

SPORTS	MENU TIPS
Guardians in 1st Place Tie	Flavorful Stir-Fry
Page 4	See Page 5

Veterans Service Commission Headquarters to open
Cuyahoga County will celebrate the grand opening of the new Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission Headquarters, 3950 Chester Avenue, a new 30,000-square-foot, modernized facility representing a major step forward in service to veterans and their families. The new amenities greatly expand the Commission's capacity to deliver essential support and provide a more accessible, professional, and veteran-centered environment.

Toni Morrison Virtual Book Club
Toni Morrison Virtual Book Club will be held on May 31 for 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This free virtual statewide book club is designed to bring all Ohioans together to discuss the 11 novels of the Lorain native and Nobel Prize-winning author. You can join to discuss just one novel or aim to read them all!

Author Alley to be held at Loganberry
Author Alley will be held at Loganberry Books, 13015 Larchmere Blvd. on August 1-2, 2026. Dozens of local authors will set up shop in the iconic mural-adorned alleyway next to Loganberry, where they'll have the opportunity to connect with new readers and mingle with fellow writers.

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READ ON - WRITE ON

Save the Shaker Lakes: Follow taxpayer money as it goes down the (sewer) drain

The NEORSRD was polluting Lake Erie so badly - allowing more than 5 billion (billion with a b) gallons of raw sewage to spew into Lake Erie - that the federal government took the sewer district to court to stop the polluters in the mid 2000s, finally settling the case in 2011.

That lawsuit resulted in the signing of a Federal Consent Decree, under which the NEORSRD, who had hired some of the top lawyers in Cuyahoga County, admitted to no wrong doing, however; they were required to be monitored by the federal government over the next 25 years. invest \$3B in corrective measures, and pay fines to the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA.

The NEORSRD devised a plan to pass on the cost of their corrective measures and fines to their customers in the form of new "stormwater fees."

This new "fee" was deemed an unfair tax on residents, and several municipalities sued on behalf of their constituents. The administration of the City of Shaker Heights saw an opportunity having Kyle Dreyfuss-Well, the CEO of the NEORSRD, and her husband, Kevin, on several commissions.

If Shaker helped the NEORSRD with its lawsuit, in turn, the NEORSRD had promised to dredge the Shaker Lakes and fix the dams saving the city the costs of the repairs.

The NEORSRD stood to gain \$50M annually if the courts allowed them to charge the storm water fee. The cost to fix the Shaker Lakes was about \$3M.

There was one problem: Mayor Leiken seemed blissfully ignorant of NEORSRD's history. (see "Why are you still paying him" by Lisa Rab, Scene Magazine, August 15, 2007). To understand why the Shaker Lakes are in danger of being destroyed by the NEORSRD, you have to fol-

low the money:

FOLLOWING NEORSRD MONEY IN SHAKER

In July 2014, Shaker Councilwoman and Doan Brook Watershed Partnership (DBWP) CEO, Nancy Moore, (Ordinance 14-53) announced a NEORSRD \$250,000.00 green infrastructure grant for "a demonstration project for innovative stormwater management techniques." The project was to raze a foreclosed home and put up a parking lot. More than a decade later, there is no parking lot at 3560 Hildana Road. There is also no accounting for these funds. This ordinance was the beginning of a new relationship between the city of Shaker Heights and the NEORSRD.

While the NEORSRD's symbiosis with most municipalities might best be described as parasitic, the city of Shaker Heights, under Moore's leadership at the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership (largely funded by NEORSRD), the city's new relationship might best be described as mutualistic, with both benefitting.

The next month, during the August City Council meeting, Councilwoman Moore whitewashed the NEORSRD's history of violating the Clean Water Act (CWA) by discharging billions of gallons of untreated sewage approximately 3,000 to 4,000 times each year into Lake Erie and nearby rivers. Councilwoman Moore expressed her opinion of the lawsuit: "A number of years ago the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSRD) decided that it was going to enter into a consent decree to levy a stormwater management fee regionally and take on grey infrastructure."

Moore did not mention the NEORSRD's wrongdoing or its plan to pass on the cost of their wrongdoing and fines on to taxpayers. The following municipalities sued the NEORSRD: Bedford Heights, Brecksville, Independ-

dence, Strongsville, Beachwood, Lyndhurst, Glenwillow, Oakwood, Cleveland Heights, Olmsted Falls, North Royalton, Macedonia, Richfield Village, Northfield Village, Sagamore Hills, and Hudson.

These municipalities lost in the court, but won on appeal.... until.....according to Councilwoman Moore, the City of Shaker Heights came to the NEORSRD's rescue.

While Mayor Leiken admitted that he had no technical knowledge, so that he relied on the advice of Councilwoman Moore that helping the NEORSRD would be good for Shaker. Mayor Leiken testified in favor of the fee, and Shaker's Law Department filed an Amicus Brief on the NEORSRD's behalf to the Ohio Supreme Court.

Councilwoman Moore understood that the fees would amount to almost \$50M/year and that Shaker could be a big beneficiary of those funds.

Mayor Leiken was convinced that NEORSRD's plan was to use the funds "to repair the dams and to dredge the lakes which would have helped to prevent this kind of problem from occurring."

Through her position on the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership (DBWP), Councilwoman Moore knew millions of dollars were free to flow.

When the Shaker City Council voted in Resolution 14-60 to have Councilwoman Anne Williams replace Councilwoman Moore on the board of DBWP while Councilwoman Moore was out of town, Councilwoman Moore insisted that council recind that resolution immediately upon her return.

In the August 25, 2014 meeting, there's a discussion of the huge July 2014 storm. Many residents reported that they never had a problem until the city started on the Warrensville/Van Aken project: residents from Lomond/Sussex, Malvern, Kingsley Road, and J Pistone's on Warrensville Road. Lomond residents also told council members that they have been dealing with sewer problems for years.

No residents reported problems with the Shaker Lakes as a result of the storm. According to the floodplain FEMA map, Lomond is the critical area. Homes in the Doan Brook floodplain are not impacted "because of the difference in elevation between the creek and their homes." Helping the residents in the Lomond area was put off for years while problems in more affluent neighborhoods were addressed.

In the February 23, 2015 meeting, Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, CEO of the NEORSRD, tooted the NEORSRD stormwater plan. Mayor Leiken added that Shaker is supporting the NEORSRD at the Ohio Supreme Court because Dreyfuss-Wells has promised "extensive support to Shaker in the form of dredging of lakes and repairs of dams." Dreyfuss-Wells was appointed by the mayor to the Shaker Heights Development Corporation. Her husband, Kevin, was serving on the Landmark Commission.

In November, Councilwoman Moore, accepted the second green infrastructure grant from the NEORSRD for \$135,000.00 (Ordinance 15-97). The grant was for the Larchemere/Kendall parking lot. For that amount, only half of the parking

lot has pervious pavers which cost \$7-12 per sq. foot., a bio-retention basin, and a plaque. If the cost of the pavers is less than \$30,000, how were the other funds used?

In the same meeting, it was reported that the driveway entrance to Horseshoe Lake Park on Park Drive had a sink hole because the culvert beneath the road had deteriorated. The culvert on Eaton had to be replaced as well. The bids can in at \$420,000.00. Matt Rubino, Finance Director, stated that this request is to appropriate the \$920,000 for the culverts and the three mainline sewers from the Sewer Capital Improvement Fund.

In that meeting, a Cooperative Agreement with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for the Kendall-Cheshire Regulator Flood Relief Project (Ordinance 16-55) was approved. According to Councilwoman Moore, the NEORSRD offered to reimburse Shaker \$1M if the city installed a brand new sewer going down the middle of the road and contribute \$90,000.

According to Mayor Leiken, the NEORSRD funds are going towards "dredging of the lakes and the repair of the dams." Had the municipalities succeeded in their litigation against the NEORSRD, we wouldn't have the "funding to take care of our lakes and dams."

Council asked for an additional \$121,500 for the Larchmere/Kendall parking lot Green Infrastructure Improvements (Ordinance No. 16-82). The grant has strict criteria and this location met that criteria. The grant we applied for has an 80/20 split in the amount of \$135,000, with \$108,000 from the NEORSRD, \$13,500 from in-kind services, and \$13,500 cash from the city's capital budget, bringing the total for a few pervious bricks, some plants and a plaque on the corner of Larchmere and Kendall Road to \$256,500.00. Did this money go down the drain?

A bigger issue is on the horizon. The Shaker Lakes

During the October 2016 council meeting, Councilman Zimmerman, in (Ordinance No. 16-106) recommended improvements to public land, specifically, "for the purpose of improvements at the Andover Road/Green Lake Spillway, pursuant to Section 1212.02 (I) of the City's Zoning Code." The Planning commission wants to remove Andover Road and replace it with a pedestrian bridge and bikeway. The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSRD) was proposing to rebuild the Green Lake Spillway under Andover Road which requires removal of the roadway. They will replace it with a 90-foot long pedestrian bridge in conjunction with a new 72-foot long spillway. NEORSRD was to begin the design and construction that winter.

The spillway at Andover is very similar to the spillway at the Nature Center at



The beautiful, historic Shaker Lakes and their inhabitants are under threat because of a sewer district's plan to destroy the lakes.

Shaker Lakes on North Woodland Road between W Park Blvd and N Park Blvd.

Here's the common sense question: When did the spillway become a Class II Dam?

While NEORSRD was planning for the demise of the Shaker Lakes, city council (Ordinance 16-108) was approving approximately \$1M of NEORSRD funds for the Lomond Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project.

In the same meeting, the Mayor appointed Kevin Dreyfuss-Wells to the city planning commission with a term ending in December 31, 2022. Kevin moved from the Landmark Commission to the planning commission.

In January 2016 the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in favor of the NEORSRD, and the city of Shaker believed that the NEORSRD's promise to fix the dams would come to fruition:

"For starters and with the help of the Regional Sewer District Storm Water Management Program, finally approved by the Ohio Supreme Court just recently after years of litigation," Mayor Leiken announced, "we'll be able to dredge our lakes for the first time since 1975 and restore them to their beautiful condition. In addition the sewer district will work with us to repair our dams."

The Shaker administration was about to learn a hard lesson. The NEORSRD had completely failed in addressing their obligations under the federal consent decree. The NEORSRD was to spend \$44M to eliminate 45M gallons of stormwater under Appendix 3 of the decree. The NEORSRD had spent about \$80M taxpayer dollars to eliminate only about 18-20M gallons of stormwater. The NEORSRD had to make a new plan to address this problem. Could making the Shaker Lakes into sewer parks be the fix the NEORSRD needed to meet that benchmark? The NEORSRD was going to sell the plan. They were running out of options to meet the benchmark of 44M gallons.

On April 11, 2016, everything changed in council.

A Council work session was held. Jeff Jowett, Kimberly Colich, and Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells of the NEORSRD gave a presentation on the Green Lake Dredging Project. The sewer district planned was to divide the Shaker Lakes into different projects.

Before the NEORSRD became involved in green infrastructure projects because of the consent decree, Green Lake was dredged for about \$300,000 in 2007.

Under the NEORSRD, the job was botched from start to finish: not doing an environmental impact study led to the killing of most of the wildlife. Local residents stepped in forcing the NEORSRD to hire Herps Alive who was able to save about 30 turtles. The NEORSRD built the 72-foot spillway under Andover Road. The spillway is now classified as a Class II dam. Under the NEORSRD mismanagement, cost ballooned to almost \$5M.

While the city waited, the NEORSRD was making plans for a sewer park in the hopes to meet their stormwater requirement under the consent decree.

On May 8, 2017, city council met in a work session with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District: Chief Executive Officer Kyle Dreyfuss Wells; Director of Watershed Programs Frank Greenland; Watershed Team Leader Jeff Jowett and Government Affairs Specialist Joe Jenkins; presented "Sewer University -Shaker Heights Edition." The group shadowed their plans by emphasizing their precieved potential dangers of the dams. In the June city council meeting was awarded several grants from the NEORSRD (Ordinance No. 17-73), a Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSRD) grant in the approximate amount of \$400,000, from the NEORSRD Member Community Infrastructure Program, for the Fernway Sanitary Sewer Overflow Elimination Project. (Cont. page 7)

Gasoline prices fall for spring break

Spring Break season is here as the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline jumped nearly 24 cents since last week to \$3.71. The last time the national average was in the \$3.70 range was October of 2023. Gasoline demand increases this time of year as the weather warms up and more drivers hit the road. Gas prices are also rising due to the conflict in Iran.

The national average has gone up 73 cents since the conflict began on February 28th.

Crude oil prices play a major role in what drivers pay at the pump, and prices have surpassed the \$100/barrel mark multiple times in recent days. To help offset rising prices, the

U.S. announced it will release 172 million barrels of oil from its strategic reserves over four months. The move is part of a broader effort by the International Energy Agency to release a total of 400 million barrels of oil, the largest emergency release in its history.

According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gasoline demand increased last week from 8.29 million barrels per day to 9.24 million. Total domestic gasoline supply decreased from 253.1 million barrels to 249.5 million. Gasoline production increased last week, averaging 9.9 million barrels per day.

Northeast Ohio Average for Self-Service Gasoline		
	Regular	
This Week	(05-15-26)	\$2.81
Last Week	(04-08-26)	\$3.21
Last Year	(05-16-26)	\$3.52
National	(05-15-26)	\$2.81

VANTAGE POINT

Rent escrow helps tenants gain leverage for needed repairs

By TONYA SAMS

Many tenants are unaware of their rights when a landlord fails to make repairs to their property to keep it livable and safe. One option is rent deposit or rent escrow.

"A tenant can use rent escrow and pay their rent to the Clerk of Court to protect themselves from being evicted, while trying to get the landlord to make repairs," said Barbara Reitzloff, a Supervising Attorney in The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland's Housing Practice Group. "Tenants do not need an attorney to start the process."

There are a few things that tenants should know before starting the rent escrow process.

"It's a fairly simple process, but tenants have to plan ahead," said Barbara. "Unless it's an emergency, like no heat in the winter, tenants must

give the landlord 30-days' notice in writing listing the repairs needed. The tenant should give the landlord the notice with the rent. The landlord then has a reasonable amount of time, usually 30 days, to make the repairs. If they don't, and the tenant is current in rent, the tenant can pay the next month's rent into escrow. The tenant can't wait until they get a 3-day eviction notice for nonpayment and then decide to put their rent into escrow."

Paying rent into escrow protects a tenant from being evicted for nonpayment but, tenants sometimes take other actions that do not protect them.

"You can't just stop paying rent because of the condition of the rental," Barbara said. "You also can't make the repairs yourself and then deduct the cost from the rent."

Once the rent escrow process begins, some

courts, like the Cleveland Housing Court, hold mediations to try to help the tenant and landlord work something out, including releasing the funds to the landlord if the repairs are made, or splitting the money on deposit with the tenant if they want to move out.

"The Court holding onto the rent is the incentive to get the landlord to make repairs. It's more effective with private landlords as opposed to those in subsidized housing, because the landlord in subsidized housing will still receive the larger subsidy payment while the tenant pays their portion into the court."

Tenants also can make a complaint with the city about the condition of the property.

"The city will send an inspector out. If there are code violations, they'll cite the landlord. The landlord must make

the repairs to satisfy the city, and if they don't, they can be charged criminally," said Barbara. "So not only will the landlord not receive rent, but they could also end up with a criminal misdemeanor charge. Some violations could cost the landlord

\$1,000 a day for every day out of compliance."

To learn more about rent escrow: lasclev.org/RentDepositBrochure.

Having issues regarding housing? Legal Aid may be able to help! Attend a free Legal Aid Brief Advice Clinic. For a full schedule: lasclev.org/clinics.

To apply for free legal services, call 888-817-3777 or apply online: lasclev.org/apply.

Tonya Sams is a Development and Communications Manager at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

YOUR HEALTH

Health screenings for every woman

(NAPSI) Eating a healthy diet, exercising, getting a regular Pap smear and mammogram—these are just a few of the many steps women can take to help ensure they live longer, healthier lives.

However, it can be tough to figure out what to do, given the mountains of information that are available. So, how can women determine which services and screenings are right for them—and when?

You can start by being aware of what the science says about preventing certain health conditions and by having an open and honest conversation with your doctor about your values and preferences.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the number one cause of death for women. Fortunately, you can help prevent CVD by addressing important risk factors such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and obesity.

For example, if you are age 40 to 75, talk to your doctor about your CVD risk and whether a low- or moderate-dose statin may be right for you. Statins are medications that lower your cholesterol, prevent buildup of cholesterol and fats in your arteries, and reduce your chances of having a heart attack or stroke.

Depending on your age and risk factors, taking a low-dose aspirin daily can also potentially help prevent CVD. When blood clots form in narrow blood vessels, such as the ones in your heart and brain, it can cause a heart attack or stroke.

Aspirin can help keep these blood clots from happening, lowering your risk. There are some risks associated with taking low-dose aspirin every day, so make sure you talk to your doctor about whether aspirin is right for you.

Taking statins and aspirin to prevent CVD are effective but they are just one part of CVD prevention. You can reduce your risk of CVD by quitting smoking, eating a healthy diet, and becoming more physically active. If you smoke, talk to your doctor about ways to help you quit. If you are overweight and have other CVD risk factors or even if you are healthy and simply want to stay that way, ask your doctor about

how you can develop heart-healthy habits.

Screening for cervical cancer finds the disease when it is most treatable. Unfortunately, 12,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year. Most cases of cervical cancer happen in women who have not been regularly screened or appropriately treated.

That is why it is critical for women to get screened regularly starting at age 21. There are several effective options for screening, depending on your age and preferences. The Pap test and the human papillomavirus (HPV) test are the most effective ways to screen for cervical cancer and are done during a visit to your doctor's office. Talk to your doctor about which test is best for you and how often you should be tested.

Breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in women; roughly 237,000 cases are reported in the United States each year.

Breast cancer screening aims to find the disease early, when it is easier to treat. Mammograms, which are X-ray pictures of the breasts used by doctors to look for early signs of the disease, are the most effective method of screening for breast cancer. Evidence shows that the benefits of mammograms increase with age, with women aged 60 to 69 most likely to benefit from screening.

Still, about one in three women who should

get a mammogram regularly do not. If you are between the ages of 50 and 74, talk to your doctor about getting a mammogram regularly. Some women decide to start screening as early as age 40. Talk with your doctor about your individual situation and circumstances, when you should start screening, and how often you should be screened.

As people age, their bones begin to thin. For some people, their bones become very weak and can break or fracture more easily, a condition known as osteoporosis. Osteoporosis affects one in every four women age 65 or older in the United States. Bone measurement tests can be used to screen for osteoporosis and identify the likelihood of future fractures.

For people who have osteoporosis, treatments are available to reduce the risk of a fracture. If you are a woman age 65 or older (or younger than 65 with certain risk factors), ask your doctor about being screened for osteoporosis and other ways to improve bone health.

These recommendations were developed by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force—an independent group of national experts in prevention. The Task Force makes recommendations, based on the latest science, about what works and what doesn't work for preventing disease and promoting good health.

For further information on these and other Task Force recommendations, visit www.uspreventiveservices-taskforce.org.

Weekly Wealth For Your Health

Preparation can avoid estate fights

By NATHANIEL SILLIN

When you die, will your kids fight over your money?

It's an important question that might be hard to answer now, but parents who devote themselves to estate planning with relevant updates over their lifetimes can potentially keep arguments between adult children to a minimum.

As of 2013, American retirees are the sixth most generous in the world when it comes to the amount of assets passed on to family, according to a survey by HSBC, the global British bank. The latest survey (<http://www.about.hsbc.com.au/news-and-media>) noted that 56 percent

of American retirees planned to leave an inheritance with an average amount of \$176,814. How you allocate your estate, no matter what the amount, requires planning and proper communication. Here are a few ways to start.

Know where you stand first. If you haven't updated your estate planning in the last 5-10 years, do so now to fully understand your complete financial picture.

Like all personal finance issues, estate planning should be adjusted when significant life changes happen or there is a major shift in assets, such as when a relative needs help. In short, your estate picture has to reflect current financial realities, so before you

decide how to allocate your wealth either before or after you die, seek qualified financial, tax (<https://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed/Estate-and-Gift-Taxes>) and estate advice. Once you've determined distribution, confirm your plan. Managing money and family are usually parallel issues until the topic of estate planning arises.

For some families, splitting money, property and possessions more or less equally among adult children is a smooth process. However, when it doesn't result in the fairest outcome for everyone involved, it can be trickier to navigate. Varying situations for each child might mean that an even split won't work. Once you are able to determine your assets, start thinking through how you can distribute them.

Re-affirm your executor and powers of attorney. Making a will and designating various health, financial and business powers of attorney as applicable are the standard first steps in estate planning. Certain kinds of trusts might also be relevant. Generally it's good to have documents in place (<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/estateplanning>)

early in life.

As your children get older, it's a good idea to review those documents and designated leadership.

Start communicating. Hollywood has produced many a movie scene with family members sitting nervously in a lawyer's office waiting for the will to be read.

Such moments make for great comedy or drama, but not great modern estate planning. Based on what you hope to leave your family, the state of your relationship with your adult children and whatever weigh-in you get from qualified advisors, it's usually better to communicate your plans to your children in advance in person and make sure your legal documents confirm exactly what you plan to do.

Bottom line: Could your current estate planning eventually put your kids and other family members at odds? Don't wait—the time to update or start estate planning is right now.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney

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Islam In The Community

Israel deports 2 activists detained for leading an aid flotilla to Gaza

Israel deported two activists Sunday after they were detained for slightly over a week for leading an aid flotilla trying to break the Israeli naval blockade of the Gaza Strip.

The two, Saif Abukeshk, a Spanish-Swedish citizen of Palestinian origin, and Brazilian citizen Thiago Ávila, were among dozens of activists intercepted by the Israeli navy in international waters off the coast of Crete, hundreds of miles from Israel.

Both are members of the Global Sumud Flotilla's steering committee, whose mission is to break Israel's naval blockade and bring

some humanitarian aid to the Palestinian territory.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry called the two activists in a post on X on Sunday "professional provocateurs," saying "Israel will not allow any breach of the lawful naval blockade on Gaza."

At the time of the arrest, Israeli authorities said the two had been detained for questioning, and that Abukeshk was "suspected of affiliation with a terrorist organization" and Ávila was "suspected of illegal activity," without providing evidence. No formal charges against them have been publicized.

Spain and Brazil have

condemned "the kidnapping of two of their citizens in international waters by the Government of Israel" in a joint statement at the time. Their detention sparked solidarity protests in several countries.

In all, 22 boats and 175 activists were intercepted by the Israeli navy. Activists said Israeli forces stormed their vessels, smashed engines and detained some of those onboard. The incident occurred hundreds of miles from Gaza and Israel overnight from Wednesday to Thursday.

Israeli officials said they needed to take early action against the flotilla before it reached Israeli



Saif Abukeshk, a Palestinian-Spanish activist, left, and Thiago Ávila, a Brazilian activist, and members of the Global Sumud Flotilla's steering committee aboard the Greenpeace vessel Arctic Sunrise, which joined a Gaza-bound flotilla in the Mediterranean Sea on April 18.

waters because of the high number of boats involved.

The flotilla's latest attempt to reach Gaza comes less than a year after Israeli authorities foiled a previous effort by the group. That attempt involved about 50 vessels and around 500 activists, including Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, Nelson Mandela's grandson Mandla Mandela, and several lawmakers.

Israel arrested, detained and later deported the participants, including Ávila, who claimed Israeli authorities abused them while in detention. Israeli authorities denied the accusations.

Israeli strike kills two in Gaza

In Gaza, an Israeli strike hit a vehicle, killing at least two people, including a Hamas police officer, according to the Nasser hospital, which received the casualties.

The vehicle was struck late Sunday morning in Al-Amal neighborhood in the southern city of Khan Younis, said the civil defense, a first responders' agency operating under the Hamas-run Interior Ministry.

The two killed included Col. Wessam Abdel-Hadi, who heads the police investigation department in Khan Younis, the hospital said.

The Israeli military said it was reviewing the strike.

The fatalities were the latest among Palestinians in the coastal enclave since an October fragile ceasefire deal attempted to halt a more than two-year war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

While the heaviest fighting has subsided, the shaky ceasefire has seen almost daily Israeli fire.

Israeli forces have carried out repeated airstrikes and frequently fire on Palestinians near military-held zones, killing at least 850 Palestinians, according to Gaza's health ministry.

The ministry, which is part of the Hamas-led government, maintains detailed casualty records that are seen as generally reliable by United Nations agencies and independent experts. But it does not give a breakdown of civilians and militants.

Militants have carried out shooting attacks on troops, and Israel says its strikes are in response to that and other violations. Four Israeli soldiers have been killed since the ceasefire.

Keshk is a Palestinian-Spanish activist who campaigns against the Palestinian genocide. He is a member of the Palestinian Community of Catalonia, the Intersindical Alternativa de Catalunya and the European Network of Trade Unions for Justice in Palestine.

Born in the Askar refugee camp (West Bank), he arrived in Spain around 2003, and in the 2020s settled in Barcelona, together with his wife and three children. Since he married his wife Sally Issa in Sweden, he has triple nationality: Palestinian, Spanish and Swedish. He works for a multinational company.

While in Palestine, he took part in the student movement and later in the international solidarity movement. Once he arrived in Spain, he continued to mobilize from the diaspora and joined the Palestinian Community of Catalonia and the Intersindical Alternativa de Catalunya as secretary of international rela-



Over 50 civilian ships were making their way to Gaza today intending to breach Israel's blockade of the strip and deliver humanitarian aid to the people there.

the event. He was photographed at the mausoleum erected in Nasrallah's honor near the Camille Chamoun Sports City in Beirut.

During the visit, Ávila posted extensively on social media praising Nasrallah as an "inspiring" figure in the history of anti-colonial and anti-imperialist struggles, as well as a "martyr". In Instagram captions and videos, he stated that he had met Nasrallah at age 19 during the 2006 Lebanon War and was inspired by a speech in which Nasrallah declared that the Lebanese resistance would defeat the "Zionist entity".

Ávila was also filmed at a meeting in Beirut participating in chants of "Death to Israel", "Death to America", and "Victory for Islam" while pumping his fist in the air.

Ávila has publicly stated that he "despise[s] Israel and the United States." He additionally shared a photograph of himself with Leila Khaled, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), known for her role in multiple civilian plane hijackings in the 1970s, describing her as "one of the [people] I most admire in the whole world." Ávila's alignment has been seen by some[who?] as contro-

versial due to Hezbollah's and the PFLP's designation as terrorist organizations in a number of countries.

Because of this, he was denied entry in Argentina in late March 2026 over generic "terrorism" charges.

In June 2025, Ávila was part of the crew of the Madleen – a vessel that departed from Catania, Italy, carrying medical supplies, food, and hygiene items to Gaza. Ávila and the other crew members were detained for deportation. On 10 June 2025, the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Itamaraty) confirmed that Ávila was being held in an Israeli detention center after refusing to sign deportation documents. In an official statement, the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH), which is linked to the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship, classified the case as a kidnapping and a war crime.

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A Look At My World Sometimes I Feel Like A Rabbit

By Dr. JAMES L. SNYDER

A lot of things in life, I am not very good at. That list could go on and on and on. Not only am I not good at some things, but I'm terrible at most things.

However, I am actually excellent at a few things. I think the top of that list is eating, which I do with a passion that might make you smile.

I've never met a cheeseburger that I didn't like. I could have a cheeseburger every day and be very happy. Along with my cheeseburger would be some very delicious French fries. Nobody can eat a cheeseburger and fries like me. I never know when I've had enough.

Along with that, I've never met a serving of Mac & Cheese I didn't like. I enjoy those buffets where I can eat as much as I want. I'm not sure who came up with this idea of Mac & Cheese, but they certainly deserve a Nobel Peace Prize.

When it comes to dessert, I have never met a dessert I did not love.

At one restaurant, when I order my dessert, I tell the waitress, "You surprised me and pick out a dessert you think I would enjoy."

Never once did any waitress bring me a dessert I didn't like.

Then, I have never had

an Apple Fritter I did not enjoy. I can't remember when I first started eating Apple Fritters, but it's certainly been a wonderful experience for me.

I try to convince The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that an Apple Fritter is actually a fruit. Everybody knows that an Apple is a fruit. Whenever I say that to her, she looks at me and says, "The only fruit I know is you, and you're a fruitcake."

When it comes to breakfast, I've never had a waffle I didn't like. There is nothing like a plate filled to the top with waffles floating in syrup. I love waffles, and I could eat them all day.

Recently, some health challenges developed, and my doctor said I was slightly overweight. I asked what that meant, and he just smiled, probably knowing I'd find some humor in it.

I then had a slight heart attack, along with an episode of shingles and even a case of acute bronchitis. All of that together redefined my health condition.

When I say redefine I'm referring to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She's usually with me when I see my doctor and knows everything the doctor says about me and my health condition. She remem-

bers even more than I hear. I'm not sure she is remembering everything that actually occurred.

Because of that, she has now taken over the culinary aspect of my health. I did not see that coming. All of a sudden, my eating habits are being supervised by The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I must confess that she is a wonderful cook. I don't think there's anything she can't cook or bake that doesn't taste delicious.

But now, because of my health conditions, she has developed a vegetable diet for me. Also, some fruits are involved. The main part of my meals every day is lettuce. Personally, I only love lettuce on my cheeseburger. After a while, I have come to the point where I want to say, "Let us alone." But I can't speak that out loud in case of reciprocation. Believe me, nobody wants to experience anything like reciprocation from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Still, I understand it's for my health, even if I joke about it.

I did not know there were so many vegetables in the world until recently. It seems she has a vegetable for everything.

There is one strict restriction along this line, and that is broccoli. No matter what anybody else thinks, especially The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I do not consider broccoli to be a vegetable. Disagree with me if you want, but I am unanimous in that.

I do confess that the lettuce salads she makes are rather delicious. No question about that for me. But as long as I've been alive, I have never considered a lettuce salad to be the mainstay of lunch and dinner.

For the past year, she has been very diligent about the "vegetable diet" she developed for me. As a result, I have lost around 15 pounds. When the doctor told me that, I spent a whole week looking for those lost pounds. It's funny, but I know it's a positive change for my health.

Evidently, her "vegetable diet" is working for me. I'm losing weight, and my blood pressure is under control. I never knew it was out of control before, but doctors are always right, so says The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

After a week of eating lettuce salads, I began to feel like a rabbit. Now I know what rabbits feel like when they're running around looking for lettuce. The only difference with a rabbit is the ears. They have big ears and can hear everything, whereas I have small ears and can hardly hear anything.

I remembered what the Bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

Whatever my diet is, whether I like it or not, I'm going to do it to glorify God, after all, God deserves my praise.

James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com.

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Monsters tied at 1-1 in AHL Playoffs

By ANDREW CARTER

The Cleveland Monsters are tied with the Syracuse Crunch, 1-1, after the first two games of the 1st Round of the Calder Cup Playoffs were held in The Land. They won the opener, 3-2, but lost the second game, 4-1. The next three games (if necessary) will be played in Syracuse as that's the usual AHL format for a best-of-five series. Since the Monsters parent club, the Columbus Blue Jackets, did not make the NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs, many throughout Ohio are watching to see how they will do.

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 to Friday, May 15, 2026

EAST SIDE DAILY NEWS

SPORTS

P&C Classic 3 will be held on May 9 at Woods King Armory, 4303 Green Road, Beachwood 44121. For information contact Charles Conwell at 216-352-7625

Tennis in the LAND canceled

The popular Tennis in the Land tournament, which brought world-class WTA 250 tennis to Cleveland each August, will pause in 2026. Organizers explained that the temporary downtown setup, which involved converting parking lots into a full tennis complex, is no longer economically sustainable without a permanent facility and supporting infrastructure. The decision is not due to lack of fan support or sponsorship, as the event had strong attendance and significant media reach over its five-year run.

1st place Guardians sweep Angels

By KARL BRYANT

The 1st Place Guardians cemented their hold atop the AL Central by sweeping the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. They scored 14 runs in the three games, while the Angels scored exactly two in each loss.

Joey Cantillo (3-1) allowed no runs in 6.0 innings as CLE took the series opener. CLE scored five runs in the 3rd Inning on four walks - one with the bases loaded - and a 2-Run hit by Daniel Schneemann and a 2-Run double by Travis Bazzana.

Angel Martinez hit a HR in the middle game, a close, 3-2 win. Hunter Gaddis (1-1) got the "W." Cade Smith got Save no. 12.

Longtime fan Marge commented, "I always keep hoping they come up with another hitter. I know this West Virginia player has a lot of potential, so I hope he's the one that can help us." (John Denver's "Almost Heaven, West



Messick

Virginia," is the walk-up tune for Chase DeLauter, who is from West Virginia.) He ended up with a walk.

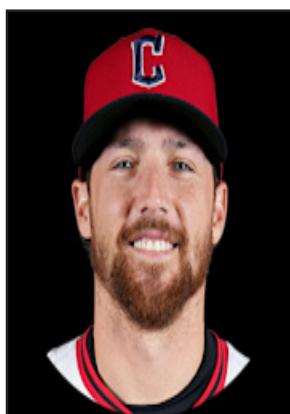
Sam remarked, "It's still close (2-1 at the time), so we need some insurance runs. We've got to beat up on the week teams like this (last place Angels), so we can make some traction." Marv said, "I don't know why they took out (Slade) Cecconi. He struck out the last two guys he faced. Sometimes they get too cute with these starting pitchers. I sure hope that Gaddis doesn't blow this. Who knows if we'll score any more runs." (Cecconi left, leading 1-0,



Gaddis

and throwing 89 pitches in 4.0 innings. Gaddis got the "W" and CLE scored twice more.)

In the Daytime Get-away Game series finale, standout Rookie Parker



Schneemann

Messick (5-1) continued this extraordinarily pitching, as he struck out seven in 6.2 innings. Smith got Save no. 13. Martinez led off the game for the Guardians with another HR.



Bibee

It was noted that CLE has beaten the Angels at Progressive Field 30 out of 34 times since 2015, which is the best mark by one squad over another in that time frame.



DeLauter

This weekend, the Guardians will welcome their Designated InterLeague rival, the Reds, who are managed by their former Skipper, Terry Francona.

Cavs Go Up 3-2 on Detroit

By KARL BRYANT

The Cavs lost the first two games of their best-of-seven Eastern Conference Semifinal series in the Motor City by 10 points apiece. They were able to hold serve at Home, winning by seven points and then nine points. At Press Time, they defeated the Pistons in Detroit, 117-113 in overtime, to get within a step of advancing.

Last Saturday's 116-109 Game 3 win was a tight contest throughout. The Pistons were within a point with a little over three minutes left, but Detroit's Cade Cunningham turned the ball over three straight times so that the Cavs built a little cushion to close out the win.

Donovan Mitchell led CLE with 35 points and 10 rebounds. Cunningham had a Triple Double of 27 points, 10 rebounds, and 10 assists for Detroit, but also committed eight turnovers. Tobias Harris added 21 points.

In Monday's Game 4 win, the Cavs were down four at Intermission, but built a huge 2nd Half lead,

courtesy of a 24-0 run, which stat geeks pointed out, tied an NBA Playoff record.

The Cavs still had a comfortable 12-point lead with 1:09 left to play, so Coach Kenny Atkinson decided to take out all five players on the floor. However, the scrubs he inserted, promptly gave up back-to-back steals to let the lead be cut to 109-101. He promptly called timeout and reinserted his stars, who finished out the game as a 112-103 win.

This laughable circumstance brought to mind the 1978 Notre Dame-Navy game at Old Cleveland Municipal Stadium. With future HOFer Joe Montana at the controls, the Fighting Irish built a 27-0 lead.

They had backup defenders in during the final minutes, but when Navy got close to scoring, ND Coach Dan Devine put back in his starting Defense to try to preserve the Shutout. To the tune of the ND Fight Song, one way bellowed, "Jeers, jeers to Old Notre Dame. Puts in the 1st String at the end of the game." It was poetic

justice that future NFL WR Phil McConkey caught a 13 YD TD Pass to ruin the Shutout bid and make it 27-7. He caught the pass full speed and slammed into the goal post, but hung on for the TD.

Getting back to Cleveland in 2026, Donovan Mitchell was able to tie the NBA record of scoring 39 points in the 2nd Half, thanks to his last minute re-insertion.

No one had been paying attention to his proximity to the record and a trip to the Charity Stripe did the trick. He scored 43 points for the game. James Harden, who scored 11 points in the first few minutes of the game, finished with 24 points and 11 assists. Old Friend Caris LeVert came off the Bench to lead Detroit with 24 points.

Coach Atkinson afterwards noted re the series, "It's survival of the fittest." Pistons Coach (and former Cavs Coach) JB Bickerstaff noted the free throw disparity (34 for CLE, 12 for Detroit), lamenting, "It's unaccept-

able," and noting, "They (Pistons) felt they were being fouled, but were on the road. They're Home." Of course, there also was that little matter of giving up a 24-0 run.

At Press Time, the Cavs stole Game 5 in Detroit by putting on a furious rally in the final minutes of regulation, scoring the last nine points to tie it, 103-103.

They then scored the first seven points in OT, and hung on for the 117-113 win. James Harden led CLE with 30 points and Mitchell added 21. Max Strus, who was 6 for 8 from three-point land, was right behind with 20. Jarrett Allen pulled down 10 boards to go with 16 points. Cunningham led the Pistons with 39 points.

The Cavs now will try to close out the series as they've returned to The Land for Game 6 to be played after Press Time. The Knicks already are awaiting the series winner in the Eastern Conference Finals, having swept the 76ers.

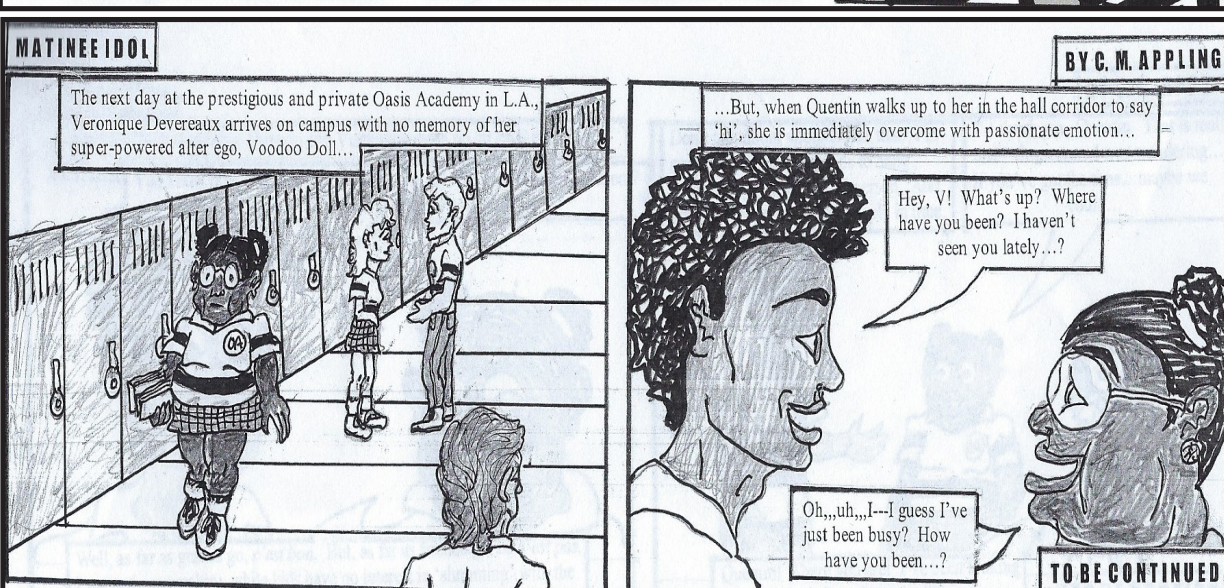


James Harden (1) drives to the hoops in the Cavs 112-103 Game 4 Home win over Detroit, that evened the series at 2-2. (ESDN Photo by Bill Moore, Minority Publishers Assoc.)



A small replica of the interior of the New Browns Stadium at the Browns Official Groundbreaking in Brook Park. The dirt on either side of the model of the field was shoveled by the VIPs in attendance. (ESDN Photo by Minority Publishers Assoc.)

BEEZWAX By John Martin



On The Town

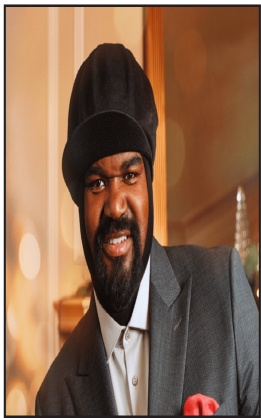
MOVIES * MUSIC * THEATER * DANCE * RESTAURANTS * NIGHT LIFE

Gregory Porter will perform at the Mimi Ohio Theatre

Gregory Porter will perform on September 26 at 8:00 p.m. at the Mimi Ohio Theatre.

This is a rescheduled performance from April 26, 2026

With his rich baritone voice and his mastery of the deepest traditions of soul, jazz



Porter and gospel, Gregory Porter

ter has established himself as one of America's most versatile and acclaimed vocalists. His artistry and sensitivity is plain to the ear whether he's putting his stamp on beloved standards by heroes like Nat "King" Cole or demonstrating his own writing talents with original songs

strong enough to stand with the many classics in his repertoire.

Produced by Troy Miller (Jamie Cullum, Laura Mvula), All Rise is Porter's sixth studio album and fourth for the iconic Blue Note label. Like his 2013 breakthrough Liquid Spirit — the Grammy

Award winner for Best Jazz Vocal Album — Porter's latest is a confident display of his many gifts, starting with his ability to convey feelings of both exaltation and sadness with uncommon directness and warmth.

On December 13, 2023, Porter performed at the Royal Albert Hall in its "Christmas at The Royal Albert Hall" programme.

In September 2024, Porter announced a 12-night tour of the UK, commencing in April 2025, including a night at Manchester's new Co-op

In 2025, Porter participated in the sixth season of The Masked Singer UK as "Dressed Crab", where he finished in second place.

position of strength, said Board of Directors Co-Chair Michael Jeans. "We've completed all phases of our renovation," Jeans said. "We've upgraded our facilities, added amenities and improved our accessibility for all. We're primed to embrace the future — at a time when audiences across the nation are consuming theater with a dynamism and enthusiasm we have not seen in years. We've made it a mission at Karamu House to preserve the past and empower the future."

Karamu House marks leadership milestone

When Tony F. Sias and Aseelah Shareef joined Karamu House more than ten years ago as executive leaders, they took on the responsibility of guiding one of the nation's most historic cultural institutions. Today, the Karamu House Board of Directors is celebrating the results of that leadership: a fully renovated theatre, national recognition, and a vibrant artistic home that is stronger than it has been in decades.

As part of the organization's next chapter, Sias will step into the role of Artistic Director, returning to the creative work that has long been at the heart of his career. Aseelah Shareef will serve as Interim President and CEO while the Board conducts a national search for the organization's next chief executive. In addition to her leadership experience, Shareef brings a deep background as a performer, educator, and cultural arts leader, ensuring steady guidance for Karamu House during this transition.

"Tony has been a transformational leader, restoring Karamu House to national



Karamu House, the nation's oldest Black producing theatre, was founded more than a century ago on the principles of improving conditions for the community. Established within the settlement house model, the Playhouse Settlement (precursor of Karamu House) invited all to commune in and through the arts.

prominence while honoring its 110-year legacy," said Board of Directors Co-Chair Tamara Home. "We are grateful for his continued leadership in shaping Karamu's artistic future. At the same time, Aseelah will step into the role of interim President and CEO, leading the organization's executive and operational functions."

Following more than a

decade of executive leadership, Sias will transition from his role as President and CEO into Artistic Director.

"This allows me to go deeper and really execute the artistic vision of this institution," Sias said. His focus will include honoring and advancing the theatrical qualities that have set Karamu House apart, creating a pipeline for new and emerging creative artists, playwrights and theatre technicians, and reimagining arts education for lifelong learners.

Karamu House enters this transition period from a

MENU TIPS

Flavorful stir-fry cooking

Here's delicious news: You can enjoy great meals that are high in flavor yet low in calories when you turn to the stirring tastes of stir-fry cooking.

This kind of cuisine originated in China many years ago with the wok and has become a major part of many American lifestyles. The trend is growing as more and more people realize that this type of cooking can be a healthy part of the family diet—whether you use a skillet, wok or pan. The key is in the preparation.

As with any method of cooking, it is still possible to make a dish that is high in fat and calories with stir-fry cooking if you're not careful. By working with a small amount of cooking oil and sticking to lean meats and lots of vegetables, however, you can do stir-fry cooking that's a quick and easy way to prepare healthy and flavorful meals.

"Asian-inspired cuisine is one of the major food trends today because of the fresh ingredients and exciting flavor combinations available," explained one expert on food, Jason Abelkop of Buffets, Inc.

Popular restaurants that are owned by Buffets, such as Ryan's® as well as HomeTown® Buffet and Old Country Buffet®, are helping to lead the trend with made-to-order Mongolian Stir Fry, now available for lunch and dinner at most locations. Guests choose from chicken, beef or shrimp to create the combination that's just right

for them. To kick-start stir-fry cooking in your kitchen, check out this recipe from the restaurants' chefs:

- Garlic Ginger Mongolian Chicken
- Yield: 2 servings
- 2 4-oz. chicken breasts
- 1 tsp. vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. chopped ginger
- 1 tsp. chopped garlic
- 1 cup peapods
- 1 cup cabbage, shredded
- ½ cup ¼" julienned onions
- ½ cup matchstick carrots
- 1 cup broccoli florets
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- ¼ cup low-sodium soy sauce
- ¼ cup teriyaki sauce
- 2 sprigs cilantro

2 servings unconverted rice (cooked according to recipe)

Cut chicken into ½" strips. Mix vegetable oil, ginger and garlic together. Rub mixture on the chicken breast strips, place in refrigerator for a minimum of two hours. Mix vegetables together in bowl. Place oil in sauté pan over medium heat. Add chicken strips and sauté for five minutes. Toss frequently to evenly brown. Turn up heat to "high" and add fresh vegetables. Toss frequently. Cook for one minute. Vegetables should be crisp in texture. Add soy sauce, teriyaki sauce and the cilantro sprigs to taste. Quickly toss to coat, then remove from heat. Top rice with hot fresh stir-fry and enjoy.

For locations and other information on Buffets restaurants, visit www.Ryans.com as well as www.HomeTownBuffet.com and www.OldCountryBuffet.com.

Just Jazz
By NANCY ANN LEE

King Oliver

Cornetist and bandleader (Joe) King Oliver was born in 1885 in New Orleans. His career began in hometown brass bands, dance bands, and other small groups in Crescent City cabarets and bars.

Claimed to be the spiritual father of syncopated ("hot") jazz, he moved to Chicago in 1918 and formed King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band (June 1922) with cornetists Louis Armstrong, clarinetist Johnny Dodds, trombonist Honore Dutrex, pianist Lil Hardin, drummer Baby Dodds, and bassist-banjo player Bill Johnson. Oliver began recording in 1923 what are now considered historic masterpieces.

After Armstrong departed in 1924, Oliver completely reorganized his band to include saxophones. He went to New York, had a successful but brief club engagement before his group disbanded. He toured widely in the Midwest and upper South from 1920-1936, but made no further recordings after 1931. Considered to be an important New Orleans-style musician, his recordings have been reissued. His tune "Dipper Mouth Blues," later known as "Sugar Foot Stomp," became a classic. Although he was an excellent bandleader, Oliver's playing style was superseded by Louis Armstrong's and by 1937 he was forgotten and in failing health. He died in Savannah in 1938.

Da 'Round Da Way Rewind Review

The eternal legacy of the Cosby Show

By C.M. APPLING

In the history of American television, the 'classic', family sitcom of the 1970s was composed of shows like The Brady Bunch and The Partridge Family that presented the suburban life of the white middle-class. However, during that same decade, African-Americans were given the choice to watch sitcoms like Good Times (about a close-knit, poor black family living in a Chicago, project tenement) or The Jeffersons (about an upper-middle-class, black couple in a New York, high-rise condo).

But, during the conservative and repressive era of the mid-1980s when Republican President Ronald Reagan was in office, a new, African-American sitcom debuted that combined the close-knit attitude of Good Times with the upper-middle-class atmosphere of The Jeffersons. The Cosby Show went on the air on NBC in 1984 and it starred Bill Cosby as its lead patriarch.

In the 1960s, Cosby broke racial barriers by co-appearing in the interracial, action series I Spy with Caucasian actor Robert Culp as partners. He portrayed an educated, black spy whose cover was as a tennis pro and went on secret, globe-spanning missions as a social equal with his white counterpart. Also, Cosby was first famous for his stand-up, comedy routines as well as being the commercial spokesperson for Jell-O pudding. And, he teamed up with black, film legend Sidney Poitier in the comedy motion-picture Uptown Saturday Night (1974) and its sequel, Let's Do It Again (1975).

In the 1980s, white sitcoms like Family Ties, Growing Pains and Who's The Boss were popular with prime-time, viewing audiences. However, when The Cosby Show debuted, it created a massive, seismic shift in how African-American families were portrayed and how they were perceived by those who watched it.

The show was on the air for 8 seasons (1984 to 1992)

and during that time, it was rated as #1 on the Neilson TV Ratings for five, straight years (1985 to 1990). And, it consisted of several, groundbreaking milestones that set historical precedents like no other, black, TV sitcom before it or since.

The concept premise centered around an upper-middle-class, African-American OB/GYN (obstetrician/gynecologist) named Dr. Heathcliff (Cliff) Huxtable who is married to an attorney/lawyer named Clair Hanks-Huxtable who were the parents of five, diverse children (Sondra, Denise, Theo, Vanessa and Rudy) and lived in a brownstone in Brooklyn, New York.

Later, other cast members would join like: Sondra's boyfriend-turned-husband Elvin Tibideaux; Denise's husband Martin Kendall; Denise's step-daughter Olivia Kendall; and Clair's cousin from the urban inner-city, Pam Tucker.

The show made instant history by presenting two, African-American, professional parents in the same household. Also, it was one of the first, black sitcoms to present a multi-pigmented family that consists of light-skinned, brown-skinned and dark-skinned relatives. And, it was the first to present a multi-generational, black family that displayed Cliff's parents Russell and Anna Huxtable; Clair's parents Al and Carrie Hanks; and Sondra and Elvin's twin children Winnie and Nelson Tibideaux (dedicated to South Africa's anti-apartheid, freedom fighters Winnie and Nelson Mandela).

The Cosby Show was so successful that it managed to cross racial, ethnic and cultural boundaries worldwide and set the standard for what the premier, American family represented. And, by presenting Cliff, Clair and Russell as graduate alumni of a fictional, HBCU (Historically-Black College University) called Hillman College, it affirmed the proud legacy that African-Americans were aware in black, higher education but was new and

Chris' Cinema Trivia & Movie Match Up

By CHRIS APPLING



TRIVIA - (Black Leading Men)

1. Who is the legendary, black leading man and calypso singer who starred with the great, Dorothy Dandridge in 3 films: 'Bright Road' (1953), 'Carmen Jones' (1954) and 'Island In The Sun' (1957)?

2. Who is the former running back for the Cleveland Browns who turned into a macho, action-film star appearing in such movies as 'The Dirty Dozen' (1967), 'Riot' (1968), ad in the 1969 classic '100 Rifles' where he starred with Burt Reynolds and created controversy for having an on-screen, interracial love scene with white actress Raquel Welch?

3. Shavenheaded Louis Gossett, Jr. made his film debut in 'A Raisin In The Sun' (1961), starred as the musical slave 'Fiddler' in Alex Haley's 'Roots' miniseries (1977), but in what motion-picture did he win an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor?

4. Versatile ac-

tor Laurence Fishburne has starred in Spike Lee's 'School Daze' (1988) and in John Singleton's 'Boyz 'N The Hood' (1991), and an Oscar-nominated portrayal of Ike Turner in the Tina Turner biography 'What's Love Got To Do With It' (1993), but in what sci-fi movie did he star with Anglo-Asian actor Keanu Reeves as a futuristic rebel leader against an evil, artificially-intelligent, machine program?

5. Who is the talented actor who starred as the real-life, controversial, high school principal Joe Clark in 'Lean On Me' (1988) as a black, Civil War soldier in 'Glory' (1989) and as white actress Jessica Tandy's chauffeur and best friend in 'Driving Miss Daisy' (1989)?

ANSWERS:

1. Harry Belafonte
2. Jim Brown
3. 'An Officer and A Gentleman'
4. 'The Matrix'
5. Morgan Freeman



MOVIE MATCH-UP - (Samuel L. Jackson)

- CHARACTERS:
1. Jungle Fever (1991)
 2. Jurassic Park (1993)
 3. A Time To Kill (1996)
 4. Eve's Bayou (1997)
 5. Shaft (2000)

- ROLES:
- a) vengeful father of abused daughter

- b) cheating doctor of Creole family
- c) scientist on dinosaur island
- d) supercool detective
- e) crack-addicted brother

ANSWERS: 1, e; 2, c; 3, a; 4, b; 5, d

foreign to non-black TV fans who were then thrust into this 'different world'. In fact, the show spawned a spin-off series in 1987 called A Different World which focused on multi-pigmented, socio-economically-diverse, African-American students and faculty at fictional Hillman College. The spin-off ended in 1993 after 6 seasons. A Different World was so popular in its own right and merit that it actually increased the student enrollment of real HBCUs around the country. And, in fall of 2026, the A Different World reboot will debut on Netflix streaming service that will focus on new students and faculty at Hillman while starring the character of youngest daughter of original alumni Dwayne Wayne and Whitley Gilbert-Wayne. Many members of the original, Hillman cast are scheduled to appear in one episode or another of the new, Netflix version.

The eternal legacy of The Cosby Show is one of historical, black excellence that cannot be denied. It was the perfect storm that comes once in a generation like Reconstruction and the election of former President Barack Obama. And, despite its controversial tragedies, it will always be honored in the annals of TV history as not just an example of what African-Americans can achieve in family entertainment, but as what all American families can strive to be like. Bill Cosby was a crossover legend and, while the show may not have represented the majority of the black community by being upper-middle-class (especially during the rise of rap and hip-hop in the urban areas of the U.S.), it nonetheless provided us a parental blueprint of how a loving, intelligent and accomplished black couple can rear their offspring in an environment that provides positivity, stresses education and, of course, delivers humor, in both good and bad times.

The epic and ubiquitous influence of 'The Cosby Show Effect' was so strong, dominant and overreaching in decades afterward that other, African-American sitcoms that followed later like Family Matters, The Bernie Mac Show, Everybody Hates Chris, My Wife and Kids and black-ish all have some 'copycat' references that are directly attributed to Cosby's original series.

And, as most great achievements may come with some downfall or tragedy, The Cosby Show was no different. First, after actress Lisa Bonet (Denise) was cast as the lead character in the original, A Different World, she later garnered controversy by appearing nude on both the cover of Rolling Stone magazine and in the Mickey Rourke and Robert DeNiro, horror/mystery Angel Heart (1987). Bonet was attempting to mature her 'squeaky-clean', media image for film roles. But, when she became pregnant with daughter/actress Zoe Kravitz by ex-husband and rock star Lenny Kravitz, she left the spin-off after the first season and returned to The Cosby Show

might not have seemed 'real' to some people as far as how black people were depicted. But, the one thing that is certain is that it gave us the inspiration to dream of how we, ourselves, can be accepted as a part of that larger, American dream.

Cuyahoga County Public Safety & Justice Services Scholarships Expand Access to Public Safety

The Cuyahoga County Department of Public Safety and Justice Services has partnered with College Now to offer program aims to lessen the financial burden of the next generation of

prospective firefighters, law enforcement officers, dispatchers, advocates, and other public safety professionals.

The deadline to apply is May 15. "Investing in

a scholarship program that supports students pursuing careers in public safety is critical at a time when many public safety agencies are facing challenges in recruitment and retention," said Public Safety and Justice Ser-

Director Brandy Carney. "By reducing the cost barrier, we are uplifting those who feel called to serve and strengthening the overall safety of our neighborhoods and communities."

Applicants for

the Cuyahoga County Public Safety & Justice Services Scholarship must be residents of Cuyahoga County, and meet income requirements to be Pell Grant eligible.

Applicants

must be pursuing a career in a public safety or justice services-related field.

Applicants must be a high school graduate or have obtained a GED.

Investment in Underserved Communities

The Ohio Department of Development today announced a release of \$10 million in tax credits to help attract economic investment in underserved communities in Ohio.

The funding is through the Ohio New Markets Tax Credit Program, which was created to incentivize private investment and entrepreneurship in every area

of the state. Up to \$10 million is available each year through the program, which is completing its 15th round of funding.

"We are committed to creating growth and opportunity for every Ohioan, regardless of where they live," said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Department of Development. "With New Market Tax Credits, we're fueling entrepreneurship

across the state and ensuring that every community has equal access to the resources they need to grow and prosper."

Seven Community Development Entities (CDE) are receiving awards. During this round, Finance Fund, Advantage Capital Community Development Fund LLC, and Community Development Venture Capital Alliance each

were awarded \$2 million and IFF, Development Fund of the Western Reserve, Cincinnati Development Fund, and National Trust Community Investment Corporation each were awarded \$1 million.

Award allocations through the program are based on a review of the applicant CDEs track records of aiding low-income communities,

and the potential projects identified in the project pipeline of their applications.

Community Development Entities serving Ohio that are awarded or are anticipating a federal new market tax credit allocation are annually eligible to apply. Through the program, investors provide cash to a CDE in exchange for a tax credit (39 percent of their in-

vestment, claimed over seven years). CDEs then invest the cash into projects in low-income communities.

The federal New Market Tax Credit (NMT) program was established in 2000, with the Ohio program following in 2011 to incentivize additional investment across Ohio. Since 2011, Development has awarded \$150 million to 24 CDEs, generating 133 projects across the state.

The Ohio Department of Development empowers communities to succeed by investing in Ohio's people, places, and businesses.

Celebrating the history of Black communities in Ohio

Several small Ohio communities have rich African American histories and are now honoring them through museums, festivals, and public recognition.

Braceville West of Warren, Braceville once housed the largest rural African-American community in Ohio. The newly opened Braceville African American Heritage Museum preserves the legacy of local figures like Earnie Shavers, a heavyweight boxer who fought Muhammad Ali, and Ted Toles Jr., a Negro League baseball star who played alongside Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby. The museum displays photos, artifacts, and stories from over a century of Black life in the town, including entrepreneurs, athletes, authors, and veterans.

Urbana, Ohio About 45 miles northeast of Dayton, Urbana hosts the annual Black Heritage Festival, celebrating its Black community's contributions dating back to the late 19th century. Market Street was once home to many Black-owned businesses, a rare feature in small



Celebrating the opening of the Braceville African American Museum.

towns at the time. The festival honors figures such as Robert Morton Duncan, the first African American on the Ohio Supreme Court; Walter Murphy, the first Black inductee into the National Saddlebred Hall of Fame; and Arnold B. Brown, a 1920s-30s stand-up comedian. In 2022, a historical marker was dedicated to David "Bus" Hill, the first Black police officer in Urbana to retire with pension.

Tablertown In Tablertown, a fam-

ily settled in 1830 and now works to preserve the town's civil rights legacy through the Tablertown People of Color Museum. The museum documents the community's history and struggles, ensuring that local civil rights stories are remembered.

These examples show how small Ohio towns are reclaiming and celebrating their Black heritage, from boxing and baseball legends to civil rights pioneers, through museums, festivals, and community storytelling.



A mural celebrating African Americans in Urbana.



The family who settled in 1830 in Tablertown, now works to preserve the town's civil rights legacy through the Tablertown People of Color Museum.

Ohio's school voucher program in court

Ohio's school voucher program has long been a political flashpoint — a billion-dollar pipeline funneling public tax dollars into private, largely religious schools while the public school system scrapes for every cent. But something shifted this week:

Appellate judges showed skepticism about the heart of the state's argument: that everyone has equal access. They don't. Unlike public schools, private schools can reject applicants. So the state refashioned its argument to say, well, everyone has equal access to apply for admission.

A three-judge panel in the 10th Appellate District heard arguments from more than 300 school districts that sued over Ohio's Ed Choice voucher programs. A Franklin County judge earlier ruled that the programs violate Ohio's constitutional mandate to provide a thorough and efficient public school system. The state, backed by the Attorney General's office, argued that ruling was wrong.

What the state's attorney actually said in defense of the program, though, left the podcast hosts — and apparently the judges — surprised.

The Attorney General's appellate attorney argued that even though private schools can pick and choose who they admit, parents do have an equal choice: they're free to apply to private schools. That's why it's called school choice.

"That's hilarious," said host Chris Quinn. "That is the weakest argument I've ever

heard. Well, you're equal because you can ask for it. We're not going to give it to you. But it's equal because you're allowed to petition for it. Imagine if everything worked that way."

Public schools don't have the luxury of choosing which students attend. They take everyone. Students with learning disabilities, students who can't afford extra fees, students who don't fit a school's religious profile. Private schools can reject anyone they wish.

Two of the three appellate judges zeroed in on that distinction, questioning whether vouchers truly provide choice when the schools hold all the power over admissions. And while the state's attorney insisted there were better legal avenues to challenge the program, Cleveland Public Schools' attorney fired back with the constitutional language that really matters. The Ohio Constitution mandates a thorough and efficient public school system. It explicitly states that no religious or other sect shall ever have exclusive right to or control of any state school funds.

Quinn framed the bigger picture with pointed clarity on the podcast, connecting the legal absurdity back to the political machinery that made it possible:

"It crosses the line so far beyond the way public education is supposed to work. The judges are looking at it and going, 'Huh? What?' And it just shows you how far we've crossed the line with a gerrymandered supermajority legislature."

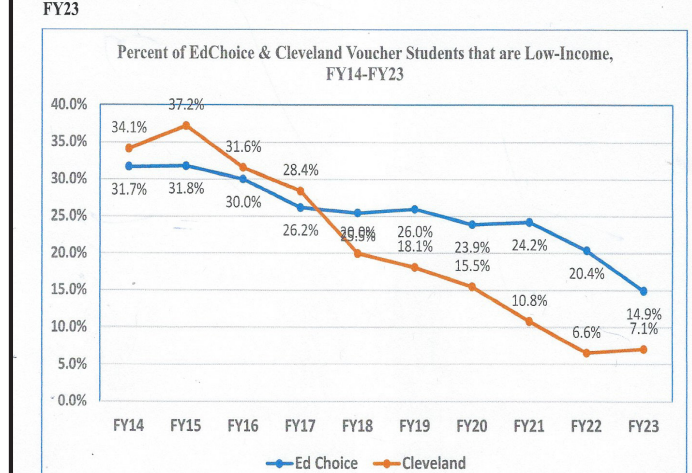
VI. Low Income EdChoice and Cleveland Voucher Recipients

Figure 3 below illustrates how the disaggregated voucher data that ODE has made available on the data portal can be utilized. The graph shown in Figure 3 depicts the percentage of EdChoice and Cleveland voucher recipients that are categorized as low-income. Figure 3 shows that the percentage of Cleveland voucher students that are low-income has decreased from 37.2% in FY15 to only 7.1% in FY23. Similarly, the percentage of EdChoice voucher recipients that are low-income has fallen from 31.8% in FY15 to 14.9% in FY23.

The sharp decrease in the percentage of low income EdChoice students is likely due to the policy changes that have largely eliminated the requirement that students must have actually attended a public school in the year prior to receiving the voucher as well as due to changes in the identification of low performing schools.

Another consideration in light of this data is the requirement that in order for a non-public school to participate in either the Cleveland or EdChoice voucher programs they must agree to not charge students from families with income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) a tuition that is more than the voucher amount. If the fraction of low income students in each of these voucher programs is steadily declining, this requirement has less and less practical importance over time.

Figure 3: Percentage of Low Income EdChoice & Cleveland Voucher Recipients, FY14-FY23



Ohio's current voucher scheme didn't emerge from a broad public consensus. It was engineered by a supermajority legislature shaped by gerrymandering. The result? Fringe policies that wouldn't survive a statewide ballot question get enacted anyway. Host Lisa Garvin said the two candidates for Ohio governor have to state their positions on the program. Quinn said each should be

asked point-blank: would you support putting the voucher program to a public vote? His prediction? It would lose by a landslide. Meanwhile, the disparity in state funding between voucher students and public school students remains eye-opening. Host Laura Johnston pointed out that the state gives approximately \$6,500 per elementary voucher student and \$8,500 per high school voucher student — figures that can be six times more than what some struggling public school districts receive per pupil. Schools like Richmond Heights are left scrambling while private institutions — many serving wealthy families who don't need the subsidy —

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2026 calendar grid showing months from January to December with days of the week and dates.

Save the Shaker Lakes: Follow taxpayer money as it goes down the (sewer) drain

Cont from page 1

According to council, “over the last two years we have spent \$2.8 million of city funds on sewers. The NEORSR has spent \$10 million on sewers here.”

Councilwoman Moore recommended the NEORSR do improvements at the Horseshoe Lake dam and spillway, pursuant to Section 1212.02 (I) of the City’s Zoning Code (Ordinance No. 17-110). The renovations proposed include the removal of volunteer trees at the dam, repair of the historic stone walls and foundation, and a new ancillary spillway to replace the large stones and provide better flood management. The City of Cleveland Heights requested a mockup of the new stone walls, and did not receive these documents from the sewer district.

Council approved (Ordinance No. 17-111) for the purpose of improvements by NEORSR to the Lower Lake dam, pursuant to Section 1212.02 (I) of the City’s Zoning Code. The renovations proposed include removing volunteer trees and installing stone at the water’s edge to fortify the edge of the dam. Again, the City of Cleveland Heights requested a mockup of the new stone walls.

Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer, stated that about \$217,000/year will be available from the NEORSR community cost share. We have allocated \$100,000 of that toward the \$500,000 contribution of Green Lake dredging.

The NEORSR is paying for the improvements. Jeff Jowett with the NEORSR stated that this project is 100% funded by the NEORSR.

Mayor Leiken resigned believing that he had made a strategic deal with sewer district. The NEORSR’s “extra” \$50M/year in fees would cover the costs to dredge the Shaker Lakes and repair the dams.

Councilman David E. Weiss was selected as his replacement. Mayor Weiss had a close working relationship with Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells. Mayor Weiss’s focus was on his Van Aken Project. Dreyfuss-Wells was “given the keys to the city” by Mayor Weiss. He reappointed her to the Shaker Heights Development Corporation.

Their mutualistic relationship was to come to full view.

Councilwoman Moore sought a Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSR) grant of \$425,000, from the NEORSR Member Community Infrastructure Program (MCIP), for the Huntington Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Mitigation Project (Ordinance No. 18-59).

Councilwoman Moore sought authorizing a contract for Terrace Construction Company, Inc. for \$67,000 to remove a portion of the spillway of Horseshoe Lake Dam. According to Moore, starting back in 2003 the regulatory agency for our dams in Shaker Heights is the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and they conduct onsite inspections of our dams every five years. Since 2003 we have been put on notice that numerous repairs need to be made to our dams. In 2007 Council appropriated money to start the design for the improvements of the dams. The City would have to pay for approximately \$3 million for dam repairs. In 2010 the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSR) through the stormwater management program agreed to take responsibility for the dam improvements which was a huge financial win for the City. In 2013 ODNR informed us that we would have to begin making the improvements. The NEORSR won their stormwater lawsuit and shortly thereafter we sent ODNR a letter that we would soon be addressing these issues. This April after finishing



The Shaker Lakes Conservancy held a rally on April 11th at Horseshoe Lake Park. Participants tied hundreds of ribbons on the trees that NEORSR had marked for destruction. Participants showed their support for Saving the Shaker Lakes. The activists wanted to bring awareness of NEORSR’s plans to destroy this environmentally unique ecosystem.

the dredging of Green Lake when the NEORSR was going out to bid for the improvements of the dams, ODNR came back to inspect. The NEORSR accompanied City staff during the inspection so that they could explain their process. They went out to bid and they came back more than 10% over budget so the bids were thrown out. The NEORD noticed a sinkhole (that no one else had noticed in previous inspections) and were concerned but expected construction would begin before the end of summer. That did not happen so on June 6 ODNR had a conference call with City staff informing us we must lower the lake by three feet and monitor the sinkhole daily, because if the dam were to breach and collapse it would cause loss of life. (Being on the board of DBWP, Councilwoman Moore was aware that the NEORSR had just completed the \$195M Doan Brook Tunnel to address any flooding issues in University Circle. She was also aware that a breach of Horseshoe Lake Dam had never been problematic because of the huge trenched acreage between the dam and Lee Road, but she continued in her irrational alarmist tone) We would lose Lee Road, Coventry and University Circle would bear the brunt of it.”

The NEORSR will go back and redesign the Horseshoe Lake dam due to concerns from ODNR. They are specifically looking at cast in place concrete as opposed to the brick work with all the grouting. According to Councilwoman Moore, the grouting eventually washes away. (The grouting lasted more than 100 years). Terrace Construction is able to remove the stone around the spillway, scribe it, and mark it for \$67,000 so we can reinstall it once the dam is repaired.

According to DBWP 2013 study which the NEORSR funded, the NEORSR agreed before the consent decree to restore Horseshoe Lake dam to its ODNR Class II Dam. When NEORSR became involved, Horseshoe Lake became a Class I dam. Lower Lake became a Class I dam, and the spillway at Green Lake became a Class II dam. The Shaker Lakes dams are about the same size as the dam in the Cleveland Metroparks’ Acacia Reservation dam in the City of Lyndhurst, which is a Class II dam. This wrong classification needs to be re-evaluated by an expert outside of the NEORSR’s sphere of influence. The lower the classification, the higher the cost (See figure 1)

According to the council meeting, “the NEORSR is going to spend \$2 million to \$3 million replacing the dam so this is just a stop gap measure until that time.”

One councilperson asked about the effects of lowering the lake on the wildlife. Director Speese stated that the feeling is that wildlife will be fine. There are a lot of areas within the lake where the depth is fine for wildlife. In addition, there may be some marshy areas in the park.

Jeff Jowett from the NEORSR talked about the dangers of the dam. done. It looks like a well.

Council member Mr. Malone asked if the NEORSR conducted the bid which was over budget. Council approved funding of emergency for the repair of masonry spillways of the Horseshoe Lake Dam (Ordinance No. 18-61).

In August, council approved AECOM who did a lot of work for the NEORSR for the the Femway Sanitary Sewer Overflow project (Ordinance No. 18-78). Patricia Speese, Public Works Director, stated that earlier this year the City was the recipient for an \$800,000 50/50 grant from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSR) to address the first sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) of the seven current ones. Director Speese stated that the funding is from the NEORSR. This is a grant through the storm water management program to address storm water and sanitary sewer overflows.

Council was awarded another \$100,000.00 for the Larchmere Kendall parking lot (Ordinance 18-79). According to council, the cost kept escalating from the \$135,000 parking lot to \$227,504.00, to needing another \$100,000.00 to move forward with NEORSR’s green infrastructure program because of needed remediation. Fortunately, the NEORSR was eager to give us additional funding.

The NEORSR also offered \$50,000.00 (Ordinance No. 18-90) towards the Horseshoe Lake Dam Emergency Modification Project to make the temporary repairs to Horseshoe Lake in order for the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSR) to proceed with their dam repairs. The emergency repair that Council funded was for \$67,000 but we had to pay for the repairs before the NEORSR could make improvements to Horseshoe Lake.

The NEORSR also agreed to pay 50% with a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 for the CSO 225 outlet pipe replacement project(18-113) to “maintain the integrity of the slope on Fairhill so the repair will include removing about 30 trees north of the bike path, replacing 80 to 90 feet of sewer pipe, and construction of a new head wall to reinforce the existing structure.”

In the first half of 2019, the council was busy debating a request from the Shaker Heights Country Club to rezone 2.6 acres of their land into two single-family lots. The project was approved.

Ordinance No. 18-79, by Mr. Malone, authorizing the acceptance of additional grant funds in the maximum amount of \$100,000 from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for the Larchmere/Kendall Road Green Infrastructure Parking Lot Renovation.

Ordinance No. 19-18, by Mr. Malone, authorizing a personal services contract with GPD Group in the total not-to-exceed amount of \$63,311 for consulting services for the Huntington Sanitary Sewer Overflow project and that the City was awarded a 50/50 grant from

the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSR) in November 2018 to address the second of seven Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) in the City, located on Huntington Road.

Ordinance No. 19-67, by Mrs. Moore, authorizing the City’s application for and acceptance of a \$50,000 grant from the Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Grant Program for the pruning of large oak trees on Larchmere Boulevard, Courtland Boulevard and Brighton Road,

Councilwoman Moore stated that this item was not reviewed by the Tree Advisory Board. Shaker Heights has more trees than any community in this part of the state. We are trying to get away from baby trees which will not get very large. The oak trees we are looking at protecting were planted before we started using road salt, and all of the things that have a tendency to kill trees on major thoroughfares. We want to enhance the quality of our trees and not just keep planting more. These oak trees are huge and we want to protect them. They were planted over a hundred years ago so we want to protect what we have and enhance the quality of the trees.

Mr. Feinstein stated that one map with a blue line shows the 100-year flood plain, not a property line.

Christian Maier, Assistant Director of Public Works Infrastructure, stated that in December of last year, representatives of Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights met with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSR) to get an update of the Horseshoe Lake Dam and the progress they are making.

Their schedule is to advertise the project in March of this year and be in construction in the late summer. They are estimating the cost for the dam rehabilitation to be \$9 million. Between Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights the NEORSR is requesting the communities pay for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) construction permit in the amount of \$66,250. When this project is done the NEORSR will have spent close to \$15 million in Shaker Heights and partially in Cleveland Heights as well. Every year we have to pay an annual dam fee. For Lower Lake and Horseshoe Lake we split the cost with Cleveland Heights. Shaker Heights pays 2/3 and Cleveland Heights pays 1/3. If you look at the community boundaries it seems pretty equitable with how that was determined. Shaker’s portion of the ODNR construction fee would be \$44,167 with Cleveland Heights paying the remainder. These funds will be reimbursed by the community cost share. Council member Roeder stated that this project is starting in late summer, early August and asked when we expect it to be finished and if the plan is to refill Horseshoe Lake. He asked if the area will be closed off.

To be cont.

Funds granted to Shaker since 2014-2018

Green Infrastructure - Hildana Road	\$250,000.00 + \$121,500
Larchmere parking lot	\$135,000.00 + \$100,000+ \$100,000
Kendall-Cheshire Regulator Flood Relief Project	\$1M
Lomond Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project	\$1M
Fernway Sanitary Sewer Overflow	\$400,000
Huntington Sanitary Sewer Overflow	\$425,000
First sanitary sewer overflow (SSO)	\$800,000
Horseshoe Lake Dam Emergency Modification Project	\$50,000
CSO 225 outlet pipe replacement project	\$50,000
Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)	\$44,166.67

Figure 1 By Cost Category (Typical Mid-Size Project)

Category	Low	Average	High
	Class III \$1.2M	Class II \$3.5M	Class I \$12M
Materials (earth/concrete/rock)	\$1M	\$3M	\$9M
Labor	\$150K	\$600K	\$2.5M
Equipment	\$20K	\$200K	\$1M
Permits & Fees	\$30K	\$150K	\$800K
Delivery/Disposal	\$200K	\$900K	\$4M
Contingency	\$50K	\$300K	\$2M
Environmental Mitigation	\$20K	\$120K	\$600K

Shaker Lakes Conservancy

STOP THE REMOVAL OF THE SHAKER LAKES!

The Northeast Ohio Sewer District (NEORSR) a public utility, is planning to permanently remove Horseshoe Lake.

- Over 1,000 large trees will be cut down
- A 170-year-old ecosystem will be destroyed
- 26 acres of Parkland will be bulldozed
- AND NEORSR IS PLANNING TO REMOVE LOWER LAKE, TOO!

JOIN US TO HELP SAVE THE PARKLANDS.

What is happening at the Shaker Lakes?

Local governments and NEORSR are advancing plans that would permanently alter or remove parts of the Shaker Lakes, including the dams that sustain them. These plans are moving forward while required federal historic and environmental reviews are still underway. The issue is not about stopping maintenance or safety work. It is about stopping irreversible work before lawful review is complete

Why are people concerned? Because the Shaker Lakes Parklands are:

- A historic public landscape, protected under federal preservation law, and held in trust for the public.
- Irreversible actions taken before the legal review is complete could permanently damage a place that cannot be replaced.
- Are the lakes unsafe? Is this an emergency?
No emergency has been declared by ODNR the state regulator. ODNR identified maintenance and compliance issues, but it did not declare an emergency, order evacuations, or say failure was imminent. This is a situation that requires careful, lawful planning — not rushed decisions. The issue is not about stopping maintenance or safety work. It is about stopping irreversible work before lawful review is complete
- Isn’t dam removal the safest option?
Dam removal is one option, but it is not the only safe option. Across the country, many similar dams are repaired, modernized, or adapted. Federal law requires that reasonable alternatives be evaluated before historic resources are permanently altered. That full comparison has not yet occurred here.

Are the Shaker Lakes really federally protected?

Yes. The Shaker Lakes Parklands lie within the boundaries of federally listed historic districts on the National Register of Historic Places. Federal law protects historic landscapes and parklands, not just buildings. That is why federal agencies are already conducting Section 106 review.

I’ve heard the National Register is just “honorary.” Is that true?

That’s a common misunderstanding. National Register status does not prohibit change, but it does require process: federal review, public input, and evaluation of alternatives before irreversible actions are taken. These requirements are legally binding.

If NEORSR is paying, why should we object?

Because removal is not “free.” That framing is incomplete. Decommissioning is also expensive and NEORSR already has ongoing responsibilities in the Shaker Lakes watershed related to stormwater management regardless of whether the lakes remain or are altered. The real question is not payment versus nonpayment. Even if a construction project is funded by NEORSR: The cities inherit long-term maintenance costs, eligibility for historic and restoration funding may be lost, and a self-sustaining natural landscape is replaced with an engineered system requiring perpetual care. The real question is what kind of system is being maintained.

Why is there only one plan and no alternatives?

NEORSR is a regional wastewater and stormwater utility (they are not dam experts). Its statutory mission focuses on: Stormwater conveyance, Water quality compliance, Flood management, Regulatory efficiency NEORSR is not charged with: Historic landscape preservation, Cultural stewardship, Community well-being, Long-term place making. As a result, NEORSR evaluates the Shaker Lakes primarily as infrastructure, not as a historic Public, recreational, community or cultural landscape. This reflects mission alignment, not malice.

Why does NEORSR Favor Engineered Solutions?

From a utility standpoint, natural lakes and dams are difficult to model, manage, and maintain over time. Dams also create long-term responsibilities and regulatory risk. Engineered channels are simpler to account for, fit more easily into modern stormwater systems, and make compliance easier to measure.

This approach is common among utilities nationwide, especially those operating under federal consent decrees. In NEORSR’s case, the existing Shaker Lakes do not count toward meeting EPA requirements under the stormwater models they are required to use. As a result, the lakes, as they exist today, have little value within the system that drives compliance decisions.

Removing the dams and replacing them with engineered infrastructure can generate measurable compliance credit, even if the construction itself is costly. From a regulatory and accounting perspective, that makes engineered solutions appear more attractive than preservation.

If the NEORSR is not the authority then why did the cities go along?

NEORSR is a powerful regional utility. From the cities’ perspective, dams are framed primarily as risks. When a utility presents removal as the safest and most definitive solution, it can crowd out consideration of alternatives. The cities are going along because they have deferred decision-making to the utility instead of independently leading on stewardship, historic obligations, and long-term public value.

The South trying to rise again & again

By C. M. APPLING

The U.S. Civil War lasted for four, long years (1861 to 1865) as it accumulated more human casualties, in the

North and South, than any other war in American history. The conflict literally tore the nation apart. However, when Reconstruction began afterward, the North

put into effect its plan to insure that African-Americans could now legally access their social equality by granting them their birthright privilege to be able to

vote. And, in doing so, for the first time in history, 16 black men were elected to Congress.

However, while African-Americans enjoyed this progress for advancement and opportunity, the white population of the South swore a solemn oath that somehow, someday, the South would 'rise again' to avenge their 'lost cause'. And, when the North grew disinterested in helping blacks when Reconstruction ended in 1877, white southerners once again placed black southerners into second-class citizenship.

In 1896, in Louisiana, a light-skinned, black man named Homer Plessey demanded the right to sit in a seat reserved for whites on a train. But, the Supreme Court overruled his case, Plessey v. Ferguson, enacting 'separate but equal' policies in Louisiana and across the South that would begin the Jim Crow segregation tactics. These 'separate and unequal' policies would continue for over the next 50 more years until Brown v. The Board of Education ruling in 1954 during the civil rights movement that integrated public schools.

Recently, the Supreme Court made a shocking and disturb-

ing decision to reverse certain policies of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that secured voting rights for minorities, especially in the South, that were protected by the 14th and 15th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. As such, Southern states like Tennessee, South Carolina, Louisiana and, now, Alabama, are using gerrymandering loopholes to re-draw district lines in their states so that black residents' voting power counts for significantly less than it should based on regional population statistics.

Once again, the South is trying to rise.

The Southern states that are initiating these once-forbidden, 'map wars' are no strangers to historical racism against African-Americans. Tennessee was the birthplace of Civil War General Nathan Bedford Forrest who founded and led the Ku Klux Klan in 1866. South Carolina was the first, Southern state to secede from the Union before the Civil War. As aforementioned, Louisiana initiated 'separate but equal', Jim Crow laws. And, Martin Luther King led the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on 'Bloody Sunday' in Alabama where police brutally assaulted peaceful demonstrators.

Modern white supremacists and white nationalists continue to lie and deny any blatant, racism in voting politics by assuring the belief that, in America, every person has the freedom to vote and the 'one man, one vote' myth of equality in political representation. But, even before the Supreme Court made this new decision, presidential elections were always skewed by the electoral college so that presidents aren't chosen by the popular vote but by because some (white) people in less-populated areas in the country were given extra voting privileges. Even then, Republicans and conservatives were conspiring ways to make African-American and other minority votes count for less than what they actually were.

The gerrymandering of these Southern states in 2026 is both infuriating and appalling. And, what the Supreme Court did is inexcusable. How dare they try to silence our voice in the political arena of this country? Who do they think they are? Obviously, they believe they are superior and can change the rules and laws, as they see fit, that protect us all in the Constitution.

President Trump has already proved that many times over. But, what really motivates them is fear. Fear of minority equality.

In a time where

the GOP and MAGA are dismantling DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) in hiring practices while simultaneously trying to whitewash and change the truth narrative on African-American history as it is taught in schools and colleges, now they are trying to manipulate the proper functioning of how the democratic voting process should work correctly.

It is almost impossible for me to comprehend that in 2026, there are hardcore racists who are ardently fighting to keep black


people as inferior, second-class citizens. But, I guess in 'Dixie', the 'lost cause' is a never-ending crusade of hate, ignorance, confederate flags and Civil War reenactment parks. The South is trying to rise

once again. And, as it rears its cowboy hat-wearing head, African-Americans will always be on guard and vigilant to protect our rights, despite the efforts of those who would deny us of them.

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