

# THE REAL DEAL

NOVEMBER 2014 • VOLUME ONE • NUMBER EIGHT PRESS



HBCU  
COLLEGE  
FAIR

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## ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

# Black Voters should take a look at [some] Republicans for a change

By R. T. Andrews  
Editor

It's not a big confession to say that as a black man I typically find it hard to vote for Republicans in non-judicial races. It's not that I'm especially loyal to Democrats. They are often as dogmatic as their supposed ideological counterparts. And politicians in both parties too often address black people in the most condescending way.

But even though those appallingly simplistic radio and TV commercials [hurray for print!] are a turn off, I'm intent on casting my ballot every time. Because I've spent enough time with politicians and elected officials to know this: **if you don't vote, you don't count.**

There is a reason why a pothole is more likely to get fixed in Ward 1 than in Ward 2, and it's not because Councilman Pruitt is a bet-

ter councilman than Zack Reed. It's because the folks at City Hall know that Ward 1 voters consistently turn out at the polls at a higher rate than voters in Ward 2. So whoever is mayor is going to pay more attention to Ward 1, because they vote more.

If you follow this logic, you understand that it is your interest to get your neighbors to vote. So vote yourself, and encourage your neighbors to

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County Councilman Jack Schron has made himself at home in the black community during his campaign to become county executive. Here he poses with his wife and new friends at the 100 Black Men of Cleveland gala in October



Hough Biocellar under construction in 2013.

## Biocellar/Neighborhood Agricultural Development

By Derek Dixon

CLEVELAND — An urban pioneer stood near a Hough area street corner last month and, surrounded by a diverse group of renewal-minded citizens that included Mayor Frank Jackson and several city council members, illustrated that the right combination of “urban,” “felon” and “wine” can actually serve to improve lives instead of ruining them.

The Oct. 17 occasion was in celebration of the newest edition

to The Vineyards of Chateau Hough, a three-quarter acre grape orchard born of an opportunity offered to ex-offenders in 2008 to earn income for themselves and give an agricultural boost for a blighted region.

“I have a mission for social change,” said keynote presenter Mansfield Frazier, who not only conceived the idea of vineyard at East 66 St. and Hough Ave., but developed both it and the brand new “BioCellar” that stands adjacent. The BioCellar is an en-

vironment where the growth of plants for food can be sustained year-round within a subterranean greenhouse.

“The vineyard actually started out as a joke,” recounted Frazier. “When I was first digging the hole, a fireman down the street asked if I was putting in a swimming pool. I said ‘No, I’m starting a vineyard.’”

The idea, whose funding came through a grant from the city to Frazier’s own non-profit Neighborhood Solutions,

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## Black Voters Continued from Page 1

do so as well.

Ferguson, Missouri would be a very different city if black voter turnout was a mere 60% on a steady basis. So would Euclid, Maple Heights and Richmond Heights. I walked into Euclid City Hall a couple of years ago, and thought I was in 1950s Parma. I knew instantly that black voter participation there was pathetic, and that black folk weren't likely to get much respect from City Hall.

### Not every Republican has a tail

Of course, voting doesn't mean as much if we don't know who we are voting for. I want to take a look at three races in particular: governor, county executive, and county council district 9. In each of those races there is a Republican who is worth taking a look at.

As I look at these races, I note first that the bigger the electorate the more the party label seems to matter. Governor Kasich is every inch the Republican, and a very calculating one at that, so much so that he's hard to put in a box. He has confounded some by favoring Medicaid expansion and supporting the Cleveland school

transformation plan. But those decisions are easily explained by economics: paying the bills for those acts is somebody's else's responsibility.

What is more fascinating, and potentially appealing to black voters, is Kasich's support for leveling the economic playing field. Kasich may have done more in the way of creating opportunities to black businesses than any governor in Ohio history. If that were the only issue, he'd get my vote hands down.

But I also look at two other issues: education and social justice. Kasich is in lockstep with his Republican mates on supporting and expanding for-profit charter schools in Ohio. If they are not soon stopped, the results will be disastrous for all Ohioans, particularly black ones. There are many fine charter schools of all types, but the way Ohio's charter regime has been set up and run is a license to plunder the public treasury and dismantle public education in the name of saving it. So even if I like Kasich for his genuine [but calculated] outreach to black business, I have to think the scales tip the other way for his education policies, which are pretty much identical with

his party's.

Social justice is a broad term, one that encompasses among other things, equal access to the ballot box. The history of America is replete with laws neutral on their face that have operated to make voting by black citizens difficult, if not impossible or illegal. This is particularly the ideological heritage of those who once were racist southern Democrats but who found a new home in the GOP once President Lyndon Johnson began to drive civil rights reforms in the mid-sixties.

Kasich identifies with these ideologues in his party who want to make voting more difficult for poor and minority citizens. A vote for him is a vote for them. So I hope he continues to roll out the State's welcome mat to black businesses. But I can't vote for him.

### Trumbo an exciting choice in County District 9

The race for district county seat 9 is a unique contest in many ways. The Democrat Shontel Brown and the Republican Adam Trumbo are both relatively young and inexperienced political candidates, though Brown has been

a Warrensville Heights councilwoman for the past two years. Both are intelligent, articulate, and respectful of one another. They should be of course, as they both belong to the same church, Mt. Olive Baptist.

Trumbo comes by his Republican bona fides naturally. His parents [Sara Harper and George Trumbo] are both Republicans, both retired judges, longtime pillars in the black community, and true public servants whether in or out of office. Trumbo, a banker, is a fount of ideas on how to support and grow minority business. He's new to politics but he's thoughtful, earned two master's degrees, lived abroad, and speaks at least one foreign language, all of which suggests to me that he would quickly learn to hold his own at county council. His very presence would give the lie to the absurd notion that black people think and vote in lockstep.

### County executive candidates a study in contrast

The race for county executive is fascinating, notwithstanding the efforts of the Democrat Armond Budish, to act as if his election is a foregone conclusion. The former

Speaker of the Ohio General Assembly is a prodigious fundraiser, and has used that strength to buy his frontrunner status. He has spent much of the campaign, including the primary, wooing party insiders with the inevitability of his election. He is not a natural politician and often appears ill at ease whenever a public encounter is not scripted and controlled. He does the politically correct thing, but he seems to do it without feeling.

His Republican opponent, Jack Schron, is quite a study in contrast. He's been a businessman his entire life, and while he won a seat when the new county council was formed, he won it in a district from which black voters were largely scrubbed. But if you followed Schron on the campaign trail, you'd think he was the one with the larger number of black constituents. He's natural and comfortable in virtually every setting, and projects an openness and sincerity that eludes his opponent.

Of course, we are talking personality here, and subjectively at that. But we are also talking character, and Schron

**Continued Page 5**



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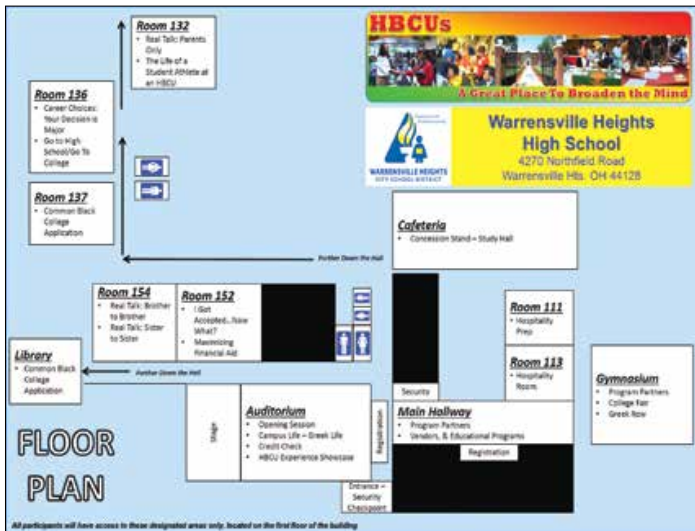
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Supporting Organizations: ASU, Black College, etc.

FAST TRACK Workshops		Event/Workshop Descriptions	
<b>OSW</b>	<b>Opening Session Welcome</b> Moderator: TBA Presented By: UNCF This high-energy opening presentation is designed to welcome and empower all participants to experience "A Different World from where they came from." The session will also preview the day's activities and feature HBCU graduates who are have made exceptional and remarkable strides professionally in Northeast Ohio.	Suggested Target Audience: ALL	
<b>CFH</b>	<b>College Fair &amp; Vendor Exhibit Hall</b> Interact with HBCU schools, educational exhibitors and vendors. The professionals are on hand to engage each student and parent to want to know more about their institution or program. A variety of vendors are available providing resources or services ranging from job/internships, youth programs, health & wellness, community & social services, and retail items.	Suggested Target Audience: ALL	
<b>IGA</b>	<b>I Got Accepted... Now What???</b> Congratulations! You have been accepted into the school of your dreams. What do you do next? In this workshop, students will learn about what action steps they can take to prepare for their arrival on campus. Facilitator: Stacy Watts Presented By: College Now of Greater Cleveland	Suggested Target Audience: 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students	
<b>CCM</b>	<b>Career Choices: Your Decision is Major</b> This workshop will enable students to think critically about their college major and to determine what careers are best for them and how to transition from one field to another. Facilitator: Monica Bourn Presented By: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Alpha Omega Chapter	Suggested Target Audience: 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students	
<b>G<sup>2</sup>C</b>	<b>Go to High School - Go to College</b> Will cover development of one's self-image and how that transfers to decision making. This workshop is intended to address how to say no to adverse choices and situations because you value yourself more. Facilitator: Cliff Lewis & Melvin Hamilton Presented By: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Delta Alpha Lambda Chapter	Suggested Target Audience: 11 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Males Only	
<b>CLG</b>	<b>Campus Life - Greek Life</b> A workshop that gives an overview of campus life experiences and information about the Historically Black Greek Lettered Organizations. Facilitator: Michelle Kenney, Latasha Brown, & Steven Robertson Presented By: National Pan-Hellenic Council of Greater Cleveland	Suggested Target Audience: ALL	
<b>CRC</b>	<b>Credit Check</b> Obtaining and understanding your credit report, and how this information can affect your child financial aid process. Making the most of your finances. Facilitator: Sharon Murphy-Williams Presented By: Peace Foundation	Suggested Target Audience: Parents Only	
<b>RTP</b>	<b>Real Talk: Parent's Only</b> How parents cope with sending their child away to school, dealing with student's needs, and the "Empty Nest Syndrome." The focus of this workshop is to prepare parents on how to be an advocate and supporter of their child while they are away from home. Facilitator: Parent Group Presented By: CCBCAA	Suggested Target Audience: Parents Only	
<b>RTB</b>	<b>Real Talk: Brother to Brother</b> An open and honest gender-specific workshop addressing topics of interest, circumstances, and situations incoming freshmen may deal with during the first year of their collegiate matriculation. This session will deal with real life, real issues and real solutions from recently graduated HBCU alumni. Facilitator: Young Alumni Council Presented By: CCBCAA	Target Audience: Male Students Only	
<b>RTS</b>	<b>Real Talk: Sister to Sister</b> An open and honest gender-specific workshop addressing topics of interest, circumstances, and situations incoming freshmen may deal with during the first year of their collegiate matriculation. This session will deal with real life, real issues and real solutions from recently graduated HBCU alumni. Facilitator: Young Alumni Council Presented By: CCBCAA	Target Audience: Female Students Only	
<b>APP</b>	<b>Common Black College Application</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> grade and recent high school graduate students will have the opportunity to complete the Common Black College Application at no cost. This is an initial \$36.00 savings. Application is submitted to 37 specific HBCUs. Representatives will also receive student transcripts, test scores and other related materials to be sent to the associated schools. Facilitator: TBA Presented By: McDonald's	Target Audience: 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade & Recent Graduates Only	
<b>AID</b>	<b>Maximizing Financial Aid</b> This presentation is designed to provide participants with techniques to applying for federal aid, developing an efficient strategy for finding scholarships, understanding loans and grants, completing the scholarship application and other educational funding programs. Facilitator: Yolanda Hill Presented By: Cuyahoga Community College	Suggested Target Audience: 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade, Parents	
<b>LSA</b>	<b>The Life of a Student Athlete at an HBCU</b> Ever considered expanding your sports career beyond high school? This workshop is for you. Learn about the athletic and academic opportunities available at HBCUs and how to make sure your grades and your play is at a superior level. Then explore opportunities and careers beyond the game. Facilitator: James Abrams Presented By: CCBCAA	Suggested Target Audience: ALL	
<b>SHO</b>	<b>The HBCU Experience Showcase</b> This presentation will display the talents of area high school students that display the style and favor of the "Black College" campus. Many of the directors and coaches are also HBCU graduates and their institution's rich legacy is reflected in the student's presentation. Featuring... Youth Ship Teams, Area High Schools Drum-lines, Cheerleaders, & Dance Teams.	Suggested Target Audience: ALL	

# Tri-C Seeks Voter Approval for Levy Renewal, Increase

By Kirby V. Freeman

Cuyahoga Community College is asking voters in the county for renewal of a 1.2 mill levy to help maintain operations at the institution, as well as an additional 0.9 mill levy to protect against ongoing funding cuts by the State of Ohio.

The combined levy proposals, which will be among several on the November 4 ballot, is projected to account for about \$80 million in county funding for the community college. Collection of tax receipts from the levies will begin in 2015 and continue for 10 years.

Tri-C President Alex Johnson said he feels confident that the college has made its case to the voters over the last few weeks and months. "We feel very, very strongly that there is support from the voters," he contended. Proponents of the funding measure estimated that the total request asks homeowners throughout the county to pay for an educational investment amounting to about \$2.63 per month on a \$100,000 home.

"Every county dollar invested in Tri-C results in over \$10 in contributions to the tax base," Johnson said. He said it should be noted that most of the total levy constitutes a renewal of the existing levy, and is not a tax increase.

The additional 0.9 mill increase helps to make up for about \$63 million in reductions in direct state funding support, as well as lower property tax values from the 2007 through 2009 economic downturn and the resulting slow economic growth in recent years.

**"It's not just about now, but it's about the future. So many people have benefited from this institution."**

Johnson said the added funding would continue to support the recent 70% increase in enrollment in Workforce Development over the last year. The renewal and increase is also expected to help ensure that Tri-C continues to keep current with the application and operation of information technology and educational equipment.

"It's not just about now, but it's about the future. So many people have benefited from this institution," Johnson added. Tri-C currently has an estimated total student enrollment of approximately 60,000.

Administrators have said that internal polling has shown that when voters generally support the Tri-C levies, once they are specifically told just how important the levies mean to the maintenance and growth of the institution.

"We hope that the polling is an indication of how well Tri-C is received in the community," Johnson said. "Tri-C represents a true foundation for real economic development throughout the county," Johnson added.

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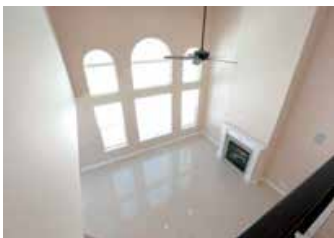
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## Black Voters Continued from Page 2

is convincing a lot of black people that his would be an open, non-ideological administration where merit and ideas would matter more than skin color or group affiliation. And this impression is reinforced by some Democrats who have worked with Schron on county council.

Cleveland's black politicians still like to celebrate the city's accomplishment in electing Carl Stokes the nation's first black big-city mayor in 1967. Most fail to appreciate what a sophisticated political leader Stokes was. More than once he worked across party lines to gain advantage for his constituents, whether that meant cutting a deal with a Republican governor, or turning out votes for a Republican with character as a means of letting Democratic bosses know that black votes could not be taken for granted.

We haven't queried Schron on a number of issues to determine where he stands. But he is appearing at the East Cleveland Public Library on Nov. 1 at noon, where voters can take a measure of the man in a moderated discussion. Budish will follow Schron two hours later [Budish declined to make a joint appearance in any format but the event's organizer, Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope [NOAH], deserves credit for at least getting Budish to appear

in the heart of the black community without intermediaries.

Win or lose, Schron has set an example of how politicians ought to campaign all across the district where they seek office. Carl Stokes certainly did, and that's another lesson that his political successors ought to emulate.

#### Other state races

We think statewide the Democrats have fielded superior candidates in every race besides the governorship. Homegrown **Nina Turner** will make an outstanding Secretary of State if she wins. **Connie Pillich** will be a vast improvement over Josh Mandel, who we would love to see retire to private life. **David Pepper** would stop wasting public money on all these friend of the court briefs Attorney General Mike DeWine is filing to support right-wing crusades, and **John Patrick Carney** would be a lot more diligent than incumbent State Auditor David Yost at investigating the massive fraud and abuse that infect Ohio's charter school regime.

Better to vote for the wrong candidate than not to vote at all. Even better to vote for the best candidate, and then to hold the winner accountable.

## License Plate of the Month

What could have been a more thematic plate for the end of October? This owner even had the right color car for the plate. Send us your choice for License Plate of the Month. You could win a prize.



### FAITH NEWS NOVEMBER 2014

#### NEW PASTOR FOR LANE METROPOLITAN CME

Lane Metropolitan CME Church, 2131 East 46th St., invites one and all to join the congregation in welcoming its new pastor, the Rev. Kenneth D. Thomas, on Saturday, December 6, at 4pm. For more information call 216.391.9368.

**“TIME’S UP” CHRISTIAN DRAMA SET FOR MASONIC TEMPLE, NOV. 2**  
“Time’s Up, a theatrical presentation written by Vivian Cassel that imagines the first day of Tribulation, as described in the Book of Revelations will receive its fourth performance on Sunday, Nov. 2 at the Masonic Temple, 13520 Kinsman Rd.

The performance will be directed by Andre Brown. A free will offering will be taken. For more information, write/call shirleyesolomon@gmail.com/216.288.2623.



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### ALERT: Deadline for Medicare Annual Enrollment is December 7

#### Cancer Education and Awareness Event

The Stephanie Tubbs-Jones Health Center is sponsoring the 7th Annual Crowns of Life cancer education and awareness program and luncheon on Saturday November 8th from 11am – 3pm. The luncheon and program will take place at the McGregor Place, 14900 Private Drive.

New to the Crowns Program this year is the invite to men dealing with cancer, who are in need of education and awareness; this Dapper Derby Special Edition to the Crowns of Life Program will highlight men and their personal struggles of cancer. Fashions by Fowler will present fashions for both men and women.

Participants are encouraged to celebrate the day by wearing their finest haberdashery.

To register call (216) 767-4447 and select option 3.

#### Nurses host 5th Annual Winetasting, Saturday Nov. 1

The North Coast Nurses Coalition is hosting a winetasting fundraiser at the Beachwood Doubletree Inn on Nov. 1. The \$50/person ticket includes wine, food, and a live jazz performance by the Dave Crawford Project. Contact [north-coastnursescoalition@gmail.com](mailto:north-coastnursescoalition@gmail.com) for more information and to reserve a ticket.

#### Free Clinic fundraiser, the 17th annual Microbrew Extravaganza, is Nov. 21

The Free Clinic's Associate Board is hosting its signature fundraiser this year at the Ariel International Center, 1163 East 40 St., Cleveland, from 6:30 – 11:30 p.m., on Friday, November 21.

Organizers promise Interaction with the region's best brewers and their products, along with delectable hors d'oeuvres, and dancing the night away to live music from Abby Normal and the Detroit Lean. Participating breweries include Great Lakes Brewing Company, Black Box Buckeye Brewery, Thirsty Dog, and many more.

Tickets are: \$65 in advance/\$75 at the door/\$50 designated driver option.

All net proceeds from event go to The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland, which provides comprehensive medical, dental, and behavioral health services to medically underserved individuals throughout Northeast Ohio.



**CAMPUS NOTEBOOK**

**Case Western Reserve University  
Social Justice Institute to host Fall 2014  
Student and Youth Leadership Conference**

The Social Justice Institute will hold its Fall 2014 Student and Youth Leadership Conference on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Thwing Center, room 201.

The day will begin with a discussion of "What is Social Justice?" followed by testimonials and dialogue with Tanetta Andersson, visiting assistant sociology professor at Trinity College, and youth speaker Cyle Black. Later, breakout sessions will challenge participants to think about and recognize how privilege and power

dynamics work in their lives and in the greater society.

Rhonda Y. Williams, founder and director of the Social Justice Institute, and Shakyra Diaz, policy

manager for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Ohio, will facilitate the conference.

Call 216.368.7568 for more information. To register, visit [case.edu/socialjustice/events/upcomingEvents.html](http://case.edu/socialjustice/events/upcomingEvents.html).

**Cleveland State University**

The Cuyahoga Land Bank recently partnered with Cleveland State University and will be a host for the Campbell-Steinbacher fellowship in partnership with the Levin College of Urban Affairs and Dr. Dennis

Keating. **April Waltonen**, a CSU senior majoring in Organizational Leadership and Psychology was awarded the fellowship. She is a McNair Scholar and works closely with the Office of Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement. April grew up in Cleveland and lives in South Euclid with her family. April will be joining the Cuyahoga Land Bank for two semesters and will be focusing her work on research related to the impacts of the Cuyahoga Land Bank's side yard and renovation programs.



**HBCUs  
HBCU Annual College Fair  
at Warrensville HS, Nov. 22**

More than two dozen historically black colleges and universities will be participating in the 12th annual HBCU College Fair on Saturday, Nov.

22 at Warrensville HS, 4270 Northfield Rd. Fair hours will be 8a.m.-2p.m.

The lead sponsor for this year's fair is MetroHealth Hospital.

"As a graduate of Morehouse College, I know that my HBCU experience has helped me throughout my career by providing the skills and knowledge to succeed here at MetroHealth," said Edward R. Hills, DDS, FACD, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.

Several HBCUs will be offering onsite admission to eligible students who meet the minimum admission requirements with a completed application and other necessary documentation for acceptance.

[For more information see the HBCU College Fair ad on page 3].



**CLOCKWISE,  
from lower left:  
Black, Diaz,  
Andersson**

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## Biocellar Continued from Page 1

certainly had its critics initially. Frazier remembers being berated by one county official who learned former felons made up Frazier's construction crew. Undaunted, he opened the vineyard in the spring of 2010. Frazier's proclamation at that time was "This is about wealth-building, not about making a magnificent-looking structure. If it doesn't make dollars, it doesn't make sense. This is about creating jobs and creating wealth in an inner-city neighborhood."

The BioCellar was conceived by biologist and Upstream Permaculture owner Jean Loria. When a dilapidated house next to the vineyard was marked for razing, Loria deter-

mined the basement should be converted to a BioCellar. Frazier says the entire project, including architectural and construction costs, exceeded \$100,000—much higher than comparably sized vineyards. But he is quick to add that Chateau Hough brings uniqueness not commonly found in vineyards, such as grapes nurtured to withstand unusually cold winter temperatures. "Grapes aren't supposed to be harvested before the fourth year (of vine gestation). We took a risk by harvesting ours in year three of the project, and we survived." He estimates about ten bottles of wine valued at \$10 each has resulted yearly from the vineyard.

In addition to its agricultural

relevance, plans are underway to use the asset for nutrition and wellness education. Frazier notes, "One of the biggest problems in our community is unhealthy eating among young people. We want to encourage healthy eating as we go forward."

A long-time Hough resident and community activist, Frazier is open about his own criminal history. He is motivated to help other ex-felons who constantly meet barriers in their pursuit of meaningful employment and adequate housing. "I can't say I personally struggled, but many people do," remembers Frazier, whose imprisonment on counterfeiting charges ended for good in 1994. "A former crime partner of mine

named 'Marty' said something I'll always remember. 'Going to prison is not nearly as difficult as coming home.'"

Former Neighborhood Solutions ground foreman Alandus Rucker, and his wife, former Supervisor Alisa Rucker, cite their own reentry battles.

"I was blessed to get the foreman position. I used to have a power-washing business and did landscaping, but lost my customers in 2008 when the housing market crashed. We lost our income, were evicted, and found ourselves homeless. Thankfully, Alisa's mother directed us to an ad for this project. We slowly built our income back up," Rucker says, expressing not only

his gratitude for Frazier, but also for his caseworker, Ron Cooper of Frontline Services. Rucker has since resumed providing landscaping and home improvement services, while Alisa is pursuing her GED with an eye toward continuing on to college. "(Alandus) is constantly pushing me to finish," she says. The couple is also raising three children.

The Ruckers are two of six people who qualified to become employees out of the dozen or so volunteers who helped build the vineyard. Several other contributors also expressed their appreciation at the ceremony for the difference this socioeconomic venture has made in their lives.



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