Library and Cultural Center will host its annual spotlight affair Saturday, Oct. 25, at Warrensville Heights Civic and Senior Center.

The organization annually recognizes high achievers in a variety of fields as a way of modeling to young people the possibilities that exist in a variety of careers.

Honored this year are:

Constance Harper, associate publisher and editor of the Call & Post;

Dr. Christopher Hawkins, associate professor and counselor at Tri-C Eastern Campus;

Rev. Dr. R. E. Hedgeman; pastor of Bethany Christian Church, Cleveland;

Rev. Leah C. K. Lewis, Highland Hills councilwoman, author, and doctor of ministry candidate at Ashland

Theological Seminary's McCreary Center for Black Church Studies.

Frederick Parks, Jr., owner and operator of the popular Frederick's Restaurant in Warrensville Heights;

Bradley D. Sellers, mayor of Warrensville Heights and former professional basketball player; and

Dr. Regennia N. Williams, an associate professor of history at Cleveland State University. She is also founder and director of the "Praying: African American Faith Communities: A Documentary and Oral History" project.

The honors program will begin at 6PM and will be followed by a 7PM buffet. A reception beginning at 5PM will precede the program.

Call event chair Barbara Thompson at 216.991.1865 for more information. Tickets are \$35.

Minority STEM professionals hold national conference at CSU



Area middle and high school students took part in scientific and engineering demonstrations and competitions at the NTA conference, and heard a panel presentation by accomplished STEM professionals. Photos by Laura Scott.

The National Technical Association (NTA), the nation's oldest professional organization for minority practitioners in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), brought its 86th Annual Conference and STEM Career Fair to Cleveland State University, Wednesday, September 24 through Friday, September 26.

Over one hundred attendees from around the country took part in workshops, symposiums, a STEM Career Fair and youth activities centered on the theme, "Computational Thinking for a STEM Future." Among those taking part in the career fair were about 35 National Science Foundation-funded college students representing colleges and universities from around the nation.

A healthy contingent of NASA Glenn employees were on hand for the conference and to hear NASA Astronaut Stephanie Wilson keynote the Technical Achievers Awards Gala.



Dr. Robert L. Haynie, Astronaut Stephanie Wilson, Dr. Pamela Ellison, Dr. Malik E. Elbuluk, and NTA President Lance Foster at the NTA Gala Awards Dinner

Wilson is the second African American woman to go into space.

The three honorees recognized for their career achievements at the gala were all from northeast Ohio:

- in Education, Pamela Ellison, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Business, Mathematics, and Technology, Cuyahoga Community College;
- in Medicine, Robert L. Haynie, M.D., Ph.D., hypertension expert, leading educator, long-time faculty member, Case Western Reserve University
- in Engineering, Dr. Malik E. Elbuluk, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Akron.

Conference sponsors and Career Fair exhibitors included Cleveland State University, the Cleveland Clinic, Rockwell Automation, Parker Hannifin, Steris, NASA Glenn and Ames research centers, Cuyahoga Community College, NorTech, ideastream, and the Speed-to-Market Accelerator, a partnership of NorTech, JumpStart, MAGNET, and Lorain County Community College.

NTA, founded in 1925, is a network of engineers, scientists, educators and technical entrepreneurs historically underrepresented in STEM professions.

NASA Glenn engineer Lance Foster is NTA's national president and served as conference chair.



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Looking at Richmond Heights Recall

Continued from Page 1

The town's political establishment and general citizenry were eerily silent when the teacher's union president / basketball coach was bringing unprecedented *international* negative press to the city.

both elected and professional, and costly but necessary intervention by the US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights.

Ironically, while many recall supporters say that Headen caused the city unwanted publicity and embarrassment, the town's political establishment and general citizenry were eerily silent when the teacher's union president / basketball coach was bringing unprecedented *international* negative press to the city.

Courting Trouble

Headen knew how deeply opposed to change the city's elders were. She had often been the lone critical voice on council, challenging mismanagement by the Ursu administration and uncovering a \$300,000 error by the city's finance director. But when Russell Johnson, her lone ally on council, resigned in December to move out of state, Headen was left without a single dependable vote on Council for any change she wanted to make.

This absence of allies might have made a new mayor cautious, or at least strategic, especially one elected with a plurality less than 40% of the vote.

But while Headen sought and received all kinds of sage advice that would have taken her down a different path, she ignored almost all of it and moved ahead in a straight-line charge that allowed her opponents to characterize her as non-collegial, stubborn and even unstable.

Her many missteps, most of which were in fact minor, were regularly and cheerily chronicled by The Northeast Ohio Media Group, once known as *The Plain Dealer*. Its beat reporter, an earnest twenty-something reporter, seemed to begin every news account with a reference to the "controversial mayor", without ever providing any context — historic, demographic, cultural, or even political — to her regular opposition by city council. Some of this was due to the reporter's unfamiliarity with the community she was covering. But she was also totally played by the old guard, whose most deft representative is David Roche, the council president who, under city charter, now takes over as mayor for the more than three years remaining on Headen's term.

Roche stands six feet eight inches tall and likes to affect a genial presence, but the façade

occasionally cracks and his heavy handedness emerges. At a September council meeting just prior to the recall election, he became annoyed when an articulate citizen with a well-prepared complaint addressed the council. As Roche was repeatedly checked by the woman's response every time he tried to stifle her, many in the packed chamber called for her to retain the floor and get an appropriate response. Roche pounded his gavel, calling for silence, and telling the assembled taxpayers "it's a privilege [for you] to be here."

Roche did not answer repeated messages left on his home phone by this reporter. Used to running the city from the shadows under the Ursu administration, he was, courtesy of his total control of city council, quietly adept at consistently thwarting even Headen's modest initiatives. She was unable for instance, even to secure consent to her nomination of a mild-mannered minister to the city's long-dormant ethics commission.

For the record, Roche is Republican, but the loyalty he commands from council stems less from party labels than from the insider status city council has long enjoyed. The council rejected, at Roche's bidding, three highly qualified nominees to fill the Ward 2 vacancy following Russell Jackson's resignation. According to Headen, when she met with Roche after the resignation, he told her the seat would go to Frank Lentine no matter who she, Ward 2 residents, the city charter, or anyone else wanted or required.



David Roche will serve the next three years as Richmond Heights mayor, following last month's recall election.

After council delayed and then rejected each of the three nominees, Council then voted Lentine in, with several members saying publicly, he's one of us, he knows how to get along.

So Headen is out, partly a result of self-inflicted wounds, but mostly the victim of an inner circle she wanted to crush but in the end could neither dent nor circumvent. She came too late to understand her errors and to chart a new course. While she has undoubtedly paid a heavy price, personally and politically, in her efforts to reform her city, the larger story has remained untold.

What lies ahead

The true issues in Richmond Heights revolve not around personalities but are rooted in structural and process challenges, including cultural and demographic changes, an inadequate tax base, an underachieving and shrinking school system, ingrown cronism, a now healthy dose

of civic distrust, and the absence of effective institutions or mechanisms to address these challenges. These issues are not unique to Richmond Heights, but are shared by many other Cuyahoga communities as well.

The sadness many of us feel today is not only personal for Headen's setback — she was more than anything a well-intentioned reformer without an effective strategy — but because her ouster reinforces the kind of exclusive, secretive governance that caters to the short term interests of a few and has long since lost any connection to the duty and art of public service.

Change will come to Richmond Heights. Notwithstanding the multiple assaults upon her by her political foes, the guardians of Richmond Heights' false pride, and the aid of misleading media, Headen got more votes in the recall election than in her initial victory. Who will step forward to pick up the banner knocked from her grasp?

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

University Settlement hosting 6th Annual Taste of Slavic Village, Oct. 2

University Settlement invites you to join the Broadway-Slavic Village community on Thursday, Oct. 2 from 6-9pm for an evening of food and fun as a way of supporting crucial US programs that serve the neighborhood's children, families and seniors. The festivities will take place at the Bohemian National Hall at Sokol Greater Cleveland, 4933 Broadway. Call 216.641.8948 x 122 for tickets [\$50.]

100 Black Men of Cleveland to honor Deltas, others at Oct. 4 gala

The 100 Black Men of Greater Cleveland, Inc. will honor several local citizens and one organization at its 100 Black Men in Black Ties 14th Awards Gala, Saturday, Oct. 4. The event is being held at the InterContinental Cleveland Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Ave.

The 2014 awards and their recipients are:

- Mentoring Award: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. – Greater Cleveland Alumnae Chapter;
- Education Award: Renee Willis, Ph.D., Superintendent, Richmond Heights Local Schools;
- Health and Wellness Award: Kenneth Chance, D.D.S, the newly appointed first African American Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, CWRU;
- Economic Development Award: Herb Washington, President - H.L.W. Fast Track, Inc. • Owner and Operator of 27 McDonald's Restaurants in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

A special Trailblazer Award will be presented to Constance Harper, Editor & Associate Publisher of the Call & Post Newspaper for outstanding community commitment.

For ticket or other information, email/call/visit
Vicki@Imagine-That-Ent.com

Continued On Page 12



A special four part series on violence against women in our community

Building a Safer Community Series for Women

Special Guest Appearance by Dr. Tiffany G. Porter, Psy. D. with the Association of Black Psychologist and CWRU Counseling Services.

Times & Location For All Four Meetings:

5:30p-7:30p | Fatima Family Center (6600 Lexington Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44103)

♦ **THURS., October 9, 2014 (5:30-7:30p)**

Topic: Domestic Violence, part 1

Say No More to Domestic Violence. You are not alone!

Presenters: Gizell Ranzy-Executive Director of 2nd Chances Outreach Program & Alexandria Ruden, ESQ (Civil Protection Orders).

♦ **THURS., October 16, 2014 (5:30-7:30p)**

Topic: Resources for Women

Help is Available!

Presenters: Carrie Joseph-Domestic Violence & Child advocacy center & Jill Smialek- Family Justice Center & Special Guest- Laura Cowan.

♦ **THURS., October 23, 2014 (5:30-7:30p)**

Topic: Resources for Women affected by Domestic Violence, part 2

How to Navigate the System!

Presenters: Cleveland Police Dept.-Sergeant Evelyn Montalvo & Cleveland Prosecutors Office- Assistant City Prosecutor Lorraine Coyne & Special Guest -Pat Levy.

♦ **THURS., October 30, 2014 (5:30-7:30p)**

Topic: Self-Defense (come in your sweats)

Protecting Yourself!

Presenters: Cuyahoga County Sheriff Dept.

Refreshments Will Be Served

Cuyahoga County Councilwoman



Yvonne M. Conwell
District 7

Invites Ward 7 women and girls to attend these series that will address the issues of violence against women in our communities and together offer solutions to this problem.

The New
WARD 7
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See a plate that grabs your eye? Grab it back with your camera phone and mail it to us at rta@TheRealDealPress.com along with where and when you took it. You could win a prize.



EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

International language immersion school to open August 25

Global Ambassadors Language Academy [GALA] is hosting a series of community meetings around town to present information about Cleveland's new international language immersion school.

GALA is a new, K-8, Mandarin and Spanish language immersion, International Baccalaureate charter school. Sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, GALA will open in August 2015 and enroll grades K-1. GALA official Meran Rogers says GALA will be first foreign language immersion school in the region and the only Mandarin immersion school in the state.

Upcoming community sessions are set for the Shaker/Buckeye area on Oct. 2 at 5:30PM and Oct. 4 at 11AM. Other sessions will be held in Ohio City on Oct. 8 at 5:30PM and Oct. 9 at 5:30 in Kamms Corners.

To attend any of these sessions, visit www.GALACommunityInfoMeetings.eventbrite.com. For more information: www.gala-prek8.org.

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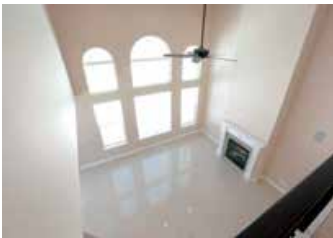
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR Continued from Page 10

/ 216.288-3656 / www.100blackmen-cleveland.org.

Willie Lynch in Cleveland Heights? Oct. 4-5

The infamous Willie Lynch letters may be no more real than the Protocol of the Elders of Zion but they do have a life of their own. Shaker Heights resident Fred Anthony Taylor will dramatize the purported correspondence of slaveholder Lynch that outlined the means by which slaves could be effectively controlled. Taylor wrote, directed, produced and acts in this Kultivation Theater production.

There will be shows at 6:30pm on October 4 and 5 at the Kultivation Theatre, 2134 Lee Rd in Cleveland Hts. Ticket prices are \$20 in Advance and \$25 at the door.

Ex-SF Mayor Willie Brown headlines sold-out gun violence forum Tri-C Thornton Center, Oct. 7

A forum on gun violence, prevention and solutions will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 7, at Tri-C's Jerry Sue Thornton Center, 2500 E. 22 St., Cleveland, Ohio 44115. The event begins at 9Am and will run until 3PM.

The luncheon keynote speaker will be former San Francisco Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.

Four panel discussions are planned, covering Law Enforcement, Media, Government & Legislation and Community/Grassroots. The moderators are Rick Jackson of ideastream, Basheer Jones, the Rev. Dr. Jawanza Colvin and Bakari Kitwana. Scheduled panelists include Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge, Ronn Richards of the Cleveland Foundation, Pastor R.A. Vernon of the Word Church, and Andy Gonzalez, Chief of Police, CMHA. Organizers hope to discuss solutions that can have an immediate impact on disrupting the epidemic of gun violence in the community.

The Event is free and open to the public however registration is required for admittance. The forum website stopped taking reservations two weeks ago and a capacity crowd is expected.

NEON to feature jazz at Inaugural Gala at Landerhaven, Oct. 11

The Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services [NEON] is hosting its

first ever benefit on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 6:30 PM until Midnight at Landerhaven. The evening will feature the contemporary premier jazz group Forecast. For ticket information, contact NEON's Development Office 216-231-7700 ext. 1125

Black Women's Political Action Committee hosting annual fundraiser at Acacia Reservation, Oct. 18

The Black Women's Political Action Committee may not be the electoral juggernaut it once was, but its fundraisers still draw the politicians in droves. BWPAC's annual event will be Saturday, Oct. 18 from 11AM-3PM. As we go to press, we heard they endorsed a GOP male candidate, Adam Trumbo, against a black woman, Warrensville Councilwoman Shontel Brown, in the race to succeed retiring County Council President C. Ellen Connally for the District 9 county council seat. We would have loved to have been in the room for that one! \$60 gets you in. Call 216.386.8673 or 216.990.5672 for tickets. But we bet they'll take your money at the door.

Case Western holds 9th annual Gospelfest at John Hay October 19

The Ninth Annual Stephanie Tubbs Jones Gospelfest Concert Celebration will be Sunday, Oct. 19, at 4PM at John Hay High School, 2075 Stokes Boulevard, 44106. Mark Ribbins of WNWV 107.3 FM will serve as the Master of Ceremonies.

Scheduled performers include the Case Western Reserve University's Voices of Glory; The Christian Brothers; the MEGA Church Choir; and the Joys Boys.

Ticket registration is now open here at case.edu/events/gospelfest/.

Cleveland NCNW hosting an Elegant Tea Party Fellowship, Oct. 26

The Cleveland Section National Council of Negro Women Inc. is hosting "An Elegant Tea Party Fellowship" 3:30PM - 5:30PM at Fairfax Place, 9014 Cedar Ave. Tickets are \$20, with proceeds to benefit the Cleveland NCNW's Adopt a School and Women's Outreach programs. Call 216-371-3886 or 216-375-0799 for tickets; no tickets will be sold at the door. Light refreshments will be served.