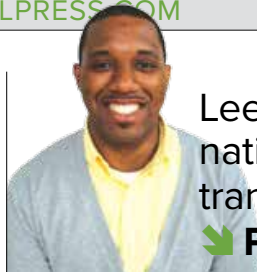


THE REAL DEAL

DECEMBER 2014 • VOLUME ONE • NUMBER NINE PRESS



Lee Harvard
native joins Budish
transition team

➔ PAGE 2

Barnes on Fire!

Should he put it out or fan the flames?

Representative's suit against fellow Democrats has potential to destabilize existing political order

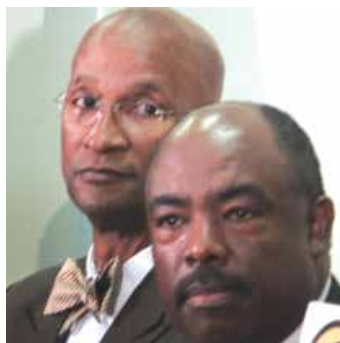
By R. T. Andrews
EDITOR

It's not often that an elected official sues his own party. But that's exactly what State Rep. John Barnes did, less than a week after his successful re-election.

Barnes filed suit Nov. 10 in Franklin County Common Pleas Court against the Ohio Democratic Party and its double lame duck chairman, Chris Redfern. The incompetent chair announced his intention to resign as party chair after leading his party to such a historic defeat that he was unable to hold onto to his own state house seat.

Technically, Barnes's suit is one for defamation. He accuses the defendants of making false statements about his position on Medicaid expansion and other issues. His prayer [legal request] is for a modest \$50,000 in damages. Either he doesn't place much value on his reputation or his lawsuit is about something else.

Whatever his reasons for the suit, the allegations of his complaint threaten to lay bare some of the complications of the state's racial fault lines. And the fallout could involve Cuyahoga County Executive-elect Armond Budish, who was House Minority Leader when Barnes returned to the General Assembly after near a decade away, as well as the county Democratic Party.



State Reps. John Barnes, in foreground, and Bill Patmon. The two Democrats had seats of honor when Republican Gov. Kasich came to town in September to spread Opportunity Corridor largesse.

Notwithstanding his earlier terms as a member of the House, Barnes began his new term in 2011 with no more seniority than a freshman. But he of course knew the rules of the game: some committee assignments are more desirable than others, and you have to go for what you want. Since the Minority Leader was in charge of the assignments, Barnes went to see Budish.

But there was a problem. Barnes along with his political partner, fellow Democratic Rep. Bill Patmon of Cleveland's Glenville area, had decided that he did not want to join the Ohio Black Legislative Caucus. He and Patmon wanted to operate independently of the Caucus. Barnes

Continued Page 10

9-1-1 Regionalization Raises Residents' Concerns

By Mary Jo Minarik
REAL DEAL CORRESPONDENT

After months of toying with various providers, Euclid City Council voted 5-4 on Nov. 3 to move its in-house dispatch center to Chagrin Valley Dispatch. The City claims the move will save \$200,000-\$300,000 a year at some point over the current \$1.1 million and also improve service.

Some residents aren't so sure. Euclid resident Marcus Epps called a public meeting at the Euclid library. About twenty people showed up, along with two of the councilmen who voted against the change:

"If you're a thriving community, you have no fear of hearing people out. You cannot be successful if you bury folks that don't agree with the status quo."

— Euclid councilman
Daryl Langman

Ward 5's Patrick McLaughlin and Ward 7's Daryl Langman.

Continued Page 8

Are Radar Traffic Signs a Cost Effective Solution for Northeast Ohio?

By Richard Donald Jones
REAL DEAL CORRESPONDENT

Now what? When Maple Heights city officials along with Optotrafic of Maryland announced their intention to install traffic cameras in the city earlier this year, both assumed it would be a long-term commitment — producing safer intersections, with an added bonus of much-needed money.

The benefits didn't last long as on November 4th, residents voted 3-to-1 to approve the Charter amendment that all but banned the cameras. 48

hours later the cameras were removed entirely from the city.

On the same day City of Cleveland residents voted on changes in that city's traffic camera enforcement policy that would have added an estimated \$19 million in expenses to continue operating. Cleveland turned off its cameras almost immediately.

And for good measure two weeks later Ohio lawmakers all but ended traffic cameras for the rest of the state when the Ohio Senate voted to pass legislation that would require a

Continued Page 12

We welcome letters to the editor. Please include your name, address, and your best phone number. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space.

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Lee Harvard native joins Budish transition team



Karlton A. Laster is looking to build a career as a public servant. He recently took another step in that direction by joining the transition team of County Executive-elect Armond Budish as an analyst. He will earn about \$7,700 for 10 weeks of work.

Laster, 24, is a lifelong resident of the Lee-Harvard community. He attended Whitney

M. Young Middle School and graduated from Benedictine HS. He is a cum laude graduate of The Ohio State University (B.A. English), and recently received a master's degree in public policy and administration from Northwestern University.

Laster is a former intern in the office of U.S. Rep Marcia Fudge and is a former page in the Ohio Senate. He is the son of Kenneth and Linda Laster and grew up in Antioch Baptist Church.

The transition team is working to develop possible legislation and other policies for when Budish assumes the county's top elected job in January. It is also working to hire Budish's cabinet and other top-level positions.



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Minding Your Money

Closing the Wealth Gap

By J. Burner Crew

Understanding risk can be an overwhelming task in any endeavor. As a commu-



J. Burner Crew

nity, we are taught to be safe and prudent when it comes to money and investing. “Don’t take risk” now has a very different meaning. For generations Certificates of Deposit (CD’s) were the best way to save money with safety.

Today, with one year CD’s paying less than 1% per year, that just doesn’t work for most investors. By example, if you saved \$250,000 for retirement and earn 1%, you receive \$2500.00 per year or \$208.33 per month. When rates were at 10% per year you received \$2083.30 per month. The difference is reasonable income in retirement with social security as a supplement vs. going back to work at least part time to maintain your standard of living.

Understanding the need to diversify your savings to increase the growth as rates move lower and the need to reduce growth when rates move up becomes fundamental.

In the most recent 5 years risk has been redefined to include a cost associated with too much safety and not

“More institutions and individuals decide each day to invest in the stock market because low interest rates will not produce the required income traditionally associated with CD’s and bonds.”

enough risk.

As a community, the risk is defined as disproportionate foreclosure rates, higher unemployment and a reduced tax base for our cities, towns and schools. There is a domino effect for lack of investing with growth.

It is time to better understand our capitalist economy and learn to manage risk. There is now risk associated with large quantities of your savings not producing enough income. The choice becomes difficult: spend principle or manage risk.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average continues to set all time record highs almost daily in this extremely low interest rate environment. More institutions and individuals decide each day to invest in the stock market because low interest rates will not produce the required income traditionally associated with CD’s and bonds.

Each investor must determine the amount of risk vs. safety and now the cost of managing risk becomes higher because loss of princi-

ple can result. As a community the wealth gap is getting greater. The U.S. economy is getting stronger and jobs are being created, values are going up. The goal is to participate by taking 3 simple steps:

First – ask questions and do your research until you are ready to take step 2.

Second - Create a savings & investment plan. A 401K from your employer or deferred account if you are self-employed is a good place to start.

Third - begin to invest from a conservative entry point. A good place to start is with large companies that you understand and whose products you use. Look at the items you own: an iPhone, your work out gear or where you cash your check. Take a look at how they have performed in the past year.

Ask questions and get answers, but learn to manage risk. Share your experience with friends and family and the result will be a greater understanding and a stronger community of investors instead of only consumers.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Dawn Arrington now education program coordinator at **ideastream**.



Melissa Burrows is now director of Equal Employment Opportunity for the **City of Cleveland**.



Emmanuel Glover is now Senior Vice President & Corporate Director of Community Development at **FirstMerit Bank**.



James Hardiman CFA CPA, now managing director, leisure analyst at **Wedbush Securities**.



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ALERT: Deadline for Medicare Annual Enrollment is December 7

DECEMBER 8

Shoes and Clothes for Kids at Murtis Taylor Center

Families in need can make appointments to get clothing and shoes at the Murtis Taylor Family Center, 16005 Terrace Rd, East Cleveland.

This is an appointment only event.

To register, call 216.681.2141 and speak with Pearl Thompson x2273 or Claudette Williams x2286.

This giveaway is intended only for residents of East Cleveland and South Collinwood, that is Zip Code 44112 and parts of 44110, 44121, and 44119.

You will need proof of residency, proof of income, identification, and appropriate documentation for each child.

County expected to consider reforms for issues indicated by disparity study

Early this month Cuyahoga County is expected to introduce the first draft of new legislation designed to reduce or eliminate the disparities found in the ways the county conducts business.

While the final draft of the county's disparity study had not been released at press time, word has been circulating in MBE and other circles that disparities have been found in both the quantitative and qualitative analyses of county business practices.

County Executive Edward FitzGerald and County Council, contracted with Griffin & Strong, an Atlanta-based legal and public policy consulting firm specializing in disparity research studies, to

conduct the qualitative portion of the current disparity study and make policy recommendations based on the outcome of the study.

The objective of the study was to determine whether there are statistically significant disparities, caused by race or gender factors, between the percentages of available minority and women owned firms that are available to provide goods and services to the County and the awards made to such firms.

FitzGerald and the Council have committed to ensuring that public contracting opportunities are equally available to minority and women owned firms, and to render a diverse and equitable business environment that benefits all county residents.

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Not your father's construction industry anymore [if it ever was]

New programs designed to open up the industry on many levels

By R. T. Andrews
EDITOR

As we observed in The Editor's Notebook back in October, "the economy's need for skilled personnel in the workplace has never been greater, and therein lays great opportunity."

Part of the challenge for our community, however, has been access, the linking of those opportunities to those who need them most, especially inner city boys and girls. Too often the best they can find are "training opportunities" that lead at best to dead-end jobs.

But as Matthew Danis, vice president of medium-sized Shook Construction [\$200 million in annual sales], told us last month at the first-ever ACE Family Day in Greater Cleveland, a focused high-school student can set him- or herself up for a 40-year career earning an average annual income of \$80,000.

ACE stands for Architecture, Construction, and Engineering. It represents one of the construction industry's most effective tools for recruiting and developing the future builders of America and the world. Comprised of all-size industry members, from small builders up to industry giants like Turner Construction, which has built 17 NFL stadiums and built or improved virtually every NBA arena in the country, the ACE Mentoring was founded in 1994 as a way of exposing high school students to career



(top) Keynote speaker, Rev. Hilton O. Smith, with ACE graduate and T-G-R project engineer Justin Dean. (middle) Roosevelt Davis, Jr. at ACE Family Day with Ricardo, one of his two sons who are in ACE. (bottom) Lee Foster successfully completed an entry program for the construction industry and now works as a union carpenter.

paths in the building industry. These opportunities are a far cry from traffic flagging or even jackhammering.

Justin Dean, for example, became aware of opportuni-

ties in the construction field through the ACE program while a student at Collinwood HS. He graduated from Ohio University this summer and

Continued Page 11

"I had no idea I was eligible for a lower rate."



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The Life of Toussaint L'Ouverture Exhibition at Cleveland Museum of Art

Chronicles Hero of Haitian Revolution
in Series by Jacob Lawrence

**Shapes and colors communicate with clarity and
emotion in 41 compositions from 1930s by
American modern artist**

The Cleveland Museum of Art is currently showing "Jacob Lawrence: The Toussaint L'Ouverture Series", a series of 41 individual tempera-on-paper compositions created in 1937-38 by renowned American modern artist Jacob Lawrence, in a free exhibition that runs through January 4, 2015.

The series, for which Lawrence also composed captions, chronicles Toussaint's exploits in commanding the slave revolt that led to Haiti's emancipation from European rule in 1804, thereby establishing the first black republic in the Western Hemisphere. It is the first extended series in which Lawrence tackled heroic stories and themes through a striking style of elemental forms and expressive colors.

Influenced by storytelling techniques derived from film, the Toussaint L'Ouverture series unfolds episodically and kaleidoscopically, presenting scenes at various locations, during various times and from various points of view. Each scene was carefully orchestrated for content; before picking up his brushes, Lawrence spent several weeks

poring over biographies of Toussaint's life, as well as historical and socioeconomic accounts of Haiti.

"Jacob Lawrence was like a screenwriter, in that he emphasized, condensed or omitted narrative details in order to underscore his overriding message," said Mark Cole, curator of American Paintings and Sculpture. "In his view, Toussaint's prominent roles in commandeering the Haitian Revolution and drafting the country's new constitution epitomized the ability of an authoritative individual to bring about major social change."

Lawrence was skilled at manipulating shapes and colors to communicate with clarity and emotion. He repeated colors and motifs in order to unify the sequence across its individual images. He eliminated extraneous detail by employing flat shapes without shading and cast shadows. When viewed in their totality the 41 images generate a cumulative visual power.

The exhibition is courtesy of the Amistad Research Center, New Orleans, LA.



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New venture aims to develop, support local fiction writers

By Alan Howard
REAL DEAL CORRESPONDENT

If you're a Cleveland writer facing the monumentally daunting task of getting your first novel published, there's a ray of hope on the horizon for you. And if you're a reader looking for exciting local authors to fall in love with, there's a movement brewing that may take your breath away.

The Cleveland Writer's Press, which is now launching and can be found at www.clevelandwriterspress.com, is looking to capitalize on the

untapped talent its founders discovered in the Cleveland area while running the Cleveland Writers group, one of the largest writers' groups in the Midwest. The goal: to develop and publish a stable of up to 200 novelists, working with them in all stages of the publication process, from concept to editing to marketing.

According to the venture's co-founder, Dave Van Horn, "Cleveland writers for global readers, that's the mark. We're looking for people who are hardcore, serious about becoming great writ-

ers, about mastering the craft of writing. The publishing house turned out to be the outlet for that talent, the light at the end of the tunnel. The end vision is that we'll have this academy with high-level, intense courses for serious writers who actually produce something, and we will supplement their development because we expect to get a publishable product out of the back end. That's what the vision for this is."

To that end, Van Horn and his co-founder are partnering with a number of literature business insiders, some of

who are regular attendees of the Cleveland writer's group, and are willing and able to offer services to writers looking to learn the business and disseminate their work.

"We called the experts in this field, and are now talking to them about how to do this. Because they like the idea that we are actively going to seek out, recruit, and cultivate people to be better writers, with the outlet that we will publish their work when they reach a certain level," said Van Horn.

"People in the group are not just writers, they're also

suppliers in the industry, and it's an environment where they can all work together. It's a miniature convention once a month. That's really what it is," he said.

In a business that is increasingly ignoring up-and-coming authors and has been shockingly disinterested in developing talent for decades, the Cleveland writers' press is both a breath of fresh air and potential game-changer. With any luck, the next crop of adrenaline-infused thrillers and great American novels will be coming from our own back yard.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Angela Neeley is now Director of Finance/Treasurer at Breakthrough Charter Schools.



Robyn Minter Smyers is now partner-in-charge of the Thompson Hine Cleveland office.

Rory Turner is now a principal at Square One Architects.

Thomas Cargill is now Sales and Leasing Consultant at Metro Lexus.

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Spotlight On The Young

Editor's Note: This article was written for the school paper by third grader Danielle Tall, who attends Mercer Elementary in Shaker Heights. I saw it displayed in Dr. Morse's office. I was impressed and thus an occasional feature was born. I discovered later that Danielle is the granddaughter of my former neighbor, the late and wonderful academic and archivist, Booker Tall, PhD. Her parents are Christopher Tall and Joi Taylor Powell.

My Report With The Doc

By Danielle Tall

I want to be a veterinarian when I grow up. I chose to do a report on my vet. My vet lets me come to his building and help out with the animals. I really look up to him, and I'm proud to do a report on him. His name is Dr. Morse.

Dr. Morse has been a veterinarian for 45 years! Isn't that a long time? You may think that Dr. Morse would retire soon, because of how long he has been a vet. If you guessed that then you are absolutely... **WRONG!**

I asked Dr. Morse when he would retire, and he said, "I love what I do. I have a close friend who is 91 years old, and is still a vet. I want to be like him. I have absolutely no plans of retiring!" He really loves his job. I hope everyone at Mercer will find a job they love, just as much as Dr. Morse loves his job.

When I go to his building, you can always hear the animals. Talk about **LOUD!** I asked Dr. Morse if the noise ever bothers him. He said, "I have gotten so used to the noise, that every time I hear the animals, the noise turns into music. It's like jazz music to me. When it isn't music, I don't even hear anything." Wow! That is so cool! As loud as the animals are, he either doesn't hear them or turns their noise into jazz music in his mind!

I asked Dr. Morse if he worked alone. He said that he does. I had to ask when he started working alone or started his own practice. He said, "I started my own practice in 1972." That was 41 years ago! The name of Dr. Morse's business is **Warrensville Animal Center**. The name was for-

mountains of Pennsylvania. He said it was a lot of fun!

I asked Dr. Morse how he knew he wanted to become a vet. He said, "When I was 8 - 9 years old, the boys in my neighborhood liked to play sports. I didn't like that. I would go into the woods, and look at the birds, rabbits, frogs, and other animals.

that **AWESOME?! When Dr. Morse was a child, he lived in an apartment. They weren't allowed to have cats and dogs, so Dr. Morse raised homing pigeons. Homing pigeons are messenger pigeons.**

As Dr. Morse grew up, he was sure he wanted to become a veterinarian. He attended

creatures that God created."

Dr. Morse's toughest case as a vet was when he had to remove a tooth from an alligator, because it was difficult, and he had never done it before. This was done at The Cleveland Aquarium. Of course, when he took the tooth from the alligator, the alligator had medicine in him. But, even though the alligator had medicine in him, he was still fighting Dr. Morse. Dr. Morse said the alligator was 11 feet long, and weighed 700 pounds! That's a big dude! Dr. Morse's most exciting case was taking care of baby tigers. Every year, for 8 years, Dr. Morse would take care of a baby tiger. He stopped because it became illegal.

I asked Dr. Morse if he has ever taught future veterinarians before. He nodded, and said, "Every year students from Tuskegee would come as interns. I would teach them. I really enjoyed it." I bet you're probably wondering by now, what kinds of animals Dr. Morse works with. Dr. Morse works with all small animals, like the following: Birds, reptiles, monkeys, rodents, dogs, and cats. He says he would love to work with all animals, but he just can't do everything. Dr. Morse's favorite animal is the homing pigeon.

For all of you future vets, Dr. Morse says, "My advice is to start volunteering early or when you are young to really get hands on [experience]."



Danielle Tall, with her mother, Joi Taylor Powell and Mercer Elementary principal J. Lindsay Florence.

merly **Warrensville Animal Hospital**. Dr. Morse changed the name because his business is more than just a hospital. It's a center. They do everything from grooming to boarding. Boarding is when you take care of the animals when their owners are on vacation.

Dr. Morse goes on vacation 4 times each year. He says, "I like to take a vacation every quarter of the year." Dr. Morse's recent vacation was trout fishing in the

I also helped birds with broken wings. Back then, we didn't have casts and fancy stuff to help animals. I thought of a way to help birds with broken wings, by myself. I used popsicle sticks."

POPSICLE STICKS! How in the world did he use popsicle sticks?! I had to ask! He said, "You take a popsicle stick and tape it around the broken wing. If you leave that stick there for a few weeks, the broken wing will heal." Isn't

Tuskegee Institute, School of Veterinary Medicine in Tuskegee, Alabama. Dr. Morse had to do 8 total years of training. He had to do 4 years of college and 4 years of veterinary school. On a scale from 1 to 10 Dr. Morse says, "10+" on how much he loves being a vet. He says helping the animals is what he likes most about being a vet. Dr. Morse believes, "Animals are helpless. It makes me feel good to help helpless

9-1-1 Regionalization Continued from Page 1

[Councilmen Delaney of Ward 7 and Laura Gorshe of Ward 8 also voted No. Voting to consolidate with Chagrin Valley Dispatch were council president Kirsten Holzheimer-Gail, Ward 1's Stephana Caviness, Madeleine Scarniench of Ward 2, Kandace Jones of Ward 3, and Kristian Jarosz of Ward 4.]

Epps expressed a number of concerns at his Nov. 19 meeting. First, he said it seemed like city officials had given up on Euclid. Second, he thinks the decision should be held in an open forum with the Administration and city council. Third, Epps doubts the administration's claim of projected savings. Epps is trying to get a Referendum on the November ballot. He needs about 1,500 signatures by Dec. 3.

Pressure to change

The State of Ohio has told Cuyahoga County officials it has too many PSAPs – Public Safety Answering Points. While the State is not mandating reduction, it is offering financial incentives to consolidate. Over the next ten years, it is the county's intent to reduce the number of dispatching centers countywide from 48 to 4. Like the State, the county is offering financial incentives to municipalities to downsize.

At some point in time it will be in every Cuyahoga County municipality's best interest to be part of a consolidated communication center to improve service, increase efficiency and reduce costs.

Service will improve.

Euclid had originally looked at forming a joint dispatch center with EDGE, a joint SWAT effort of the Beachwood, Euclid, Shaker Hts., South Euclid, and University Hts. police departments. The City had also been invited to participate in a Lake County system. But Euclid would have had no voice in how the Dispatch Center would operate. In collaborative dispatch systems operated by a council of governments — the Chagrin Valley and Bedford operations are examples of that arrangement – participating communities have a voice.

Last April, Euclid Police Chief Tom Brickman pitched merging with the County's Bedford-based Southeast Communication Center. That center currently includes Bedford, Bedford Heights, Garfield Heights and Maples Heights. Euclid's incentive to join was 230 radios at an approximate cost of \$3,000 a radio, essentially a value of \$690,000 in equipment.

"For us to look at any type of shared service, it has to make sense to us operationally and it is going to have to make fiscal sense for us. When we looked at the way this facility was being set up and structured, we felt it was definitely going in the right direction," Brickman told Council's Public Safety Committee on April 30.

In July with all indications that the city favored a consolidation with the County, Euclid mayor Bill



Courtesy: <http://www.9-1-1magazine.com>

Cervenik's administration presented Council with new legislation that abandoned the County deal for a new 5 year deal with Chagrin Valley Dispatch. According to Police Chief Brickman, "The level of service provided by the Chagrin Valley Dispatch was something that could not be matched by the [County's] Southeast Communication Center." The downside was that even with \$300,000 worth of new radios, costs would be significantly higher than they would be with the County system.

Dispatcher's future at issue

According to council president Kirsten Holzheimer-Gail, who voted for the move, Euclid's dispatchers will be absorbed by Chagrin Valley if the merger goes through.

But that's not what city dispatchers are saying, though. According to the Euclid Fire Department's Facebook page, where dispatchers have made their case, they will have to apply for the CV jobs, start at a lower pay than they're currently receiving and their jobs will not be protected.

Two dispatchers who had spoken out at Council meetings and had planned on attending the Epps meeting say were informed that if they attended the meeting and spoke, their jobs would be at risk. That type of intimidation is of major concern to Councilman Langman. "If you're a thriving community, you have no fear of hearing people out. You cannot be successful if you bury folks that don't agree with the status quo." That seems to be what the City

is doing though – putting a gag order on its employees that disagree with the decision to consolidate with Chagrin Valley.

There is no rush to move on consolidation. The City recently spent close to \$150,000 on a new dispatch center and improving its bandwidth. The County has said consolidating communities can take up to ten years. A thorough study of the costs to consolidate has not been done. Mayor Cervenik will be termed out next year. Epps feels the decision to consolidate is a lost opportunity for the next Mayor, and that person should be allowed the opportunity to make the decision.

Ward 8 Councilwoman Laura Gorshe may have said it best when she voted against the Chagrin Valley deal: "Not never... Not Now."

New City Club book reminds us of its history as leading forum for dialogue on race

Otis Moss Jr. in dialogue on race and racism, Dec. 12

The Club has done much in recent years to address what outgoing U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder referred to as America's cowardice when it comes to discussing race. Just this summer, Ta-Nehisi Coates addressed the Club and its national audience on the subject of reparations.

The just-published book, *A Century of Free Speech at the City Club of Cleveland*, contains a remarkable chunk of Cleveland black history. The unique club, with its unbroken tradition as the nation's longest continuously running

public forum, has given an important pulpit to a number of African Americans as long ago as 1922, when W. E. B. DuBois addressed the forum. The roster of other distinguished black Americans who have spoken at the City Club includes Rosa Parks, Julian Bond, John Lewis, Andrew Young, Bayard Rustin, Leon Higginbotham, US Surgeons General Dr. Jocelyn Elders and Dr. David Satcher, Cleveland's own Antwone Fisher, and former Clinton White House top Africa policy advisor Susan Rice, who cited

Botswana as the world's fastest-growing economy.

The gifted African American artist Elmer Brown created the large mural that spans the south wall of the Club's main dining room in 1942. The Club's new CEO Dan Moulthrop may be among the first to wonder whether the single black face in the picture was the artist himself.

On December 12, the Rev. Otis Moss Jr. and the Rev. Joan Brown Campbell will share the podium in a frank conversation about race and racism in America. All forums are open



City Club Mural

to the public, but reservations are required. Call 216.621.0082 or visit www.cityclub.org.

The attractive book, writ-

ten by historian and author Carol Poh, is available in selected area bookstores, at the City Club, and from Amazon.

Barnes Continued from Page 1

alleges, and it's probably true, that Budish refused to deal with him one-on-one. He says Budish told him he had to go through the Caucus to contend for his committee assignments.

Barnes refused, and says that money — \$200,000 is the figure — was put on the table by Rep. Sandra Williams, OLBC president in negotiations of which Budish was allegedly a part.

Of course, this whole issue in one sense is about power, something Ohio Democrats have precious little of, and House Democrats even less. But power is relative, and a trusty who can dole out even a few perks has more power than a fellow prisoner who can't even get perks for himself, much less garner any to give away for favors.

Barnes had no right to any

plum assignment, and Budish could simply have refused his request. But by insisting that Barnes go through the Black Caucus with which Barnes did not identify or align himself, he injected race into the

sequences. His allegations may sully the reputations of either or both Budish and Sandra Williams, now State Senator-elect, since if the case goes to trial, one of them may have to call the other

first black elected mayor of a major black city. With the establishment of the 21st District Congressional Caucus a short time later, black people enjoyed for a few short years more political power

potence that we don't know whether to praise Barnes for pulling the covers off of a broken system, or pan him for trying to manipulate that broken system for his own ends.

The question we must now ask is where is the community interest? Carl Stokes was not afraid of brokering a deal with Republican legislators or a Republican governor. But he was arguably more transparent in the General Assembly of the 1960s than our representatives are today. He represented black people and he fought for them in preference to fattening his own nest.

Rep. Barnes has struck a match in a dark room full of combustible material. Will he burn it down, blow it out, or let it die? What would the community have him do?

'The allegations of his complaint threaten to lay bare some of the complications of the state's racial fault lines. And the fallout could involve Cuyahoga County Executive-elect Armond Budish'

equation. After all, no white House member, no matter his politics, has to forfeit his right to negotiate for himself solely on account of his race.

Budish essentially told Barnes to go back of the Democratic bus. Barnes now threatens to detonate the bus, and is indifferent to the con-

liar. And in the process, Barnes has waived the Caucus's dirty linen, while using hitherto unknown NAACP correspondence to point out the overall impotence of the black political community.

It has been nearly 50 years since Carl Stokes was elected mayor of Cleveland, the

in Greater Cleveland than ever before or since. Despite the heightened number of black elected officials, black Clevelanders are increasingly devoid of political power, acknowledged only when their votes are desired, and disdained the rest of the time.

It is a measure of that im-

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Construction Continued from Page 5

is now a project engineer for Trumbull-Great Lakes-Ruhlin, the joint venture prime contractor on the \$273 million Innerbelt Bridge project.

The ACE Mentoring program is now the construction industry's fastest-growing high school mentoring program, reaching over 8,000 students annually. In this area, the program works through the Cleveland School District, working to engage and excite students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering. More than that, the program supports each student's continued success through scholarships and grants. The program has awarded more than \$300,000 in scholarships over the past few years and expects to award about \$125,000 in scholarships in the current year.

The week before Thanksgiving saw the program host its first ACE Family Day experience. More than 50 students attended the Saturday morning program at Cleveland State University, along with about 25 parents, 10 mentors and five teachers who volunteered with the program.

The students participated in a variety of activities and sessions, but most attendees seemed to agree that the high point of the day was the inspirational speech by Hilton Smith, a Turner Construction vice president, and president of the Cleveland NAACP. Smith talked about life lessons and encouraged the high schoolers to "let your curiosity lead you to success." He urged them to be confident in their prospects and their abilities, to be faithful to those who would follow them, and to "be with

people who have vision." He offered avuncular wisdom to girls in their selection of boys and vice versa.

The ACE program in Cleveland hosts a presentation night and scholarship awards banquet every spring. Students form teams during the academic year that work on devising solutions to real-world construction problems and present their work at the banquet. Visit <http://www.acementor.org> for more information.

Community Benefits initiative offers other entry points into construction industry

Lee Foster did not come through the ACE program but has still found a home in construction. Foster participated in a collaborative program that is an outgrowth of the Community Benefits initiative set in motion by a quartet of black general contractors and driven by the administration of Cleveland mayor Frank Jackson through his deputy, Natoya Walker Minor. Foster is a prime Exhibit A for this initiative, which provides soft skills training at Urban League, followed by an eight-week pre-apprenticeship program. Partnering in the program with the city of Cleveland are the Greater Cleveland Partnership, the Construction Employers Association, the Urban League, El Barrio and Towards Employment. The program's objective is to place its enrollees into trade unions.

Foster hit all his marks going through the challenging program and is now a carpenter with Trumbull-Great Lakes-Ruhlin, working on construction of the new Innerbelt Bridge.

Traffic Signs Continued from Page 1

police officer to be present to issue tickets for speeding or running a red light.

City officials from Maple Heights and other affected municipalities have always maintained that safety, not revenue, is the primary reason for the installation of traffic enforcement cameras.

If the cash strapped leaders of Cleveland and its suburbs are to be believed, then the question is what alternatives are available to maintain safety gains in the areas once patrolled by the cameras.

Glenwillow Police Chief Robert Hagquist believes radar traffic signs are a cost effective alternative and could go a long way in augmenting traditional

traffic enforcement measures.

Traffic radar speed signs are signs posted on the side of busy roads with a posted speed limit and a flashing LED that alerts a driver to his speed. The signs are designed to slow cars down by making drivers aware when they are driving at unsafe speeds.

The signs are what are known as a traffic-calming tool. Calming tools are defined as being devices or physical barriers put in place on roads to aid in slowing vehicle traffic. Think speed bumps, speed mats and island barriers such as those in place in certain areas of Shaker Heights.

When Glenwillow residents expressed concern re-

garding excessive speeding in the Pettibone area, Chief Hagquist worked with New York based Traffic Logix to place a radar-controlled speed display signs at the northwest corner of Austin Powder Drive and Pettibone Road.

"You can just stand there and watch," says Chief Hagquist. "Motorists are made aware of their speed and they immediately adjust their speed to the speed limit."

The sign registers the rate of speeds of cars traveling east-bound along a residential area of the city, which has a posted speed limit of 30 miles per hour.

While the signs don't send out automated tickets they also don't lead to a flood of

complaints to city hall.

The radar sign has had a noticeable impact in reduced traffic related incidents, according to Chief Hagquist.

"For \$3000 it assists in traffic enforcement yet doesn't put a strain on our citizens or the city's financial resources. ... The number of calls related to that area has decreased and with the mix of residential commercial and industry coming together in that area it has made the entire area safer," Hagquist said.

According to information provided by Traffic Logix limited research and a variety of studies have shown that radar signs are effective in creating change in driver behavior. The



Courtesy: <http://preview.turbosquid.com>

company cited a study provided by the city of Garden Grove California asserting, "In school zones where radar speed signs were installed, drivers slowed an average of 14%."



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