

VANTAGE POINT

Another big Ohio issue, another non-answer from Ramaswamy

Vivek Ramaswamy, the 2026 Republican nominee for Ohio governor, keeps refusing to say where he stands on the issues.

A candidate for governor is asking Ohioans to hand him enormous power while repeatedly declining to tell them how he would use it. The question that keeps following from that is increasingly simple:

Why would anyone vote for him?

Ramaswamy is an American entrepreneur and politician. He



Ramaswamy

founded Roivant Sciences, a biotechnological pharmaceutical company, in 2014 and was its chief executive officer until 2021. Ramaswamy en-

tered national politics as the youngest presidential candidate in the 2024 Republican primaries, but withdrew his bid and endorsed Donald Trump.

He is currently the Republican nominee for governor of Ohio in the 2026 gubernatorial election and has been endorsed by both Trump and the Ohio Republican Party.

He earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Harvard University in 2007 and a Juris Doctor from Yale University in 2013. Ramaswamy became an investment partner at a hedge fund before

founding Roivant Sciences in 2014. He also co-founded an investment firm, Strive Asset Management, in 2022. Forbes estimated Ramaswamy's net worth to be \$3.1 billion in August 2026, derived primarily from his biotech and financial businesses.

Ramaswamy largely remained apolitical until 2020, when he supported Trump in the 2020 presidential election. In 2021, Ramaswamy wrote his first book, Woke Inc, and appeared on cable networks arguing against civil rights legislation.

YOUR HEALTH

Insurance attempts to deny coverage

(NAPSI)-A new national poll conducted by YouGov found that 91 percent of Americans believe insurance companies should not be allowed to deny coverage for people with chronic diseases whose premiums are paid by charitable organizations.

Known as “charitable premium assistance,” the federally approved practice of patients applying for and receiving help from charities to pay insurance premiums has long been accepted.

Yet recent efforts by insurers to undermine the practice have left many people worried about their insurance coverage. Across the country more than 74,000 dialysis and kidney transplant patients—who are overwhelmingly unable to work because of their illness—rely on help from the American Kidney Fund (AKF) to afford health insurance premiums.

The poll found that 76 percent of respondents believe insurers want to block charitable premium assistance “to increase the company’s profits by not providing coverage for people who are very sick.”

“Consumers overwhelmingly reject efforts by the billion-dollar health insurers, their lobbyists and their legislative patrons to deny charitable assistance that pays patients’ health insurance premiums,” said LaVarne A. Burton, president and CEO of AKF. “Consumers are smart enough to see through the insurers’ false statements and to recognize insurer efforts to end or limit charitable premium assistance are clear evidence of insurers doing what they do best: trying to find every possible way not to pay for sick people’s care,” she said. “The question is whether they’ve been able to find enough leg-

islators who will take the insurers’ side instead of protecting sick patients.”

The poll showed that individuals are not inclined to vote for legislators who side with insurers. A vast majority of respondents (88 percent) are less willing to vote for a politician who supports the industry’s efforts.

91 percent of respondents felt private insurance companies should not be allowed to kick patients with chronic diseases off their health insurance just because the patients’ premiums are paid by an organization such as a nonprofit charity.

87 percent of consumers support the government’s current position of letting private charities help patients pay their insurance premiums, co-pays, and out-of-pocket costs when the patient suffers from a debilitating illness such as kidney failure.

71 percent of respondents think patients with a chronic disease should be able to choose their health insurance plan.

This number dramatically exceeds those who think state and federal governments (17 percent) or health

insurance companies (13 percent) should choose which health insurance a patient with a chronic disease can have.

Concluded AKF’s Burton, “I believe people inherently understand that if insurers are successful in their campaign against people with kidney disease, people with other chronic diseases will be easy next targets. We’ll continue to protect patients by working with legislators and regulators at the national and state levels.”

As the nation’s leading independent nonprofit working on behalf of the 30 million Americans with kidney disease, AKF is dedicated to ensuring that every kidney patient has access to health care and that every person at risk for kidney disease is empowered to prevent it.

AKF provides a complete spectrum of programs and services: prevention outreach, top-rated health educational resources, and direct financial assistance enabling one in five U.S. dialysis patients to access lifesaving medical care, including dialysis and transplantation.

For further facts, visit www.kidneyfund.org.

Weekly Wealth For Your Health

Saving money for the holidays

Ways to Save Money for Christmas

Cut out cable. Save \$400

Okay, it might sound a little extreme, but if you’ve already been thinking about cutting the cable cord, now’s the time to do it. The average cost people spend on TV is about \$217 per month.1 Wow! So, if you ditch cable now, you could save more than \$400 over the next two months.

That means you don’t need cable to watch television anyway. Between Disney+, Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Roku, Apple TV, Sling, antennas and skinny cable bundles, there are plenty of ways (almost too many) to watch your favorite shows without that crazy cable bill.

Buy generic brands and save \$50.

If you’re an avid fan of a certain cereal, snack or yogurt brand, see if you can give the generic brand a try for a little while. Small

tweaks like these can really make a difference when it comes to hitting your Christmas savings goal.

If you go completely generic for just 10 meals over the course of two months, you could cut more than \$50 from your grocery bill! Even if you aren’t ready to buy all generic all the time, just buying generic staple items like milk, juice, spices, flour, sugar and produce can help you save a bundle. The small changes really add up!

Pack your own lunch and save \$320.

It’s time to embrace the office microwave and say hello to the leftover life! If your go-to lunch plan is hitting up the drive-thru for an \$8 meal, you’re wasting \$40 a week right there. And while it might not seem like a big wad of cash for just one week, that adds up to \$160 a month (and \$320 over two months)! Take the cheaper route and swap that out for bringing leftovers from home. Your wallet is sure to thank you. Save those

calories for Christmastime treats, folks.

Use cold water (and less of it) and save \$100.

Here’s a secret: You can wash your clothes in cold water and they’ll still get clean. Shocking, we know. Two of the best ways to cut back on the energy your home eats up is by using a cooler water temperature and less water. So just changing the temperature setting on your washer could cut each load’s energy use in half!2

Let’s say your monthly water bill runs about \$100. If you go hardcore for just two months and cut your water usage in half, you could save around \$100—and that’s not as tough to do as it sounds. Cut everyone’s shower time in half and turn off the faucet while you’re brushing your teeth.

Unplug electronics and save \$20.

Did you know that just having a power cord plugged into the wall uses up energy? Yep. It’s called phantom energy, and Americans waste about \$100 each year on it.3 That’s like being charged for nothing! No thanks. Instead, go on an unplugging spree to make sure you’re not surging through precious dollars.

Make a habit to unplug things like your laptop charger, phone charger, toaster and even coffee maker when they aren’t in use. When it comes to big things

like your TV, DVD/Blu-Ray player, or sound system, it can get annoying to unplug every single device. And who can even reach those tucked-away plugs anyway? The solution: Plug it all into a power strip so you can easily unplug everything in one fell swoop.

But don’t worry about unplugging major appliances like your washing machine. They tend to pack a heavy punch of high voltage. We want you to save a bundle without electrocuting yourself.

Sell stuff with apps and save \$50.

Believe it or not, selling all that extra stuff you have laying around can really add up. You probably won’t get a ton of money for Christmas this way, but you might be pleasantly surprised by how much cash you’ll rake in just for getting rid of things you don’t need.

Gone are the days of taking your gear to a consignment shop or praying your garage sale is a hit. Now you can snap a picture of the item, post it in an app, and sit back and wait for someone to make an offer. It’s as easy as that! Sell your used treasures on sites like OfferUp, Poshmark, declutter, letgo and Facebook Marketplace.

Of course, you can always have a good, old-fashioned garage sale too. No one’s stopping you.

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Islam In The Community

Israel warns of ‘forceful’ response to kites flown from Gaza

Israel has warned Hamas that it will increase strikes on Gaza following concern over launches of kites, drones and balloons from the territory.

Several kites - which were not carrying explosives - were found in an Israeli community near the border with Gaza over the weekend, local media said.

“Forceful actions will be taken to put an end to this phenomenon,” Israel’s Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Monday.

Before the war

broke out, kites and balloons carrying incendiary devices were launched into Israel, causing fires that burned forest and farmland.

Hamas has denied responsibility for the new kites and said they belong to “children searching for their innocent childhood amid the rubble”.

The group also accused Israel of using the kites as a “pretext” for continued air strikes in Gaza despite the ceasefire agreed last October.

Four kites were found in Kibbutz Nahal

Oz, which is about 800m (2,620ft) from the Gaza border, on Friday and Saturday, followed by several more in southern Israel in recent days, according to local media.

The Israeli reports cited military sources as saying they believed Hamas was behind the kites and that they might have been intended to test Israel’s response.

call to action icon

No suspicious materials were attached to the kites and that they did not pose a threat, the military



A Palestinian boy holds up a kite at a camp for displaced people in Gaza City on Sunday



Palestinian children leap into the air while playing on a trampoline in northern Gaza's militarized orange zone of Beit Lahia, on May 31.



Piles of uncollected garbage and debris line a deserted street in al-Shuja'iyya, a neighborhood lacking basic services and aid due to Israel restrictions as expanding the orange zone.

half of Gaza, and then expanded that control to 60% of the territory. A man in the audience yelled out that the next step should be 100% control.

“First, 70%. Let’s go for that,” Netanyahu responded. “We’re hitting them from every direction,” he said.

On the ground, there are no markers indicating where the orange zone begins and ends. The original yellow line of control — which last year marked the border between Israeli-controlled Gaza and areas run by Hamas — is also moving deeper into Gaza, and is only partially marked in places.

The United Nations humanitarian office says around 200 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since the start of the ceasefire in areas of Gaza close to the military’s shifting lines of control along its yellow and orange lines. They are among the more than 1,000 who have been killed across the devastated territory in that same period, according to Gaza’s health ministry.

Israel’s military has commented on some of these attacks, saying its forces shot in self-defense at people it says posed an immediate threat to troops. The U.N.

says a third of those killed have been women and children.

In a joint statement, U.N. agencies and aid groups criticized Israel’s moving lines of control, saying this is restricting access to aid for thousands of families and leading to lethal Israeli killings of people moving through areas lacking clear demarcation on the ground.

At the start of the ceasefire, 500 families lived in al-Shuja'iyya. Today, fewer than 50 families remain. The neighborhood is a moonscape of rubble and debris, but it was once a thriving neighborhood of more than 100,000 people before the war. Now, the closest source of drinking water is a half-hour walk away. There are no clinics, bakeries or shops in the area.

“You get scared to catch a bullet just walking or a missile and be blown apart,” said local resident Saeed al-Hattab.

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A Look At My World

The Perks of Being Old and Ugly

By Dr. JAMES L. SNYDER

Growing up, I never thought much about what my life would be like when I got old.

I observed my grandparents, and I’m sorry to say that I made fun of them at times, but always behind their backs. I never thought I would ever be in their situation.

It wasn’t until recently that I realized getting old and ugly has some significant perks. When I was young, I never thought of it this way, but I am starting to realize it now. It makes me smile to see the perks I’m discovering.

I never in a million years realized that getting old and ugly wasn’t as bad as I thought it was—especially when I consider the perks, like discounts or help from strangers, which I find amusing. I’m not sure how they handled their perks, but I’m beginning to learn that there are benefits to getting old and especially ugly.

Nobody wants to admit they are ugly. They don’t spend enough time looking in the mirror to come to that universal conclusion. I have a relative, who shall be nameless, who is obsessed with their looks, especially the wrinkles on their face. As I have seen it, as you get older, wrinkles

appear. But this relative truly does not like wrinkles.

I’m not sure how much money they spent on Botox and all that other stuff to get rid of their wrinkles, especially on their face. For me, I have saved that money for more important things, like Apple Fritters.

This relative who’s obsessed with wrinkles is very tempting to me. Every time I see them, I look at their face and say, “Is that a new wrinkle on your face? It looks marvelous.” It won’t be long before they run to the bathroom and check out what I was talking about.

Some of the perks of getting old are the help sometimes people will give you. The other day, for example, I was walking to a store; I had hurt my leg a couple of days before. Because of that, I was using a cane, and I looked like I was limping. I felt grateful for the kindness I received, which warmed my heart.

When I came to the door, before I could even open it, someone was there to open it for me and invite me inside. I never expected that perk, but I’m coming to enjoy it. I must confess, I sometimes exaggerate my limping to get the attention I need. However, the attention always comes my way.

Perhaps the biggest perk in my life is being ugly—something I’ve come to accept and even enjoy. I realize that for some, aging might bring different perks. Still, for me, I like the way I look and the advantages it brings, like not being taken too seriously.

The perk of being ugly is something I just found out. When I was young, I was very careful around people, especially women. I made it a rule not to talk to women I did not know. I know it can look a little suspicious, and I don’t want that to go on my record.

But being ugly means that nobody is going to take you seriously. I can walk up to a group of women, for example, and begin a conversation, and nobody thinks anything about it.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can have the greatest confidence that wherever I’m at, and if I’m alone, no woman is going to hit on me. I just discovered that recently. I was so protective up to this point, but now that I’m old and ugly, I have nothing to fear.

It is a blessing to enjoy perks like this. I can be confident in some groups or on my own. I don’t have to worry that someone would spread a rumor that somebody was hitting on me. People don’t hit on ugly men.

It used to be that whenever I went on a trip by myself, I was very cautious. I made sure I had my wedding ring on and my cell phone with me so I could contact The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage several times a day to make sure I wasn’t in any “situation.”

Three weeks ago I was in a restaurant by myself, and when the waitress brought my bill to the table I said in a very joking way, “Do old and ugly men get discounts?”

We both laughed together, and when we were done laughing, she said, “As a matter of fact, we do give discounts like that. I can give you a 20% discount on your bill today.”

At first, I thought she was joking, but when the bill came, I saw the 20% discount. Oh, what a joy it is to be old and ugly. It’s surprising how many perks come with this stage of life, and I’m enjoying every one of them.

I want to get as old and ugly as I possibly can and live long enough to cash out on all the perks available.

The older and uglier I get, the more I understand the beauty of the life I’m living. That made me think of a wonderful Bible verse.

Proverbs 20:29, “The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the grey head.”

My grey hair reveals my beauty; I’m proud of it, and I don’t care what other people think.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net

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GC Sports HOF 2026 Class

By ANDREW CARTER

The GC Sports HOF will induct four new members on Sept. 23. Two - Cleveland Browns DB Hanford Dixon, who coined the term “Dawg Pound,” and Stow HS RB Larry Czonka, who later starred at Syracuse and then Miami in the NFL - are gridiron legends. The other two - Elyria Catholic HS multi-sport athlete Brianne McLaughlin and Cuyahoga Hts. HS’s Kelly Stack - were collegiate hockey stars and USWNT Olympic Silver Medalists in 2010 and 2014.

Tuesday, August 25, 2026 to Friday, August 28, 2026

EAST SIDE DAILY NEWS

SPORTS

A LEA fundraiser boxing show will be held on August 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Metroplex, 1620 Motor Inn Drive, Girard, Ohio 44420. For information, contact John Loew at 330-501-5713.

216 Regatta to be held

The 216 Regatta will be held on September 26–27 at the Edgewater Yacht Club, 6700 Cleveland Memorial Shoreway. Classes & Racing: CRW features: Over a dozen One Design classes Nine Handicap (PHRF) divisions Three JAM divisions and four race courses www.clevelandraceweek.com. The event draws over 1,800 national and international participants annually, offering marketing exposure to sailing professionals, amateurs, juniors, and women’s sailors www.clevelandraceweek.com. It maintains a strong sponsorship network, placing it among the top U.S. sailing regattas www.clevelandraceweek.com.

Streaking Guardians showing resolve

BY KARL BRYANT

The Guardians were in a down-swing until just over a week ago, but have shown a new resolve as they’ve won 8 of their last 10 games to go over .500 and get back into the playoff picture.

At press time, they have won seven straight games. The last two were won in comeback fashion.

The Guardians turnaround began when they took 2 of 3 from the Giants as they closed out their last Homestand. They then headed out West and ended up going undefeated on the road trip.

They swept Colorado, outscoring the Rockies, 20-6, with only a 4-3 win in the middle game being close. Tough luck Tanner Bibee



Bibee

(5-13) had a reversal of fortune to notch the “W” in that one. Sweeping that series moved CLE onto the plus side in Inter-League Play at 25-23.

They then hit the Pacific Coast to play the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, where they also swept them. Parker Messick (10-8) won the opening game, 4-2, as batterymate Austin Hedges went deep.

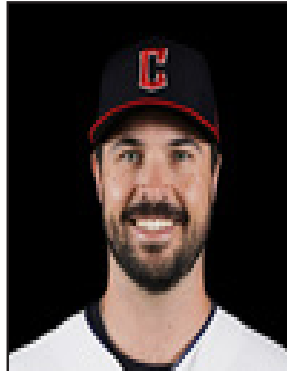
The Angels and Guardians then played an 8-6, extra inning barnburner.



Messick

Erik Sabrowski (5-2), who struck out the side in the 9th, got the win when Jose Ramirez, who hit three doubles and drove in five RBI, doubled home two runs in the 10th. Cade Smith came on to register his 35th Save.

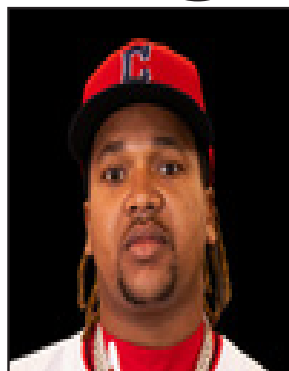
The next day in a Daytime Getaway Game, Sabrowski earned his first Save, as CLE scored two in the 9th to snag another comeback win, 4-3. Hot Steven Kwan doubled in the tying run and Travis Bazzana’s Sac



Hedges

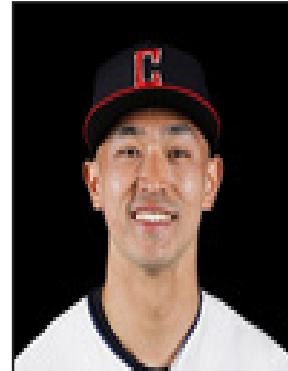
Fly plated the game-winner. Hunter Gaddis (2-3) got the “W.”

Streaking CLE,



Ramirez

now solidly in the postseason hunt, returns to The Land this weekend to host surprising K.C.,



Kwan

who just had a nine-game winning streak snapped with a 3-0 Shutout loss in Toronto.

Browns shuffled-off by Buffalo

By KARL BRYANT

The Browns QB Derby had it’s 2nd leg, as Shedeur Sanders got his chance to start. He led CLE to a TD after an hour rain and lightning delay, which ended up being their only score of an on-and-off rainy afternoon. Otherwise, it was all Buffalo, 31-7.

Bills backups toyed with the Browns, much to the delight of the “Bills Mafia” - their fans who invade opposing stadiums. With scant Home attendance for an August Saturday mid-day game with school starting in a few days for most Clevelanders, blue-clad Buffalo followers certainly stood out visually and audibly in a partially-filled Stadium-on-the-Lakefront.

Sanders completed 9 of 11 passes for 74 yards with an 8 YD TD Pass to Luke Florica and an INT. Deshaun Watson, who as the other choice



Watson

in the Browns QB Derby, started the first pre-season game, came on in the 2nd Half and was booed by the fans. Even the Buffalo fans booed him, although some may have been just copycatting. He completed a poor 5 of 12 passes for 36 yards and also threw a pick. The Browns ran for 84 yards. Buffalo backup QBs threw for 230 yards through the air and the Bills ran for 138 yards on the ground.

After the game, Watson spoke about how he was affected by the booing, “I think the whole world knows, it has nothing to do with the performance. It’s a

little more personal than that. So, I think that’s a disrespectful thing.” He also noted, “Last time I played on this field, I tore my Achilles, and that same fan base cheered when I got hurt. So, what does that have to do with anything about performance?”

The next day, Coach Todd Monken named Watson to be the starting QB when the regular season begins in Jacksonville in mid-September. Since Watson also had stated, “I feel like I get more love on road games than I do at Home games,” it might be a good thing it’s out of town.

Meanwhile the Browns have one more preseason game Thursday hosting the Patriots, before the annual 53-Man roster back-and-forth cuttings and signings commence. Neither Watson nor Sanders are expected to play in pre-season Game 3.

Steelers skunked by Jets

BY ANDREW CARTER

The Steelers played mostly backups in pre-season Game 2 and it showed.

The Offense did little against the NY Jets, who gave up over 500 points last season, as the Steelers were skunked, 17-0.

Former OSU National Champ QB Will Howard and Medina H.S. QB - via Penn State - Drew Allar took turns playing in their battle to say, “We’re No 3!” Future HOF QB Aaron Rogers is No. 1

and longtime backup Mason Rudolph apparently is No. 2. Neither played. Although officially they don’t count because it’s preseason, Howard threw two interceptions, which is two more than the inept Jets recorded all of last season, which was a first in recorded NFL history.

He went 10 of 15 for 74 yards with the two picks. Allar went 11 of 23 for 110 yards. The Steelers rushed for 98 yards.

Jets starting QB Geno Smith played one series, going 7 for 7 for 65 yards with a 13 YD TD Pass to

Jelani Woods.

The Steelers “D” kept them in the game until halfway through the 4th Quarter when NY’s Jason Sanders kicked a 39 YD FG. A TD after the Two Minute Warning put icing on the Jets’ cake. Four NY QBs accounted for 226 passing yards and six RBs managed just 62 yards on the ground.

The Steelers play their last exhibition in Buffalo on Thursday.



Former Buckeye National Champion Will Howard threw two INTs to the Jets, which was two more than they recorded all of last season (ZERO INTs was an NFL record for ineptitude.), during the Steelers 17-0 preseason Game 2 loss. (ESDN Photo by Frank Hyatt, Minority Publishing Assoc.)

BEEZWAX By John Martin

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BY C. M. APPLING

TO BE CONTINUED

On The Town

MOVIES * MUSIC * THEATER * DANCE * RESTAURANTS * NIGHT LIFE

Neil deGrasse Tyson "Search For Life In The Universe to come to the State Theater

Neil deGrasse Tyson "Search For Life In The Universe to come to the State Theater on October 7 at 8:00 p.m.

“To declare that Earth is the only planet in the universe with life would be inexcusably bigheaded of us.”

The discovery of about half a dozen



Tyson

planets around stars other than the Sun has triggered

tremendous public interest. Attention was driven not so much by the discovery of extra-solar planets, but by the prospect of them hosting intelligent life.

In any case, the media frenzy that followed was somewhat out of proportion with the events. Why? Be-

cause planets cannot be all that rare in the universe if the Sun happens to have a bunch of them. Even if they were teeming with buoyant aliens, the odds against these life forms being intelligent may be astronomical.

Ordinarily,

there is no riskier step that a scientist (or anyone) can take than to make sweeping generalizations from just one example. At the moment, life on Earth is the only known life in the universe, but there are compelling arguments to suggest we are not alone Join

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child to come to the State Theatre

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child to come to the State Theatre from August 24 to September 12.

Broadway’s spellbinding spectacular, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, is coming to Cleveland. Join the next adventure and experience the wizarding world like never before at this record-breaking hit and winner of six Tony Awards® including Best Play.

“It’s one of the most defining pop culture events of the decade” (Forbes).

When Harry Potter’s headstrong son Albus befriends the son of his fiercest rival, Draco Malfoy, it sparks an unbelievable new journey for them all—with the power to change the past and future forever. Prepare for a mind-blowing race through time, spectacular spells, and an epic battle, all brought to life



Harry Potter and the Cursed Child to come to the State Theatre from August 24 to September 12.

with the most astonishing theatrical magic ever seen on stage. It’s a “marvel of imagination” (The New York Times) that will “leave you wondering ‘how’d they do that?’ for days to come” (People Magazine).

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is a play written by Jack Thorne from an original story by Thorne, J. K. Rowling, and

John Tiffany.

The plot occurs nineteen years after the events of Rowling's novel Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. It follows Albus Severus Potter, the second son of Harry Potter, now the Head of the Department of Magical Law Enforcement at the Ministry of Magic. When Albus arrives at Hogwarts to get sorted into Gryffindor, he gets officially sorted into Slytherin and feels unable to live up to his father's legacy, making him resentful of his father.

From its premiere, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child has received mostly positive reviews from critics for its performances, story, illusions, and stage wizardry, though reception from the Harry Potter fandom was more polarized. The original West End production premiered at the Palace Theatre on 7 June 2016.

It received a record-breaking eleven nominations and won another record-breaking nine awards, including Best New Play, at the 2017 Laurence Olivier Awards. A Broadway production opened at the Lyric Theatre on 22 April 2018.

That production received ten nominations and won six awards, including Best Play at the 2018 Tony Awards. An Australian production opened at the Princess Theatre in Melbourne, on 23 February 2019.

A second American production opened in San Francisco at the Curran Theatre on 1 December 2019. The first non-English production opened at the Mehr! Theatre in Hamburg, Germa-

MENU TIPS

'King of American Seafood' grills it up

(NAPSI)—Some of America's finest chefs demonstrated their seafood preparation skills at the sixth annual Great American Seafood Cook-Off held in New Orleans.

"The cook-off underscores the importance of using domestic seafood from sustainable fisheries," said Ewell Smith, executive director of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board.

Tory McPhail, executive chef of commander's Place in New Orleans, was crowned 'King of America Seafood.' His winning recipe, Creole Seafood Mixed Grill, combines Louisiana sheepshead, shrimp and crab meat.

Creole Seafood Mixed Grill

1 lb. sheepshead or trout fillets, boneless and skinless

1 lb. 10 to 15 count head-on Louisiana shrimp, peeled and deveined with head and tails intact

1/2 lb. jumbo lump Louisiana crab meat, shells removed

4 oz. white wine
1 Tbsp. Hickory sea salt

Black pepper
1 Tbsp. vegetable oil

2 Tbsp. bacon fat, warmed

1 shallot, minced
1 jalapeno seeds discarded, minced

1 oz celery, minced

2 cups assorted fresh corn, cut off cob

1 cup milk
1 cup tomato con-casse, small dice

2 tsp. fresh thyme,

chopped

Salt and white pepper to taste

1 Oz basil oil

1/2 cup mixed herbs, optional

Prepare grill to medium heat and place a medium saute pan on the stove over medium heat flame. Season the seafood on all sides with sea salt and black papper and reserve. Place vegetable oil and bacon fat in the saute pan and swirl. Add shallot, jalapeno and celery saute 1 minute.

Add corn; contine to saute 30 seconds. Add milk; bring to a simmer. Place 1/4 of corn mixture into a blender; puree for 20 seconds.

Return pureed corn to pan; continue to cook for 3-4 minutes or until heated through and at sauce consistency. Stir in tomatoes and thyme; season with salt and pepper; set aside.

To cook the seafood, place the crabmeat and the wine in small saucepan; place on the hottest part of the grill. Heat for 3-5 minutes before placing the sheeps-head and shrimp for approximately 3 minutes per side, until done. Make sure the crabmeat comes to a simmer; swirl to heat thoroughly.

To serve, spoon corn sauce onto middle of 4 hot-plates. Top with sheepshead; add 2-3 shrimp on top. Spoon the warm crabmeat over the shrimp and into the corn sauce.

Drizzle with remaining corn sauce; garnish with remaining with basil oil and fresh herbs.

Makes 4 servings

For more information, and all the recipes entries, visit GreatAmericanSeafoodCookOff.com.

Chris' Cinema Trivia & Movie Match Up

By CHRIS APPLING



TRIVIA - (Comedies)

1. In the 'Player's Club' (1998), rapper/actor Ice Cube wrote, directed and executive-produced the film about an African-American girl (Lisa Raye) who pays for her college tuition by dancing at a strip club, but who is the black comedian who plays "Dollar Bill:" the club owner and who now has his own T.V. sitcom about a comedian who is raising his sister's 3 kids because she is a drug addict?
2. Comedian D.L. Hughley went from hosting a show on BET to starring in his own T.V. sitcom 'The Hughleys,' about a successful, snack vending machine entrepreneur who moves his African-American family to an integrated suburb, but in what movie did he star as one of four, close, male friends and whose character was married to a reserved, proper wife who was afraid to try new love techniques?
3. Cedric The Entertainer is best known as Steve Harvey's best friend on 'The Steve Harvey Show,' but in what film did he star as a black minister who is hired

by an African-American family to hold the funeral for a recently departed loved?

4. In 'Showtime' (2001), white, acting legend Robert DeNiro stars as a cop who is hired by a T.V. production company to have a camera crew follow him on his daily patrol to star in a 'reality show' about police officers, but who is the black, comedy legend who plays DeNiro's partner that uses this opportunity to fulfill his acting dreams?
5. Martin Lawrence made his comical, motionpicture debut as one of the hot, neighborhood homies on a sweltering summer day in Bed-Stuy, N.Y. in Spike Lee's 'Do The Right Thing' (1989), before starring in his own, FOX sitcom 'Martin,' but in what movie does he star as an employee at a medieval theme park who is transported back in time to the 1300s in England?

A N -

SWERS: 1. Bernie Mac
2. 'The Brothers' (2001)
3. 'Kingdom Come' (2001)
4. Eddie Murphy
5. 'Black Knight' (2001)



MOVIE MATCH-UP - (Martin Lawrence)

FILMS:

1. 'House Party' (1990)
2. 'Boomerang' (1992)
3. 'Bad Boys' (1995)
4. 'Life' (1999)
5. 'Big Momma's House' (2000)

ROLES:

- a) wrongfully imprisoned for more than 40 years

- b) bad-breathed, D.J. for Kid 'N' Play
 - c) disguised in under cover cop mission
 - d) ad exec friend of playboy
 - e) switches places with police partner
- ANSWERS: 1, b; 2, d; 3, e; 4, a; 5, c

Da 'Round Da Way Rewind Review

Spike Lee's 'Do The Right Thing' is a classic film

By C.M. APPLING

funny and attention-grabbing dialogue, as well as bright and colorful photography.

Since Spike capitalizes in unique, off-beat characters, he creates a mosaic collage of the different, ethnic groups (blacks, whites, Hispanics and Asians) who find it difficult to get along on this sweltering, humid day. They include: Mookie (Spike Lee) and his sister, Jade (Joie Lee), the black, pizza-delivery brother and his sister; Sal (Danny Aiello) the Italian-American pizzeria-owner and his two, quarreling sons, Pino (John Turturro) and Vito (Richard Edson).

Other, important personalities to the escalating, animus activity are: Mookie's Puerto Rican girlfriend, Tina (Rosie Perez); the goggle-glasses, dreadlocked, black nationalist, 'Buggin' Out' (Giancarlo Esposito); the boom-box carrying, Public Enemy-music-loving Radio Raheem (Bill Nunn); the stuttering, mentally-challenged Smiley (Roger Guenveur Smith); and, the local, radio DJ, Mister Senor Love Daddy (Samuel L. Jackson). Also making an appearance together as a cinematic couple are black film legends Ossie Davis (as the alcoholic 'bum', Da Mayor) and Ruby Dee (as the matriarchal Mother Sister). The motion-picture conjures many of the familiar, inner-city archetypes of 'ghetto fun' such as: children drawing with crayons on the cement; youth chasing after the local ice-cream dealer van; and people playing in water from an open fire-hydrant.

As the movie progresses, the racial prejudice and hatred are displayed by different characters using stereotypes and slurs. Sal and younger son, Vito, get along fine with their shop in a majority-black environment. Pino, the older son, doesn't like or tolerates blacks.

The 'feces really hits the fan' when Buggin' Out accuses Sal of being racist for only having photographs of Italian-American celebrities in his pizzeria, instead of including black notables also as a show of respect to his black clientele. Sal dismisses him and

Pino can't wait to brawl. But, when Buggin' Out acquires the cooperation of Radio Raheem to enforce his request, we know that there's definitely 'gonna be a throwdown', especially after Sal destroys Radio Raheem's boom box with a baseball bat. (Don't nobody touch a black man's boom box!)

When the melee finally begins, the Italian family is engaged with the enraged Radio and Buggin'. Employee Mookie watches from the sidelines with Da Mayor and Mother Sister. Of course, the police arrive to break up the brawl which only complicates matters and makes them worse.

In an attempt to restrain Radio Raheem, the racist white authorities accidentally choke him to death. This throws the entire community into chaos and a full-blown riot erupts. Mookie, by 'doin' the right thing', throws a garbage can through the front window of Sal's Sal's place and starts a rebellion. The pizzeria is then trashed by the furious residents and burned to the ground. At the conclusion, Sal and Mookie converse brusquely and they formally terminate their friendship. They part as another hot, sticky day looms on the urban horizon.

Do The Right Thing had many, memorable, cinematic moments. The viewer is drawn into the closeness of the claustrophobic quarters of the neighborhood that fires the intense heat, aggravation and aggression felt by the multi-ethnic cast. The reverberating soundtrack of Public Enemy's 'Fight The Power' became a rap anthem in the hallowed halls of American hip-hop. The vivid, almost iridescent colors added to the imagery and summer 'feel' of the film.

Hence, by exposing the ugly, short-sighted views of cross-cultural bigotry, Lee actually used the movie as a call for universal brotherhood. While Malcolm X will probably always be known as Spike Lee's finest work,

Do The Right Thing will always be remembered as his first financial success and as one of his best.

Cuyahoga SWCD hosts 3rd Annual Stormwater Run-Off to be held

Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District’s (SWCD) is hosting their 3rd Annual Stormwater Run-Off on October 4, 2026, starting at 8:00am at Clark Field Park (Tremont Pk. And Clark Ave.). This is a 5K and 1-mile Fun Run/Walk to celebrate Stormwater Awareness Week and help support their Conservation Action Grant and Scholarship Fund.

Registration is \$30 for the 5K and \$20 for the 1-mile Fun Run/Walk (prices increase after September 4). www.cuyahogaswcd.org

The Stormwater Run-Off is a great way to take a walk/run and celebrate Stormwater Awareness Week (October 1-7 | www.ohiostormwaterweek.org). Cuyahoga SWCD will have interactive

displays along part of the route to showcase the work they do in Cuyahoga County and how they help stormwater slow down, spread out and soak in! Over the past two years, participants had a great time running/walking and learning about stormwater from Cuyahoga SWCD and other conservation partners/sponsors who were

at display tables.

Lace up..... TWICE & support two great organizations! Register for the Stormwater Run-Off and receive a \$5 discount for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes Hike & Run 10k, 5k, 1-mile fun run, or one of 4 guided hikes on Sunday, September 13th. Participants of both events will be entered in a raffle to win amazing prizes.

Hike & Run - Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

Sponsorships for the 3rd Annual Stormwater Run-Off are available at various levels. A portion of each sponsorship goes to support their Conservation Action Grant and Scholarship Fund (www.cuyahogaswcd.org/actiongrants).

These grants support community-led projects like creating

gardens, planting trees, and landscaping with native plants.

Sponsors receive pre and post media recognition, free event registrations, and more.

Contact Amy Roskilly at 216/503-1317 and aroskilly@cuyahogaswcd.org for more information about sponsoring the Stormwater Run-Off.

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Lucca van der Woude, the star water polo player accused in a lawsuit of racism and harassment by a former teammate, has been revealed to be the son of a famous Hollywood filmmaker.

In a lawsuit filed, Aidan Romain claimed the athlete hurled racial slurs at him and frequently stuck his finger in his bottom during practices at their Los Angeles private high school.

Van der Woude’s father is a renowned Hollywood filmmaker, Thomas “Basti” van der Woude, who has worked on films like ‘Ocean’s Eleven’ and ‘Fast & Furious.’

The water polo prodigy was arrested at age 17 on the campus of the prestigious Harvard-Westlake School.

Aidan Romain, one of his former teammates, alleged van der Woude subjected him to frequent violent attacks in front of school authorities.

Van der Woude and another white teammate allegedly whipped Romain with a jump rope while telling him to “get back to work.”

The alleged perpetrator’s mother, Nilda, reportedly served as the water polo team’s logistics coordinator and assisted with communications with parents.

On February 27, Romain filed civil lawsuits against van der Woude, Harvard-Westlake School president Richard B. Commons, and school water polo coach Jack Grover.

The 18-year-old claims he was subjected to s*xually violent, racist behavior for more than two years, beginning when he joined the varsity team at age 14 in 2022 and ending in 2024,

when van der Woude was arrested.

Romain’s complaint claims he endured repeated racial slurs from a group of white teammates led by van der Woude for years

Text excerpt about a dad working long hours and neglecting to raise his kids properly related to bombshell claims of underwater incident with teammate.

“He was s*xually a*saulted by an older teammate, Lucca van der Woude, who digitally penetrated him underwater,” the lawsuit states.

The athlete claims van der Woude and another white teammate named Connor Kim, who now plays for Harvard University, “constantly dehumanized” him and repeatedly called him the N-word.

“Connor Kim ridiculed [Aidan] over the fact that his ancestors had been enslaved and subsequently forced to pick crops,” the lawsuit states.

“They taunted him with racial slurs, calling him a n****r nearly every day for approximately five months.”

“They weren’t trying to hide it. When the lights would turn off, they would say, ‘Where’s Aidan?’ or ‘Where’s arbitrary black person?’” Romain told Vanity Fair.

Text excerpt from Kate discussing schools coaches as mandated reporters related to an underwater incident with teammate and Hollywood connection.

Romain has accused school authorities and his water polo coach of failing to take action after he and his family members reported the harassment multiple times.

He also said



van der Woude



Romain



Harvard-Westlake School

many of the racist comments directed at him were made in front of Harvard-Westlake School staff.

The teen and his parents first reported racial ab*se to the school in 2023, but authorities allegedly closed the investigation within days after a group of players denied his claims.

When Romain’s mother met with coach Grover to discuss the attacks against her son, the coach reportedly “promised to keep Romain safe and to protect him moving forward,” but Romain continued to suffer different attacks as he trained to advance his career in water polo.

Romain claims school officials and water polo coach Jack Grover did nothing despite multiple complaints from him and his family

Comment expressing concern about bullying and hazing, highlighting the need to stop harmful behaviors in youth interactions.

The lawsuit states that in February

2024, after water polo practice, an unnamed teammate cornered Romain in the campus showers and “brutally attacked him, grabbing his p*nis and striking him repeatedly in the testicles over a perceived verbal slight.”

Romain, who has since left the US to train in Spain, said he reported the incident to the school at the time but was punished by being “suspended” and missing four games.

Van der Woude never attempted to hide his mistreatment of Romain, and even joked in front of coaches during a bout of conjunctivitis that “he had acquired the condition from digitally penetrating his teammates before rubbing his eyes,” the 54-page complaint reads.

The legal document states, “Time and time again, on Harvard-Westlake’s campus — in its pool and elsewhere — Lucca van der Woude approached Plaintiff from behind to ambush and digitally penetrate



Harvard-Westlake School Polo Team

him.”

Van der Woude was arrested in 2024 after another parent reported his violent behavior against his son to the police

In February 2024, van der Woude walked off campus in handcuffs as he was arrested for s*xually a*saulting another minor. He reportedly admitted in juvenile court to digital penetration against a minor as part of a plea deal.

Van der Woude has yet to pay the \$50,000 in restitution that was ordered by the juvenile court, according to The Daily Mail.

The school, a predominantly white high school located in Hollywood Hills in Los Angeles County, has denied wrongdoing, saying it treated reports of misconduct seriously and complied with mandatory reporting obligations.

In a statement, van der Woude’s attorneys have denied Romain’s allegations against him, declaring, “We do not intend to litigate this matter in the media.”

Romain moved to Spain with his mother after the traumatizing experience and sought trauma therapy to address the damage after experiencing panic episodes and nightmares. Next year, he hopes to play for an Ivy League team that will bring him closer to his dream of representing his country at the Olympics.

Van der Woude transferred to Newport Harbor, a public school in Orange County, California, and continued competing for Team USA in junior events.

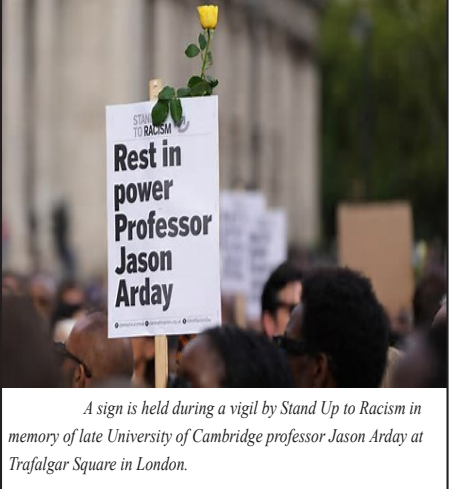
According to the lawsuit, Harvard-Westlake facilitated van der Woude’s trans-

Professor Jason Arday’s death to be investigated

An inquest opened Wednesday into the sudden death earlier this month of Jason Arday, a Cambridge University professor who faced a storm of plagiarism accusations.

Arday, 41, who became Cambridge’s youngest Black professor in 2023, was found dead at an address in south London on Aug. 13, days after he resigned his post as professor of sociology of education following intense media scrutiny of his credentials and many of the other claims he had made about his accomplishments outside of academia.

The inquest opened with a short hearing at London Inner South Coroner’s Court. Any deaths in the U.K. that are deemed to ex-



A sign is held during a vigil by Stand Up to Racism in memory of late University of Cambridge professor Jason Arday at Trafalgar Square in London.

hibit uncertainties of one form or another are investigated by a coroner.

“The various reports have given me reason to suspect that Professor Arday died an unnatural death 12 days ago,” said senior coroner Dr. Julian Morris. “It therefore follows that I must open an investiga-

tion.”

Police said at the time of his death that it was being treated as “unexpected” but not suspicious.

Questions about Arday’s qualifications were raised publicly last month by Nathan Cofnas, a one-time Cambridge philosophy researcher

who left the university after his critique of diversity, equity and inclusion programs sparked widespread protests. Cofnas previously argued that in a meritocracy, Black people “would disappear from almost all high-profile positions outside of sports and entertainment.” Cofnas was last week suspended from his post at Ghent University in Belgium.

In the wake of Cofnas’ charges, newspapers soon published stories alleging that more than 100 passages from Arday’s 2015 Ph.D. thesis were “identical or near-identical” to an earlier paper written by another researcher.

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Can Mayor Bibb see the naked truth about Shaker Square?

By PAT WHITE

Part II from August 21, 2026 story

Mayor Justin Bibb and his entourage made a surprise visit to Shaker Square on Tuesday August 18.

Other than the work on Dave’s Market’s roof, no one remembers roofers working on the roofs. Menesse should provide taxpayers with the name of the roofing company and the dates it fixed the roofs?

What residents and customers do know is that the roofs of CVS, Zanzibar Soul Fusion and Coyoacan Mexican Restaurant are leaking.

Who hired the roofers but lacked the foresight to know that all the broken gutters needed to be fixed?

PARKING LOTS- \$525,433

The parking lot at Dave’s Market was paved. What was the actual cost?

With business down because of the mismanagement of the Square since the BBC/CNP takeover, businesses need to encourage customers to patronize the Square. Whose stupid idea was it to install new parking meters?

“In 2026, new parking meters were

installed - ParkMobile where payment will be made by PLATE. Payments can be made through the app, online, or by mobile phone. The signs were installed and activated by July 24.The following rates and times will be utilized for the spaces:

\$1 per hour

15-minute increments

FIRST 15 MINUTES FREE (Note that ParkMobile fees cannot be waived)*

*This is in violation of Ohio Consumer Protection Laws

2 hour maximum

Monday through Sunday (7 days per week)

7 am- 10 pm

FREE parking will continue to be available in the Dave’s parking lot (southeast side of Square), CVS parking lot (northwest side of Square).and along Shaker Blvd which is Cleveland.

This new parking is not a safety issue. It is solely a money grab by CNP and BBC.

A petition has been started to demand a removal of these new meters.

A W N I N G S \$145,631

Approximately 40 awnings were put around the Square - only on businesses which previously had

awnings. The cost was about half of what has been listed. How much did it cost to hang the awnings?

Brick and Masonry \$150,000

What company did this work and when did they do it?

W O O D W O R K \$415,000

A group, operating out of the old Balaton Restaurant, cut wood and nailed it in place of some of the rotting wood. It was a shoddy job, at best. How much were they paid?

As mentioned in Part I, there are cameras, but who is monitoring them? There’s no visible security at the Square except of an empty security vehicle parked near the Breakfast Club that doesn’t seem to ever move.

The only security that residents and customers can rely on are the group that cleans around the Square. The group that were yellow jerseys are always helpful, hardworking, and most importantly, visible.

Residents and customers can always rely on them to be helpful. Residents deserve an accounting of how the money earmarked to improve Shaker Sqaure was spent.

Can Bibb (or the Feds) Follow All the Missing Money?

Funds provided in grants and loans to revitalize the historic Shaker Square: Tania Menesse should release the financial records to the taxpayers of Cleveland:

\$12,000,000	City of Cleveland
\$ 2,000,000	Cuyahoga County
\$ 1,000,000	Cle Develop Advisors
\$ 1,000,000	Cle Foundation
\$ 500,000	Gund Foundation
\$ 500,000	Capital Village
\$ 800,000	Federal (Shontel Brown)
\$ 250,000	St. Lukes Foundation

TOTAL OF FUNDS REPORTED: Is \$18M+

***There are no public records after 2023 for the grants and private donations. Including tenants rents the figure may be as high as \$30M from 2023-2026**

How much of the more than \$18M was spent on renovating the historic Shaker Square?

A 2024 article reported that less then 1/3 of the funds about \$6M had been spent on renovations:

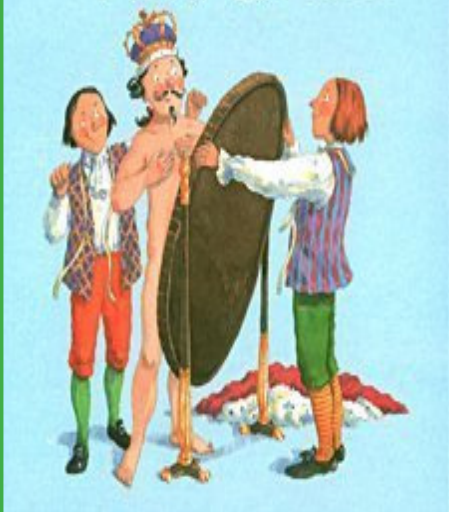
\$4.5M for:

\$1.6M on roofing (\$70,000 for iconic slate roofs, wrought iron lighting fixtures)
\$1.1 electrical and heating-ventilating-air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades
\$ 415,000 to repair woodwork
\$ 278,000 on new lighting
\$ 250,00 to pave and strip parking lots
\$ 150,000 repairing stone and brick masonry.
\$ 130,000 to paint and for canopies.
\$ 50,000 to replace pediments and columns.
\$ 80,000 on plumbing and sewer maintenance.

The shoddy repairs alledgedly cost \$4M. Where are the rest of the funds?

Hans Christian Andersen

The Emperor's New Clothes



“The Emperor’s New Clothes” is fairy tale written by Hans Christian Andersen.The tale is about an emperor who has an obsession with fancy new clothes, and spends lavishly on them at the expense of state matters. One day, two comen visit the emperor’s capital. Posing as weavers, they offer to supply him with magnificent clothes that are invisible to those who are either incompetent or stupid. The gullible emperor hires them, and they set up looms and pretend to go to work. A succession of officials, starting with the emperor’s wise and competent minister, and then ending with the emperor himself, visit them to check their progress. Each sees that the looms are empty but pretends otherwise to avoid being thought a fool. Finally, the “weavers” report that the emperor’s suit is finished. They mime dressing him and he sets off in a procession before the whole city. The townsfolk uncomfortably go along with the pretense, not wanting to appear inept or stupid, until a child blurts out that the emperor is wearing nothing at all. The entire town then realizes the truth of the observation and repeats the child’s cry. The emperor awkwardly continues with the procession, unwilling to admit that he has been duped.

The moral of the story: Mayor Bibb, please demand a forensic accounting of the taxpayer money given to Joy Johnson (BBC) and Tania Menesse (CNP). Transfer the historic Shaker Square out of the hand of BBC, CNP and Village Capital. If the funds cannot be accounted for... heads should roll! (Not literally)

Save the Shaker Lakes: Attend September meeting in Shaker

On Tuesday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m. at the Shaker Heights Middle School (SE corner of Warrensville Center Road/ Shaker Blvd.) the Ohio EPA is hosting an official public hearing regarding NEORS D’s Section 401 Water Quality Certification application.

This meeting is a result of the public outcry at the desegregation of the historic Shaker Lakes by the NEORS D and the NEORS D’s plan to destroy the lakes and parklands for a sewer park (often referred to as a “Glorified Drainage Ditch- with a boardwalk over it.)

For more information visit TheShakerParklands.com.

On August 3, The Ohio EPA’s Public Notice for “Receipt of 401 Application and Public Hearing” was published in the Plain Dealer and online at Cleveland.com regarding the Ohio EPA’s review of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification application by NEORS D.

The Ohio EPA will hold a Public Hearing in reference to the 401 application:

WHEN: Tuesday, September 22, at 6:00pm

WHERE: Shaker Heights Middle School through the Auditorium, close of business on September 29.

Anyone may submit written comments at <https://ohioepa.com/mentinput>.



Save the historic Shaker Lakes Parklands. For more information visit TheShakerParklands.com.

THREE THINGS RESIDENTS/TENANTS/ CUSTOMERS DO NOT WANT

- 1. Murals** -CNP painted murals on the deteriorating buildings all along Buckeye Road rather than renovate the buildings
- 2. Parking on both sides of the street** This stupid revenue generating ideal is detrimental to the Square: ParkMobile (New Meter company) has faced class-action lawsuits in other cities for data breaches when reading PLATES. (According to management: ParkMobile fees cannot be waived) This is a violation of consumer protection. It is also a saftey issue for drivers and emergency vehicles trying to navigate the Square. Until business picks up for tenant (due to BBC/CNP mismanagement), parking should be FREE.
- 3. Building apartments on the parking lots to “generate revenue” for CNP.** CNP/New Village Corporation is buying houses in Cleveland under the Local Focal LLC (Briana Perry’s LLC - She’s the CNP point person on Shaker Square as Joy Johnson has left BBC under a cloud, and Tania Menesse is leaving CNP). New Village Corporation, which Perry is also the president, then grants Perry’s LLC a \$1.5M open-ended mortgages on homes valued at less than \$150,000? What is going on?

Mayor Justin M. Bibb delivers update on Affordable Housing Initiative

Mayor Justin M. Bibb discussed the Affordable Housing Initiative at Depot on Detroit, 10300 Detroit Ave.

The Depot on Detroit is located at 10300 Detroit Avenue where the Edgewater and Cudell neighborhoods come together.

The project includes 60 units of income-based rental housing, available to individuals earning between 30 percent and 60 percent of the area median income.

Depot on Detroit has been awarded tax credits through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and is pursuing other sources of soft funding.

According to the press release:

“The development will offer one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments for families earning between about \$22,000 and \$68,000 a year. Rent will range from about \$500 to \$1,450 per month.

The Cleveland Housing Investment Fund, or CHIF, contributed nearly \$6 million to the project. Developers say the funding was critical to closing the financing gap and moving the project forward.”

The fund has a goal of raising \$100 million to help create 3,000 new housing units for low- to moderate-income residents. In its first year, CHIF has raised more than \$50 million for housing projects.

Depot on Detroit received \$1.25 million in Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) and a \$1.75 million Housing Development Loan (HDL) from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) plus a \$1 million HOME and Emergency Rental Assistance loan from Cuyahoga County. At minimum, LIHTC will be sought to help construct the West Park project, too.

Located immediately adjacent to the West Boulevard-Cudell RTA station, residents will enjoy transit passes included with their living apartment lease. This project and location place a vacant and under-used piece of land in use to fulfill the need for affordable housing in the neighborhood as well as the greater Cleveland community.

The update will also highlight Mayor Justin M. Bibb’s commitment to expanding access to quality, affordable housing across the city, while recognizing the partnerships and collaboration helping move this work forward and strengthen communities throughout Cleveland.

February 28, 2023

Depot on Detroit Submits Application to OHFA

The development team for Depot on Detroit submitted the rental housing tax credit application to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.

May 17, 2023

Depot on Detroit Awarded Tax Credits

Depot on Detroit was awarded tax credit funding through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency

Jun, 02, 2023

Depot submits application for County Funds

Depot on Detroit has submitted an application for Cuyahoga County ERA/HOME funds.

June 30, 2023

Depot on Detroit Applies for Cleveland Housing Trust Fund

Depot applies for City of Cleveland Housing Trust Fund, one of several soft funding sources needed to make this project possible.

July 7, 2023

Eagle Kafe - Community Meeting

Kickoff community meeting for Depot on Detroit!

July 19, 2023

Depot on Detroit awarded County ERA funds

Depot has been awarded Cuyahoga County ERA funds.

July 21, 2023

Depot applies for AHP funds

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati administers the Affordable Housing Program (AHP) for affordable housing through member banks. Depot on Detroit has submitted an application and will hear back in November!

September 14, 2023

Depot on Detroit Awarded Housing Trust Funds

The project has been awarded Housing Trust Funds through the City of Cleveland!



An artist rendering of the planned Detroit Depot on Detroit Ave.

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CUYAHOGA COUNTY
Board of Developmental Disabilities
CuyahogaDD.org/careers

Cuts needed to deal with Cuyahoga County’s budget crisis

Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne and Council President Dale Miller are calling for across-the-board cuts to address a budget crisis and bring the 2027 budget back in line after years of overspending.

In an August 14 memo, the two asked county departments that rely on general fund dollars to cut 3.3% from their budgets next year, and departments funded through the Health and Human Services levy to cut 8%, especially if the levy does not pass.

Despite implementing a hiring freeze and already cutting \$12 million from the budget this year, county officials say the general fund is still projected to end the year with a \$19.2 million deficit, while the Health and Human Services levy fund is projected to be \$18 million in the red.

Both funds would fall below the county’s self-imposed reserve requirements, with the HHS fund left with just over \$4 million heading into 2027.

So, while Ronayne and Miller acknowledged the sacrifices departments are already making – “Many of you have managed with fewer staff for months, and we know how challenging that has been,” they wrote – they called for more.

“Our work toward achieving a balanced budget is not yet complete,” the memo says.

The reductions will impact departments differently.

About a third of the smaller departments will need to find savings less than \$100,000, the memo shows. Most of the remaining departments will need to cut less than a million dollars.

But a few departments face steeper cuts:

- \$6.2 million from the Sheriff’s Office
- \$2.2 million from Common Pleas Court
- \$1.8 million from the Fiscal Office
- \$1.7 million from the Prosecutor’s Office
- \$1.6 million from Juvenile Court
- \$8.8 million from the Division of Children and Family Services
- \$2.2 million from the Division of Senior and Adult Services
- \$1 million from Jobs and Family Services
- \$1.4 million from Office of Early Childhood
- \$1 million from the Office of Homeless Services

Departments were asked to submit their budget reduction proposals by mid-September, with County Council expected to begin reviewing the 2027 budget shortly after.

“We recognize that this will not be easy but we also know we can do it together,” the memo says. “Our shared objective is to ensure the County’s long-term fiscal stability while continuing to provide the high-quality services that Cuyahoga County residents expect and deserve.”

How did the county get here?

Some of the rising expenses have been out of the county’s control.

For example, Ronayne and Miller note this year includes an extra 27th payroll and pay increases resulting from fact-finding decisions in union negotiations that exceeded what the county had budgeted.

Other increases were considered necessary, such as paying for costly licenses for the IT department and the new contract to provide better food in the county jail. The jail also routinely runs millions of dollars over budget each year because of overtime needed to keep inmates and staff safe, and providers across the state have significantly increased the price of housing children in county custody.

But budget watchdogs have also started to question some of the added expenses to start new programs or provide services that they view are nice to have but are not required.

That includes:

- Contributing toward a \$19 million HOPE Campus being built to provide placement options for youth in county custody.
- An unknown amount of money on the Welcome Center that helps immigrants assimilate in the community
- \$1.4 million for the sheriff’s Community Support Unit that helps with crime control downtown and on request in other parts of the county
- Nearly \$9 million for the Universal Pre-K program that helps low-income families put kids into quality childcare
- \$1 million for the new Division of Building Standards that aims to make construction safer and faster across the county.

\$500,000 to Detroit Depot project.

County Communications Director Kelly Woodard argued in an email to cleveland.com that the administration has been intentional about using non-general fund sources “to launch innovative and impactful programs,” where possible. The building department, for example, is expected to be self-sustaining, funded entirely from Real Estate Assessment fees.

However, she also argued that there needs to be a balance between meeting basic obligations and getting ahead of issues to “create a better future for Cuyahoga County.” Investments in early prevention or intervention services can help avoid crisis situations and leave the county better off in the long run, she said.

Miller strongly agreed, defending early childhood programs in particular, which he said can reduce the number of people who become involved in the criminal justice system, unemployed or who need mental health or addiction services.

“It saves you money down the line,” Miller said.

Still, Miller also saw value in scrutinizing county programs to ensure they are working effectively and potentially cutting some to free up money for higher-priority needs.

The new building department, he said, should remain “on a short leash.” If it is not self-sustaining as expected, then he said the county should consider disbanding it. He also called to reign in the sheriff’s duties a bit to focus more on operating the jail “really well” and on budget, even if it means cutting other services.

Outside of the controversial Community Support Unit, Miller noted that the sheriff recently provided extra security at the Cuyahoga County Fair. He was told that the fair board is going to cover the cost but that the county may have to eat some overtime. It can’t afford it.

“That’s certainly something we could take a look at,” Miller said.

The county is not targeting specific programs for cuts yet. Instead, officials are asking departments to reduce spending more broadly – starting this year.

The county has not set any specific targets for budget cuts in 2026 but has requested that all departments and agencies submit ideas for potential savings to Ronayne’s office for review. The county also remains in a near-full hiring freeze and continues monitoring other expenses, like travel costs.

“Every dollar saved will help,” Woodard said, adding that it could make it easier for the county to balance its 2027 budget.

The county is also pursuing a 2.5-mill levy increase on the November ballot for health and human services, which could help avoid cuts to social safety nets like Jobs and Family Services, Division of Children and Family Services and Senior and Adult Services next year. “Substantial reductions will be necessary in 2027 if the levy is not approved,” the memo from Ronayne and Miller warned.

But even if the levy passes, it still wouldn’t solve the county’s general fund problems. County documents show that additional cuts would still be needed, and even those reductions might only just bring the budget back into balance.

Ronayne and council are contributing, too, by not filling open positions on their staffs. That will allow Ronayne’s office to save \$121,000 and Council to save \$89,000, records show. Council is also exploring using artificial intelligence to streamline its work and potentially operate with a smaller staff permanently.

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Annual Recognition for John P. Green

by the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, Cleveland Chapter

Saturday, September 5, 2026 | 10 - 11 a.m.

Presenters:

Judge Charles Patton: Legacy of John P. Green
David Bernatowicz: Importance of Labor Day to Workers
Andre Washington: A. Philip Randolph Institute

Woodland Cemetery, between East 66th St and 71st St. Entry through Quincy gate.
John P. Green site is at Section 49 to your right after entering from Quincy gate.
(Near green port-a-potty)

For further information: Contact Dr. Dorothy Salem,
Educational Outreach Coordinator at Woodland Cemetery Foundation,
dorothysalem@yahoo.com or 216-337-9217

Michelle A. Day, Chairwoman/President
Historian for Woodland Cemetery

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