

Community Matters

A Voice of, by, and for the People of Delaware, Ohio

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Send info, articles, or comments to
delawarecommunitymatters@gmail.com

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CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

Health & Wellness Expo (11/1)

SourcePoint at 800 Chesire Rd. will host its 2017 Health & Wellness Expo on Wed., Nov. 1 (3-6 pm). The event features health screenings for adults ages 55+, interactive demonstrations, onsite vaccinations, and information about services & resources. New this year is medication disposal (no liquids and syringes & needles, please). For more info, visit www.mysourcepoint.org/expo. Except for vaccinations, the event is free & open to the public.

Maggie Smith Book Reading (11/2)

Maggie Smith published the poetry collection "Good Bones" in October, and OWU's English Dept. is hosting a formal book launch and reading on Thurs., Nov. 2 (4:10 pm) in the Bayley Room of Beeghly Library. Books will be available for purchase at the event, and Smith will sign copies after the reading. The event is free & open to the public. – Smith has an ambivalent view of the world, which is equal parts wonder and horror. In her latest collection of poetry, she is attempting to reconcile beauty and brokenness.

Science Lecture at OWU (11/2)

Dr. Nicholas Brandley from the College of Wooster will give a talk entitled "Of Grasshoppers and Birds: Case Studies in the Ecology of Spatial Vision" on Thurs., Nov. 2 (4:10 pm) in SCSC 163 on the OWU campus. Brandley says, "I will use case studies in grasshoppers and birds to explore how an animal's ecology drives variation in their spatial vision. [...] Throughout I will show how these different animals perceive the world, especially regarding the appearance of signals." The talk is free & open to the public.

Annual Meeting of the "Friends of the Library" (11/2)

This year's Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Delaware County District Library is on Thurs., Nov. 2 (6:30 pm) in the Delaware Main Library's Community Room. Keynote speaker is Joe Blundo, a longtime columnist for the Columbus Dispatch. George Needham will present the "State of the Library" report, and the a capella group

Baratonix from Buckeye Valley will perform live music. The public is invited to attend to celebrate the 10th anniversary of FOL.

Asbury's First Thursday Organ Concert (11/2)

Asbury's 2017 First Thursday Noontime Recital Series continues on Thurs., Nov. 2 (12:15-12:45 pm) with an organ concert by Dr. Joseph Musser. Asbury UMC is located at 55 W. Lincoln Ave. The concerts are free & open to the public. The complete 2017/18 scheduled can be found at Asbury's website.

Delaware County Trails Committee Hosts Open House (11/2)

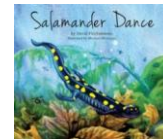
The Delaware County Trails Committee is hosting an open house Thurs., Nov. 2 (4-6 pm), at the Willis Education Center at 74 W. William St. The committee is seeking ideas about demand, location, funding, and other issues. Maps and draft copies of a comprehensive plan will be available for review and comment. The DCTC is made up of County Commissioners, county staff, county residents, the Health Dept., Preservation Parks, and county residents. – A county-wide trail system that links Preservation Parks, Columbus Metro Parks, and state parks has often been suggested.

"Global Health" Lecture #9 (11/2)

As part of OWU's Sagan National Colloquium, Chris Fink from OWU's Dept. of Health & Human Kinetics will lead a panel discussion entitled "Looking Global, Looking Local: A Conversation about Community, Quality of Life, and Health Equity" on Thurs., Nov. 2 (7 pm) in the Benes Rooms of HWCC. The focus will be on Delaware, and the discussion includes health-care access, food issues, quality of life, the built environment, community concerns & more. Panelists include Francis Jo Hamilton, Lisa Ho, Jo Ingles, Michael Lantow, Scott Sanders & Erica Wood. Free & open to the public.

First Friday (11/3)

Main Street Delaware celebrates First Friday on Nov. 3 (6-9 pm). The theme is "ThankFULL Holiday." As usual, there will be lots of fun and free activities for the whole family. Among other things, you may collect favorite holiday recipes from local downtown businesses. However, as the sponsor (LSS Food Pantries) notes, there is also significant food insecurity in the nation, state, and county. Delaware's LSS Food Pantry helps 2,200 families every day. Please bring a shelf-stable food donation to help hungry neighbors.



David FitzSimmons at Fundamentals (11/3)

Award-winning Ohio teacher, author, and outdoor photographer David FitzSimmons, Ph.D., will be at Fundamentals on Fri., Nov. 3 (6:30-8 pm) to read from and discuss his books. Among the titles are "Curious Critters" (multiple volumes), "Salamander Dance" (which explores the annual life cycle of vernal pools), and "Wakem the Rooster." To see his work, visit www.fitzsimmonsphotography.com. – Fundamentals, now in its 30th year, is located at 25 W. Winter St. in downtown Delaware.

Bob Tanner Paintings at Gallery 22 (11/3-12/22)

Paintings by talented Ohio plein-air artist Bob Tanner are on display at Gallery 22 (22 E. Winter St.) from Nov. 3 through Dec. 22. A reception is scheduled for Fri., Nov. 3 (6-8:30 pm) in conjunction with First Friday. To learn about Tanner, visit www.bobtannerart.com.

Carolyn Heffelfinger Paintings (11/3)

A pop-up gallery, WORK OF ART, will be at 26 N. Sandusky St. through Dec. 23, featuring over 70 works by Sunbury artist Carolyn Heffelfinger. (The gallery will also feature jewelry made by Shirley Turrell-Nevada.) Heffelfinger has painted professionally for 25 years. Most of her oil paintings are inspired by her love for nature. WORK OF ART opens Nov. 1 (11 am – 5 pm). A reception is planned for First Friday on Nov. 3 (doors open at 5 pm). Normal gallery hours will be Wed. – Fri., 11 am – 5 pm, and Sat., 10:30 am – 6 pm.

Poetry Group (11/5)

Poetry Group is an opportunity for poetry lovers of all ages to read, write, and share poetry in a group setting. Local poetry enthusiasts Ben Ditmars & Susan Olson will facilitate. The next meeting is Sun., Nov. 5 (3 pm) in Delaware's Public Library.



Arena Fair Theatre Performs "Hairspray" (11/3-5) – \$

Delaware's Arena Fair Theatre is performing the popular and award-winning musical "Hairspray" on Fri., Nov. 3 (7:30 pm), Sat., Nov. 4 (2 & 7:30 pm), and Sun., Nov. 5 (2 pm) in the Merchants Bldg. at the Delaware County Fairgrounds on Pennsylvania Ave. Tickets are \$20 at www.arenafair.eventbrite.com.

Opera Theatre Presents "Waiting Rooms" (11/3)

OWU's Opera Theatre presents "Waiting Rooms" on Fri., Nov. 3 (8 pm). The program features 4 portraits of longing expressed through the music of American composers Samuel Barber, Gian-Carlo Menotti (born in Italy) & Stephen Sondheim. The student performance will be held in Jemison Auditorium inside Sanborn Hall, 23 Elizabeth St. Free & open to the public.

Annual Buckeye Book Fair (11/4) – \$

The 30th Annual Buckeye Book Fair will be held on Sat., Nov. 4 (9:30 am – 4 pm) at the Fisher Auditorium at 1680 Madison Ave. on the south side of Wooster, Ohio. Parking is free, but there is a \$2 admission for adults. About 100 Ohio authors and illustrators will be present. A 24-page brochure can be downloaded from the website (www.buckeyebookfair.com). Paper copies are available at the Public Library while the supply lasts.

A Cappelloza Concert (11/4) – \$

OWU will host the 5th annual "A Cappelloza" voices-only concert on Nov. 4 (7 pm) in Gray Chapel inside University Hall at 61 S. Sandusky St. Hosted by Anthony Peddle, the concert features classic rock songs performed by student a cappella groups from multiple universities, incl. OWU & Wittenberg Univ. The event includes a performance by the a cappella group "The Filharmonic." The 5-member vocal group made the semi-finals on NBC's "Sing-Off" and was featured in the 2015 film "Pitch Perfect 2." Tickets are \$7 at the door and \$3 for senior citizens, children & non-OWU students with valid student IDs. The concert is free for OWU & Wittenberg students and OWU employees with valid university IDs. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Symphony: Trivia Contest (11/4)

"Rock the Symphony IV," the Central Ohio Symphony's annual Trivia Contest, will take place Sat., Nov. 4 (7 pm) at SourcePoint, 800 Chesire Rd. Judge David Hejmanowski will serve as trivia master. In addition, food & dessert, beer & wine will be served. Tickets are \$40 per person, \$280 for a team of 8. They are available at the Symphony's office at 24 E. Winter St. or online at www.centralohiosymphony.org.

Bowl for Kids' Sake (11/5) – \$

"Bowl for Kids' Sake" is a fundraiser to help local children succeed in life. It is put on by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio, and 100% of the money raised will stay in the community. The event will be held Sun., Nov. 5 (12-4 pm) at the Delaware Lanes at 536 Sunbury Rd. (State Rt. 36/37 E.). Bowlers are asked to team up in groups of 4 to 5 and raise a minimum of \$50 per person. To register, go to www.delawarebfs.kintera.org.

Piano Recital by Gulimina Mahamuti (11/5)

OWU faculty member Gulimina Mahamuti is giving a piano recital on Sun., Nov. 5 (3:15 pm) in the Jemison Auditorium inside Sanborn Hall at Elizabeth St. The recital will feature many of the beautiful piano works by the Spanish composer Enrique Granados (1867-1916) to celebrate the 150th anniversary of his birth in 2017.

The concert is free & open to the public. – Dr. Mahamuti is an internationally recognized concert pianist and accompanist. She also has an extensive track record as a researcher, teacher, and lecturer. She grew up in western China as a member of the Uighur population and joined OWU in 2011. Her website is www.gulimina.com.

Daylight Savings Time Ends (11/5)

Daylight Savings Time (DST) ends Sun., Nov. 5. Set your clocks back one hour.

Election Day (11/7)

Election Day is Tues., Nov. 7. Polls are open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm. Please note that some polling stations have closed and/or changed in Delaware County and the City of Delaware. Affected voters were notified.

Kelly Sundberg Book Reading (11/7)

Editor and essayist Kelly Sundberg will speak at OWU on Tues., Nov. 7 (4:10 pm) in the Bayley Room of Beeghly Library. The event is free & open to the public. Among other things, Sundberg is the author of the forthcoming memoir "Goodbye, Sweet Girl" (2018). She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Ohio Univ. in Athens, Ohio.

"Global Health" Lecture #10 (11/7)

As part of OWU's Sagan National Colloquium, mental-health expert Tasiana Njau from Muhimbili Univ. will discuss "The Malady with Mental Illness in Tanzania" on Tues., Nov. 7 (7 pm) in the Benes Rooms of HWCC. Free & open to the public.

MTSO Lectures on Religious Diversity (11/7-8)

Dr. John Thatamanil, prof. at Union Theological Seminary, will present two public lectures: "Circling the Elephant – Christian Approaches to Religious Diversity" on Tues., Nov. 7 (7 pm), and "The Quest for Interreligious Wisdom" on Wed., Nov. 8 (10 am). Both presentations are in the Alford Centrum on the MTSO campus, 3081 Columbus Pike (US 23 S.). Admission is free. In addition, he will preach at MTSO's chapel service on Tues., Nov. 7 (1 pm). Dr. Thatamanil is currently completing a book on the promise of religious diversity. For more info, visit www.mtso.edu.

OWU Chamber Orchestra (11/7)

Under the direction of Lucy Ginther, the OWU Chamber Orchestra has its fall concert on Tues., Nov. 7 (8 pm) in Gray Chapel, inside University Hall. The program includes Grieg's "Holberg Suite" and Stravinsky's "Pulcinella Suite." Free & open to the public.

Historical Society: Annual Meeting (11/8)

The Delaware County Historical Society is holding its Annual Meeting on Wed., Nov. 8 (7 pm) at the Barn at Stratford (2690 Stratford Rd.). The event includes a presentation on "Delaware County during World War I." The meeting is free & open to the public, but presumably only members are eligible to vote.

OWU Lecture on Frederick Douglass (11/9)

Laura Wexler, from Yale Univ., will speak about "Frederick Douglass: On Photography" on Nov. 9 (7-8 pm) in the Bayley Room of Beeghly Library, 43 Rowland Ave. Frederick Douglass gave several public lectures about the importance of the then-new invention of photography. In "Pictures and Progress" he shared his vision of the role he hoped photography would some day play in fostering a more democratic society after the Civil War. Along with Sojourner Truth, Douglass thus became one of the first American theorists of the medium. This lecture engages with his critical thought in the context of his time, and ours, with relevance to issues surrounding African-American control of representation and the Black Lives Matter movement. Free & open to the public.

"Global Health" Lecture (11/9)

As part of OWU's Sagan National Colloquium, Cecilia Makafu will discuss "Global Health Challenges for Africa" on Thurs., Nov. 9 (7 pm) in the Benes Rooms of HWCC. Makafu has worked for 10 years on child survival, nutrition, malaria, and HIV/tuberculosis projects. Free & open to the public.

OWU Lecture on North Korea (11/9)

Terence Roehrig, prof. of national security affairs and director of the Asia-Pacific Studies Group at the U.S. Naval War College, will discuss "The North Korean Nuclear Crisis: From Solving to Managing" on Thurs., Nov. 9 (7 pm) in 301 Merrick Hall. Not all problems in international relations can be solved, says Roehrig. In his view, the world needs to start thinking about managing, not solving, the situation. Free & open to the public.



OWU Piano Recital (11/9)

OWU's Frank Chiou will give a piano recital on Thurs., Nov. 9 (8 pm) in the Jemison Auditorium inside Sanborn Hall at 23 Elizabeth St. This will be an all Franz Liszt program and includes the composer's sonata in b minor. The concert is free & open to the public. (The concert was originally scheduled for Oct. 22, but was rescheduled due to illness.)

Orchesis 17/18 (11/10-11) – \$

The Greek word "orchesis" refers to the art of dancing. OWU presents the dance performance "Orchesis 17/18: The Time It Takes" Fri., Nov. 10 (8 pm), and Sat., Nov. 11 (2 pm & 8 pm), at Chappellear Drama Center, 45 Rowland Ave. A public reception follows the evening performances. The hour-long show features 16 dancers, 4 actors, and 8 choreographers. A public reception will follow each evening performance. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for senior citizens, OWU employees, or non-OWU students with valid student IDs. Tickets are free for OWU students with valid university IDs. The Nov. 10 performance also will be free for OWU faculty & staff with valid university IDs.

Veterans Day Parade (11/11)

The Delaware County Veterans Day Parade Committee is staging a parade to honor all who served on Sat., Nov. 11, starting at 1 pm. The parade will start near the OWU campus, travel north along Sandusky St., and end at the County Fairgrounds. Info is available at delawareveteransparade@yahoo.com.

OWU Symphonic Wind Ensemble (11/12)

Under the direction of Larry Griffin, the OWU Symphonic Wind Ensemble is having its fall concert on Sun., Nov. 12 (3:15 pm) in Gray Chapel, inside University Hall. The program includes "Of Ancient Dances," "Legacies," "Bright Lights ... City Lights," "Escenas de los Aztecas," and "Three Washington Statues." Free & open to the public.

Economic Outlook Conference (11/14)

OWU's annual Economic Outlook Conference on Tues., Nov. 14 (7:30 pm) features a panel of experts discussing their forecasts for the 2018 economy. The panel discussion will take place in the Benes Rooms of HWCC. Participants are Bob Lamb (Economic Development Director for Delaware Co.), Mark Schweitzer (Senior VP & Director of Research for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland), and Andrew Will (global macroeconomic strategist for Hartford Investment Management Co.). Each expert will speak for 15 min. and then respond to questions and comments from the audience and panel moderator Dr. Goran Skosples from OWU's Dept. of Economics. Free & open to the public.

OWU Jazz Ensemble (11/14)

Under the direction of Kevin Turner, the OWU Park Avenue Jazz Ensemble has its fall concert on Tues., Nov. 14 (8 pm) in Gray Chapel inside University Hall. The concert is free & open to the public.

Second Annual Craft Fair (11/19)

The 2nd Annual Craft Fair will be held on Sun., Nov. 19 (10 am – 4 pm) in the Merchants Bldg. at the Delaware County Fairgrounds (236 Pennsylvania Ave.). Some 50 local artists, crafters, and vendors will sell holiday gifts. Admission is free, but food donations for People in Need (PIN) are accepted.

Handbell Festival (11/19)

The 22nd annual Delaware Area Handbell Festival takes place Sun., Nov. 19 (7 pm) in the Gray Chapel of University Hall on the OWU campus, the same venue as in the past. Handbell ensembles from various Delaware County locations participate. Free & open to the public. Donations are accepted. (To learn more, visit the website of Delaware's First Presbyterian Church, www.delfpc.org.)

Thanksgiving (11/23)

Thanksgiving is on Thurs., Nov. 23 this year. Delaware City Schools and OWU have the week off.

CITY OF DELAWARE

The City of Delaware in November

City Council meets Mon., Nov. 13 and 27. The following commissions, committees, and boards meet as indicated: Planning Commission – Wed., Nov. 1; Board of Zoning Appeals – Wed., Nov. 8; Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Tues., Nov. 21; Historic Preservation Commission – Wed., Nov. 22; and Shade Tree Commission – Tues., Nov. 28. All meetings are at 7 pm in City Hall (1 S. Sandusky St., 2nd floor). The Nov. & Dec. meetings of the Civil Service Commission meetings are cancelled.

City Council Elections

Four city residents are competing for the Third Ward seat on Delaware City Council. They are Jim Browning (the incumbent), Ben Kelly, George Mantzoros, and George McNab. Five residents are competing for the 3 at-large council seats. They are: George Hellinger (incumbent), Dustin Nanna, Carolyn K. Riggle (incumbent), Laura Roberts, and Kent Shafer (incumbent). For details on each candidate, search the "Delaware Gazette."

Laura Roberts Likes to See More Diversity

Educator Laura Roberts, 69, is a Delaware native and a 1966 Hayes High School graduate. After receiving a B.S. degree in elementary education, she taught and tutored in school districts throughout the country. She has been part of Delaware's African-American community for the past 40 years and says she is running for City Council to ensure that everyone is included in the city's decision-making: "Since Delaware is a very diverse community, having many cultures within its city limits, I felt a need for more representation and diversity on City Council." Laura had many administrative roles over the years and is currently a board member of the Second Ward Community Initiative (SWCI), a facility dedicated to the education of young people. Specifically, she states that "the city needs to be more supportive and proactive in bringing additional minority business opportunities to Delaware like culturally diverse restaurants." – Laura Roberts, with whom we conversed at the SWCI Unity Festival, may have limited name recognition in Delaware and may or may not get elected. However, she does have a well-taken point: the administration of the City of Delaware is very white, and as a result the local African-American and Hispanic communities may be misunderstood and underserved.



Sustainability: MORPC & the City

MORPC is the acronym for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, an umbrella organization for 15 Central Ohio counties, incl. Delaware. "Sustainable2050" is the framework that guides and supports local government members to improve their sustainability, and acknowledges members' successes in doing so. Sustainable2050 will be officially launched at MORPC's Summit on Sustainability on Nov. 14 (Hilton Columbus Downtown). However, since it is an outgrowth of MORPC's "Green Plan" and "Regional Sustainability Agenda 2017-20," the general direction of Sustainable2050 can already be inferred. The 5 main goals are: 1. reduction of energy consumption and promotion of alternative fuel resources; 2. protection of natural resources to maintain healthy ecosystems and communities (incl. air & water quality

and waste reduction); 3. promotion of sustainable business policies and practices (incl. local foods & other products); 4. creation of sustainable neighborhoods with high quality-of-life rates (incl. complete streets, alternative modes of transportation, weatherization & home repairs, crash reductions); 5. collaboration and educational opportunities to advance innovative sustainability solutions. – The City of Delaware is a member of MORPC and endorsed the Sustainable2050 plan on Oct. 9. However, in actuality acceptance and implementation of MORPC's goal has been slow. The city is making progress in some areas, but in others there are pockets of resistance, and we have even heard open derision expressed among political conservatives in Delaware County and the City of Delaware. For example, the city is not minimizing greenfield development and promoting infill and redevelopment aggressively enough. A solar-panel array at Fire Station #304 may not be in the cards, according to Planning Director David Efland. Free weatherization and safety-related home repairs are not offered; instead blighted homes are routinely "condemned" and then demolished. Delaware has had a watershed coordinator for a number of years, but air pollution has received scant attention. And although MORPC is a strong proponent of local foods and sustainable practices, the city continues to disallow backyard chickens and other poultry for no good reasons.

New Watershed / Sustainability Coordinator

The City of Delaware has a new Watershed / Sustainability Coordinator, Caroline Cicerchi. She is originally from Westerville and has a B.S. degree from Kent State Univ. (2015). For the past 2 years, she was employed as an Urban Erosion and Stormwater Specialist for the Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District. In 2014, she worked as a summer intern for The Wilds. She is currently in process of becoming an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist through OSU-Extension. On Oct. 9, she presented MORPC's "Sustainable2050" plan, the successor of MORPC's Green Pact, to City Council. The City is committed to Sustainable2050 and will pursue the objectives and initiatives outlined in the program, and Caroline Cicerchi will presumably be the City's designated local champion and representative.

Engineering Building Will Not Be Demolished

In a memo dated Oct. 19, the City of Delaware officially advised the Historic Preservation Committee that it is withdrawing the application to demolish the Engineering / Sheets Bldg. located at 20 E. William St. At its October meeting, the committee voiced concerns over the City's plans to raze a historic structure for the purpose of creating more parking spaces. The committee acknowledged receipt of the letter and moved to take application #2017-2403 "off the table." The City will now evaluate "all options for uses of this facility." Some folks have suggested a welcoming center with a public restroom, for instance. Alternatively, the building could be sold. If you have any creative ideas, consider sending them to the City.

Fire Station #304 Unlikely to Go Solar

There has been "a lot of internal debate" about possible solar panels at Fire Station #304, according to Planning Director David Efland. However, what the Planning Commission members heard at the October 4 meeting did not sound promising. The model or template for Fire Station #304 on Chesire is Fire Station #303 on W. Central, which does not have solar panels. Fire Station #304 is therefore not designed to accommodate solar panels and/or be connected to the electric grid either; it would supposedly require costly "enlargements" to do so. Efland implied that such start-up costs would not be a prudent way to spend taxpayer dollars. In addition, he stated that a solar-panel array could not be mounted on the roof. It would have to be installed on the ground somewhere on the 4.1-acre property, but there might be not enough room to do so. "Obviously," Efland said, it could not be installed in front of the building for aesthetic reasons. On the other side, however, are pavement, trees, and a detention pond. Because of all these "complications" and "problematic" factors, he concluded, "solar is not necessarily going to happen." – Clearly, all these arguments are specious excuses. Start-up costs would be recouped over time and money could be saved over the long haul; the fire station's roof could be redesigned to permit solar panels; retrofitting the building later to make it solar-ready would be much more expensive; and we have seen ground-mounted solar-panel arrays that are aesthetically so attractive that they would be

perfectly appropriate even for front-yard locations. Anything can be engineered or reengineered. Where there is a will, there is a way. The bottom line is the will to go solar is not there. Efland did not mention the "problem" of a time delay if the project were to be partially redesigned, but in our view Fire Station #304 could still be started and finished within the original one-year timeframe. – Fire Station #304 is a unique opportunity for the City of Delaware to embrace the future, pilot a solar-panel project, and learn from it. It would also do much to enhance its brand and reputation as a modern city that is open for business and new concepts. Making dismissive comments about solar energy in 2017 is out of step with the times.

Update: At its 10/9 meeting, City Council approved MORPC's "Sustainable 2050" plan. One of the main goals is the promotion of alternative energies. But so far City staff does not seem to have connected the dots.

Water Pollution Costs Taxpayers Money

Public Utilities Director Brad Stanton requested additional \$190,000 from the City. A memo to City Council explained, "The usage of electric and chemicals increased in 2017 more than anticipated in part because of the poor water quality from the Olentangy River, which is the City's main raw water source. Poor river water quality which results in higher turbidity requires additional chemicals, mainly aluminum chlorohydrate (ACH), to remove sediments from the treatment process." It is expensive to meet regulatory requirements for potable water. The higher the degree of pollution, the more expensive it gets. In cooperation with their northern neighbors, the City of Delaware and Delaware County should develop a plan to address the problem. Agricultural run-off in counties north of Delaware is a major culprit. The atrazine (herbicide) and nitrate (fertilizer) content is high. Even the groundwater at Penry Rd. has a level of iron & manganese that must be removed before the water is drinkable. By implementing measures to protect the Olentangy, the city's primary source of water, better and cheaper outcomes could be achieved.



Banks Farm Market Slated for Demolition

The City of Delaware plans to submit a request to the State of Ohio to release funds for the demolition of the former Banks Farm Market grocery store, located at 304 London Rd. / 110 David St. The estimated cost is "up to \$26,000." The building is a sturdy and robust brick house with "good bones" and seems to be perfectly salvageable. It might need a new roof and other upgrades, but \$26,000 would go a long way to rehabilitate it. Here are some things to consider before demolishing it: 1. The State of Ohio has just lambasted local authorities for being more interested in demolishing hundreds and thousands of affordable homes rather than saving them. 2. MORPC is urging its members (incl. the City) to do more to save and restore existing structures instead of razing them. 3. Habitat for Humanity (MidOhio) is shifting its emphasis and will commit more resources to repairing homes and fewer resources to build new ones. 4. Banks Farm Market and its former owner, Henry Banks, are part of Delaware's history. Demolishing the building, once a cornerstone of the African-American community, is insensitive. 5. Gentrification is not a benign and harmless process. It evicts minorities and people of lower incomes and destroys buildings and communities. It is a form of social and ethnic cleansing that is inappropriate in the 21st century. In Delaware, dozens of homes have been removed over the past several years, leaving painful gaps in the older neighborhoods. – In our view, any demolition plans should be tabled until a community-wide discussion about possible future uses for the property has taken place. How about another grocery store in the Second Ward, which is a food desert? How about a satellite office of the Health Dept. to help an underserved neighborhood? How about a little museum for African-American history and the Underground Railway? Another idea – convert the building into a hub for bicycling activities in the city & county. After all, Stratford Ecological Center, Deer Haven Park, and Liberty Park are right down Stratford Rd., and an existing bike trail is

nearly. Residents surely have all kinds of creative ideas, but so far no one has asked them.

Three More Years of "Ironman"?

At the 10/17 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, City staff mentioned conversations about extending the contract with "Ironman" for three additional years, from 2019-21. No decisions have been made.

Dog Park Closed for Winter

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board received a memo for its Oct. 17 meeting that indicated that Delaware's dog park would be closed from Feb. 15 through April 15 "to provide time to properly aerate, overseed, topdress, fertilize and avoid muddy conditions so that we may re-establish healthy and resilient grass as we prepare for the heavy use in the spring." The stated intention is to close the dog park every winter to give it time to recover.

Leaf-Bag Collection Guidelines

The City of Delaware is reminding people of its leaf-bag collection guidelines. Leaves that are not bagged will not be collected. Biodegradable leaf bags may be purchased at grocery or hardware stores; the city no longer makes them available. Leaf-bag collection will occur on the normal collection day. Bags should not be placed in gutters, ditches, other drainage ways because this will obstruct the flow of stormwater when it rains. Also, do not burn leaves within the city; the practice is banned by city ordinance. Consider mulching (or composting) instead of discarding leaves. Many lawn mowers have mulching blades that cut the leaves into small bits. Mulched leaves provide nutrients to lawns, flowerbeds & gardens, reducing the need for fertilizer. – The last day for yard-waste pick-up is Fri., Dec. 15.

Delaware City Schools Emergency Operating Levy

Why is the DCS levy needed? Delaware is a growing district. Enrollment has increased by 850 students since 2010. State funding is capped, meaning the schools don't receive funding for additional students. DCS currently has more than 5,800 students, but receives state funding for fewer than 3,900 students.

What would the DCS levy do? The emergency operating levy will be collected at 8.35 mills and generate \$6 million annually. It would be collected for a period of 5 years beginning in 2018. Levy funds would support day-to-day operations such as teachers, transportation, basic utilities & student safety. The DCS district has not asked voters for additional operating dollars since 2011. At that time, the district anticipated the levy would last 3-4 years. Through careful planning, the district has stretched the levy for 6 years. This levy will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home approximately \$288 annually (\$24/month).

(The above information was provided by the Delaware City Schools District.)

Does Delaware Require a Bicycle License or Not?

Here is an interesting factoid. Section 373.13 of Delaware's Codified Ordinances, approved over 60 years ago in 1955, states that the City of Delaware requires bicycle licenses: "No person shall operate or use a bicycle upon the streets, alleys, parkways, sidewalks, public parks or highways of the City without first obtaining a license therefor from the Police Department." Below, however, is the language from the website of the Police Department: "The police department encourages community residents to register the bicycles with the Division of Police. Should a bicycle be lost or stolen, the police then have a means to identify the owner of the bicycle and return the bicycle once it is recovered. Registration of the bike can be done by downloading the form here or by obtaining a registration form at the Police Department. There is a \$2 fee to register your bicycle which is valid for three years. A registration sticker will be issued for each bicycle registered." – Obviously, the ordinance requiring a license for bicycles has not been enforced in decades and is for all intents and purposes null and void. It makes little sense that it is still on the books. Unfortunately, this is not the only city ordinance that is antiquated and obsolete. When we brought the obvious contradiction to the attention of authorities, they shrugged it off. However, it is our position that there is indeed a fundamental difference between a mandatory "license" and a voluntary "registration." Indifference to minor flaws

may be a sign of indifference to major flaws. The law should in all cases be clear and unambiguous and not permit arbitrary interpretations and applications.



Lehardane / Lehardaun, Ireland

As reported by "Community Matters" in August 2017, Delaware's Sister City Advisory Board is interested in exploring a partnership with Lahardane (also spelled the Irish way, Lehardaun), a tiny historical village in Mayo County on the northwest side of Ireland. The population was 156 in 2011. It is the home of the famous Nephin whiskey distillery, named after the Nephin Mountain (806 meters or 2606 feet). Nephin whiskey is reportedly available in Central Ohio, according to connoisseurs. The sinking of the Titanic is an important historical event for the area. The parish of Addergoole lost 11 members on April 15, 1912 (3 survived). A commemoration is held every year on that day. There is also a beautiful memorial garden with sculptures and an interesting exhibit in the town, sometimes referred to as "Titanic Village." – Members of the Hayes High School Marching Band may travel to Ireland next March, in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day (March 17), and participate in their parade.

"Indivisible"

The Democratic Party was crushed in 2016 and has yet to fully recover. It is not surprising, then, that there are young and old members and sympathizers who feel that the Democratic establishment (embodied by Hillary Clinton) is stale, broken, boring, and uninspiring. Among the resisters and rebels is "Indivisible," a grassroots movement with 6,000+ volunteer organizations around the nation. The group has now started to attract the attention of the Democratic Alliance as well as big-league donors such as George Soros. – Delaware has a chapter of Indivisible, too. They held their first meeting in February 2017 and have been present at First-Friday events. For a while there was an Environment Team, but it was later decided that fracturing the nascent movement may not be a good idea. – The next meeting of the local Indivisible group is Wed., Nov. 1 (7 pm) in the Public Library (2nd floor).

OWU Needs to Look Beyond 2020/21

OWU is a busy beehive – busy with recruitment, teaching, fundraising, administrating, and so on. The daily challenges consume much time and energy. That is probably one reason why so far no one has taken the initiative to develop a strategic master plan that takes the university beyond 2020 or 2021 – to the year 2042 (its 200th anniversary) or 2050, let's say. As other entities (e.g., MORPC) are increasingly working on their long-term trajectories, OWU should start doing the same.

OWU Hires New Wrestling Coach

OWU has announced that it has hired Paul Reid as the new wrestling coach. He will oversee OWU's reinstatement of men's wrestling as a varsity sport, with competitions beginning in 2018-19. Reid is a 2008 graduate from Coe College in Iowa and has an M.A. degree in physical education from the Univ. of North Carolina-Pembroke, which has distinguished student-athlete programs. He comes to OWU from Alfred State in New York, part of the SUNY system. – OWU also promotes the student-athlete model that ensures success not only on the athletic field but also in the classroom.

Women's Rowing at OWU

In February 2017, OWU announced it would reinstate men's wrestling and add women's rowing as varsity sports for the 2018-19 academic year. Wrestling was readily accepted as a reasonable choice. It was a varsity sport at OWU from 1954 to 1984, and facilities are readily available. Little new equipment is needed. The addition of women's rowing, however, led to lots of head-scratching. It made no sense. There was no tradition, culture, or knowledge. Where would the students row? At Hoover Reservoir, Alum Creek Lake, Delaware Lake,

or the Scioto River? In winter, much of the water is frozen solid. Besides, most of these places are public parks that would not permit the construction of a private boat house. Eight months later, the training site is still an open question, it appears. Recruited students still do not know where they will row next year. At the 10/17 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, members were asked by OWU representative Cassie Cunningham if they happen to know of any suitable nearby sites with rowable water and room for a boathouse. The decision to add women's rowing seems to have been made with zero consideration of the actual feasibility of the program; in the absence of an experienced head coach with knowledge of NCAA regulations; with no designated location in mind; and the impending departure of then-Athletic Director Roger Ingles. We are also unaware of any student demand for a women's-rowing program. As of 10/17, a coach has yet to be hired. – The elements to make a sound decision were not there. The plan was not properly vetted, the process was flawed, and the outcome will suffer because of that. We have yet to see any evidence that the program is more than a fantasy. Perhaps it should be reconsidered and replaced with another sport.

Connie C. Whitaker (1925-2017)

Constance C. Whitaker, Ph.D., died on Oct. 8 at the age of 92 at Willow Brook Christian Village at the Delaware Run. Not many people remember Connie anymore, but she was a force to reckon with at OWU where she taught Family Studies, Home Economics, and Human Development from 1954 to 1983. She continued to serve the university in other capacities for several more years after her official retirement. She was also a tireless community volunteer and activist, both before and after retirement. She was a founding supporter of both the Andrews House and Londontown and played various roles at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. At one point, she also was a member of Delaware's Shade Tree Commission. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory are suggested to St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 45 W. Winter St. A memorial service in her honor was held Oct. 28 (10:30 am) at St. Peter's.

Art Exhibit: "Precious Objects" (through 12/14)

"Precious Objects," which features photographs by Cleveland artist Charles J. "Chuck" Mintz, continues at the Richard M. Ross Art Museum, 60 S. Sandusky St., through Dec. 14. Mintz's exhibit pairs images of people holding their self-selected "precious objects" with hand-written statements explaining their choices. For the Delaware exhibition, Mintz added photographs of several local residents. Admission to the Ross is always free. To learn more about Mintz, visit www.chuckmintz.com.



Boardman Arts Park

The Ruth Boardman Arts Park between W. William St. and W. Winter St. is slowly coming along. Basketball back-boards have now been enhanced with local art. The gate on Catherine St. has been reopened, and signage has been installed on all 3 sides. Restrooms and electricity are among the next improvements. – The Boardman Arts Park is a Northwest Neighborhood Association (NNA) project, funded by community donations in cash and in kind. So far, contributions have been received from Amidonian LLC, Delaware Antique Mall, Gerspacher Sales, Hamilton Parker, NNA, Oberfield, Olivina Taproom, North Orange Family Dentistry, Posh Event Services, Trucco Construction, and Sherwin Williams. Please thank these businesses for their generosity next time you interact with them.

Pickleball Popular in Delaware

The YMCA reports that pickleball has been "popular" in its gym. However, it has so far not permitted markings, blended lines, or tape on its courts, making tournaments impossible. At Blue Limestone Park, the two existing pickleball courts often see players waiting on the side for court time. "Participation in the sport is greater than originally expected and continually growing," according to a document discussed

by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee on Oct. 17. Some residents have now requested that more courts and lights for evening play be installed. By using so-called blended lines, any tennis court can also be used as a pickleball court. – Here is a brief description of pickleball found on Wikipedia: "Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Two, three, or four players use solid paddles made of wood or composite materials to hit a perforated polymer ball, similar to a wiffle ball, over a net. The sport shares features of other racquet sports, the dimensions and layout of a badminton court, and a net and rules similar to tennis, with a few modifications. Pickleball was invented in the mid-1960s as a children's backyard pastime, but has become popular among adults as well." Nationally, there are some 2.6 million pickleball players.

Chickens and Salmonella

The Columbus Dispatch printed an article on 10/22/17 that held backyard chickens responsible for "a soaring number of illnesses from poultry-related diseases," especially salmonella. On 6/9/17, the Dispatch printed a similar article blaming backyard chickens as a primary source for salmonella. Enemies of chickens will quote these articles for years to come as proof that backyard chickens are indeed unsanitary, as they have long claimed. – Salmonella is indeed a foodborne illness that afflicts "more than 1 million people" each year, resulting in more than 300 deaths, according to the CDC and the article. But the overwhelming majority of salmonella-poisoning cases have nothing to do with backyard chickens. According to the same article, "since January nearly 1,000 people have contracted salmonella poisoning from chickens and ducks in 48 states." That figure includes all the farm and other agricultural workers who work with live poultry professionally. But even if you accept the figure of 1,000 and do the math, then chickens and ducks are responsible for only about 0.1% of all salmonella cases in the U.S. whereas the rest (99.9%) are due to industrial-farming and meat-processing practices. Most people get salmonella poisoning through raw or undercooked foods in supermarkets, cafeterias, and restaurants. Contaminated reptiles and amphibians from chain pet stores or other live animals can also be a source of salmonellosis.

It is easy to agree with the article's point that proper hygiene is always essential. You should not kiss or snuggle the animals or let them run around in the house or apartment. People with compromised immune systems should probably not handle fowl or other critters. If you touch chickens and their eggs, wash your hands afterwards thoroughly. Of course, also keep the chicken coop clean. And it is best to use a designated pair of shoes to do that – shoes that should stay outside the home. Some people even use gloves and face masks when interacting with their chickens. Local farmer Paul Etheridge advises not to get your chickens from hatcheries where they raise thousands and millions of them; they are often contaminated. By the way, the local Health Dept. does not discourage people from having chickens at all, but it urges flock owners to take proper precautions and use proper hygiene, as outlined above. – Salmonella is a perfectly preventable public-health problem. The focus should not be on banning chickens, but on education. Nobody is even thinking about banning cars or guns even though tens of thousands of people die every year as a result of their deadly presence. Chickens are infinitesimally less hazardous than both cars and guns. Their bad reputation is undeserved.



Henkel Day 2017

If you drove by 421 London Rd. recently, you may have seen a big outdoor sign that said "Henkel Day." Forever curious, "Community Matters" investigated right away. Henkel Day is celebrated each year on Sept. 26 (or the workday closest to it) by the German company Henkel AG and its worldwide subsidiaries. On that day in 1876, young Friedrich ("Fritz") Henkel (1848-1930) founded the company, now in business for 141 years. – In fiscal 16, Henkel

reported sales of €18.7 billion and an operating profit of €3.172 billion. The global chemical company has over 50,000 employees. More than 80% of them work outside of Germany, incl. in North America. The 3 main product areas are adhesive technologies, beauty care, and laundry detergents. The Delaware plant is part of Henkel Adhesive Technologies, focused on bonding, sealing & surface treatments. According to Buzzfile, the local branch employs approx. 46 people.

JEGS Has New Executive

JEGS Automotive, Inc., has hired Jeffrey Hennon as the new CEO of the company effective Oct. 16. He is a veteran of retail and e-commerce, having worked at Dick's Sporting Goods and Alcoa Corporation, among others. His last position was Executive VP for GNC, the health, vitamin & supplement chain. – Family-owned JEGS sells parts & accessories for high-performance vehicles as well as tools & race apparel. The company, which has about 350 employees (according to Wikipedia), is located at JEGS Blvd. off US 42 South.



Delaware Slated to Get Lidl Store

Delaware is getting a new Lidl (rhymes with "needle") discount store. Unfortunately, the location is not in the S. Sandusky St. corridor where a store with fresh fruit & vegetables is badly needed. According to plans received by the Shade Tree Commission, the location is the corner of State Rt. 36/37 E. (Sunbury Rd.) and Mill Run Crossing. The building will have about 36,000 square feet and close to 200 parking spaces. The current business on the site, Delaware Marine, will be demolished. The new store is likely to open next summer or fall. – German discounter Lidl, founded in 1973, is aggressively expanding throughout Ohio. Worldwide, Lidl operates more than 10,000 stores in 27 countries. The chain is similar to Aldi's, known for its discounted prices. Unlike Aldi's, however, Lidl stores have their own bakeries. About 90% of the products are sold under their own private label, which gives the company control over quality and pricing. Compared to Kroger, Meijer, and Walmart, Lidl is 10% to 15% cheaper. It is also noteworthy that for Lidl sustainability is important. It accepts various items for recycling, and it makes available products that are organic, non-GMO, Fair Trade, cage-free, sea-food certified, etc. However, it does not appear that bulk food will be sold at the store. – The Delaware Lidl store is not on the 11/1 docket of the Planning Commission, so the earliest City Council would approve the plans is 12/11.

Planet Fitness Moving into Former Buehler's

Planet Fitness has confirmed that it is moving into the former Buehler's building at 800 W. Central Ave. Remodeling has already started, and the gym is expected to open before the end of the year. A pre-sale office will open in November. Members make an annual payment of \$39 along with a monthly \$10 membership fee. In addition, there is a one-time enrollment fee, which will be \$1 for the initial period. For the time being, the grand total is thus \$160 per year. The fitness center will be open 24/7 and includes showers, lockers as well as tanning beds & booths. Planet Fitness already has a similar store in Marion. For more info, visit www.planetfitness.com. – Since the new fitness center is leasing only 22,000 square feet, the former Buehler's building will have approx. 42,000 additional square feet available once First Commonwealth Bank leaves the site next year.

"7Forty" Customized T-Shirts & Sweatshirts

Local entrepreneur Braje Brewer, a recent Hayes High School graduate, has created the "7FortytheBrand" sports fashion line, named after Delaware's 740 zip code. You can find examples of her athletic T-shirts on Facebook (7FortytheBrand) and on Twitter & Instagram (@7FortyGear). The shirts come in all sizes and many colors. They are professionally done, of good quality, durable, washable, and affordable (\$15 each). – On a related note, Janet Aisles from the Delaware County Visitors Center informs us that people occasionally look for T-shirts that say "Delaware" or that have the City

of Delaware's logo. It appears, however, that there is no one who manufactures them.

2017-18 High-School Theater Performances

The Columbus Dispatch announced the following high-school performances during the 2017-18 school year: Big Walnut H.S. will perform "The Wonderful Wizard of Neverland" (Nov. 16-18); Hayes H.S. – "Shrek the Musical" (March 8-10); Olentangy H.S. – "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" (Jan. 12-14) & "As You Like It" (April 20-22); Olentangy Liberty H.S. – "Peter and the Starcatcher" (Nov. 17-19); Olentangy Orange H.S. – "The Good Times Are Killing Me" (Oct. 26-29) & "Heathers, the Musical" (April 19-21). There was no mention of Buckeye Valley H.S. in Sunbury, but according to its website there is a fall play planned for Nov. 10-12.

DELAWARE COUNTY & CENTRAL OHIO

Vote Yes for Preservation Parks Levy

"Community Matters" encourages voters to support the levy renewal for Preservation Parks of Delaware County. The park system is a work in progress, with more units being added every year. Soon Delaware will have a park on Pollock Rd., and additional ones are being build in other corners of the county. The park system is attempting to preserve the remaining natural features in Delaware County for educational purposes, for future generations, and for wildlife. It serves thousands of children and adults every year. It is green spaces like these that make Delaware County attractive to businesses and families. Please vote yes on Nov. 7!



Turning Point

Turning Point, Delaware County's first domestic-violence shelter for women, has collected over \$2 million for the project. The goal of the fundraising campaign for the facility located at the north end of N. Liberty St. is \$3.2 million. Executive Director Paula Roller expects the renovations to be completed in spring 2018. Once finished, the complex can house up to 45 individuals and 8 families. There will also be a heated kennel for pets because sometimes abused women are reluctant to leave their homes if they can't take their pets with them. – Donations to Turning Point are accepted at www.turningpoint6.org.

National "Stop the Bleed" Campaign

Incidents of mass shootings are common in the U.S. An injured person can bleed to death in 3 to 5 minutes. Hence the need for a national "Stop the Bleed" campaign. Bystanders have the power to respond immediately and save lives whereas emergency workers sometimes have to wait 20 or 30 minutes until the scene is safe enough to enter. The initiative grew out of the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012 and started in 2015 when Obama was president. Hundreds of health-care providers have already been trained in Central Ohio, but now it's the general public's turn to learn how to stop the bleeding and apply a so-called tourniquet. The following 5 steps are recommended: 1. Call 911 and ensure your own safety; 2. apply firm, steady pressure to the wound with hands; 3. apply a dressing to the wound and press; 4. stuff the wound with clean gauze or cloth and apply pressure; 5. apply tourniquet 2 or 3 inches above the bleeding. Bleeding-control kits containing tourniquets are commercially available and are also commonly stocked in schools, churches, malls, airports, etc. Every police officer should have a life-saving tourniquet and Narcan kits as readily available as their guns and tasers. Training is available through videos on YouTube or through first-aid courses provided by the Red Cross. The goal is to increase the number of survivors in mass-casualty events involving a shooter. Knowing how to stop the bleeding effectively is of course useful for a variety of other injuries as well, e.g., car crashes.

In **Delaware County**, Christina Tracy is the Emergency Preparedness Specialist at DGHD. She is also the point of contact for the Delaware County Healthcare Coalition. The coalition brings together various partners such as fire, law enforcement, acute care, hospitals, EMA and long-term care facilities. The group shares information for emergency preparedness efforts. DGHD has been facilitating Bleeding Control for the Injured (BCON) courses as part of the coalition efforts, taught by an Delaware County EMA instructor. According to Christina Tracy, Central Ohio Trauma System (COTS) provided 50 tourniquets last year; additional tourniquets have since been purchased. Some of them were given to the professional service providers who attended the BCON courses. School districts were given the opportunity to attend a BCON course as well. The remaining kits were distributed to school districts within Delaware County through coordination with the school nurses. According to Christina Tracy, training for the public has not yet been done on a wider scale. However, courses could be offered upon demand. She is planning to host at least one more BCON course in the near future and is willing to organize additional courses if the public feels there is a need. Emergency Preparedness Specialist Christina Tracy can be reached at DGHD, 1 W. Winter St. Her email is ctracy@delawarehealth.org.

100 Deaths Due to OD in Delaware County

In its most recent electronic newsletter (released 10/13), the Delaware County General Health District (DGHD) provided two fascinating sets of data about the opioid crisis in Delaware County. 1. The first statistic involves overdose deaths from 2011 to 2015. During that period, 77 people died from heroin (20), oxycodone, alprazolam, cocaine, fentanyl, hydrocodone, and/or morphine. The ages ranged from 18 to 69; the average age was about 40. Whites and blacks died at about the same rate per 100,000 people. 50.6% of the deceased had only a high-school (or GED) education level. The more educated people are, the fewer the number of OD incidences, it seems. 2. The other set of data is more recent (2016 – July 2017). During that time period, there were 23 additional OD deaths. During the first 6 months of 2017, there were more deaths (12) than during the entire 2016 year (11). And whereas heroin was the #1 killer from 2011-15, cocaine and fentanyl are now the more serious threats. Also, the rate of those with only a high-school (or GED) level of education has increased from 50.6% to 60.9%. – The average number of annual deaths in Delaware County is 14.6 during the time period of 2011-2016. Of those who died, the overwhelming majority (69) had two or more substances in their bodies (up to 6). The accompanying maps show that OD cases are concentrated in the more populated areas: Delaware, Sunbury, and the southern communities of Delaware County (Dublin, Powell, Worthington, and Westerville).

Ferzan Ahmed Resigns from County

Delaware County administrator Ferzan Ahmed has accepted a new position with AECOM, a global engineering company based in Columbus. He will leave his post effective Nov. 10 after less than 2 years. Ahmed says that after a lot of thought he decided to return to highway-infrastructure management to end his career. He worked for ODOT from 1992-2016. Board President Jeff Benton thanked Ahmed for his leadership and commitment to Delaware County during his nearly two years as Administrator: "He has been an excellent ambassador for Delaware County and led many initiatives to improve efficiency, enhance planning and reporting, and drive positive changes during his tenure." The Delaware County Commissioners will begin a search for a replacement immediately.

County Court House

The new Delaware County Courthouse at 110 N. Sandusky St. will officially open Mon., Nov. 6. A flag-raising ceremony is scheduled for 7:45 am. An open house is scheduled for Sun., Dec. 3 (2-4 pm). The open house will allow the public to visit the new facility and learn about its design and operations from the staff. It cost \$39 million to build the 5-level, 95,000-square-foot building.

Carol O'Brien Will Run for Congress

Delaware County Prosecutor Carol H. O'Brien has announced her intention to run for the 12th District seat vacated by Congressman Pat Tiberi on Jan. 31, 2018. O'Brien, long a Republican, has stated that the idea for Congress has been on her mind for years. – Prosecutors

and judges are supposed to be impartial and independent, but in actuality that is a fairy tale.

Andy Brenner Will Run for State Senate

State Rep. Andrew Brenner has announced his intention to run for State Senate in 2018 to serve Ohio's 19th Senate district. The seat is currently occupied by Powell Republican Kris Jordan who is term-limited. – Brenner has announced a special fundraising event at the Sugar Valley horse farm (2648 Troy Rd.) on Thurs., Nov. 16 (6-8 pm). Sponsor levels range from \$100 to \$5,000. In other words, this is not an event for ordinary mortals.

Demolition of Blighted Homes

A new federal report says that the State of Ohio is more interested in demolishing homes than saving them. The state has spent nearly \$71.6 million to demolish 5,246 vacant or blighted houses since August 2013. A total of 421 houses have been taken down in Franklin County for \$6.7 million, an average of \$15,914 each. We don't have the figures for Delaware County, but over the years dozens of structures have been demolished with the City of Delaware alone, and the process is on-going. We have inspected some of these homes, and many would have been perfectly salvageable. However, it is clear that the City of Delaware too "appears more interested in demolishing homes than saving them." We have maintained for years that razing houses in low-income neighborhoods constitutes a form of social and racial cleansing that is inappropriate in the 21st century. It is time for a more balanced approach (see below), an approach that is also recommended by MORPC. – Ohio remains eligible for another \$209 million in funding until 2021.

Habitat for Humanity Takes New Approach

Habitat for Humanity has been in the business of building new homes for eligible low-and-moderate-income families for many years. In Delaware, the 60th home was just finished. However, often a brand-new house is not needed. An even greater number of families could be helped for the same amount of dollars by rehabilitating existing structures. There is no need to demolish perfectly safe & sound homes. A new roof or bathroom, furnace or water heater is sometimes all that's required to make a house livable again. Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio (serving Franklin, Licking & Madison counties) has now started to move away from the old model and toward the new approach of offering a home-repair program and rehabbing existing homes. Many so-called "blighted" and condemned houses can be restored for a fraction of what it costs to demolish and rebuild them. Destroying buildings and communities is wrong-headed if an alternative exists. Habitat's new approach, which we welcome, not only stretches dollars further but also preserves and revitalizes neighborhoods. It is our observation that in the past authorities often used the derogatory term "blighted" as a justification to purge their towns and cities from low-income folks and ethnic minorities. The new approach attempts to lift poor people up instead of kicking them out. – We have not yet been able to ascertain whether the local Habitat for Humanity organization (serving Delaware & Union counties) plans to follow suit, but it would make sense to do so. Habitat Director Todd Miller has not responded to our inquiry.



County Dog Shelter to Be Relocated

As reported in October, Delaware County plans to relocate and consolidate multiple offices at the 26-acre site of the former Delaware Area Career Center (DACC), North Campus, at 1610 State Rt. 521. The Delaware County Commissioners approved its master plan last month. Among other things, the plan mentions the relocation of the current Dog Shelter to the site on State Rt. 521. The current location at 4781 County Home Rd. is difficult to find and hard to reach. A

better location was overdue. However, completion of all phases of the consolidation project is not expected until 2020.

A New Storm Shelter in Delaware State Park

Delaware County is installing a new storm shelter in Delaware State Park near the park's campsites. The foundation has already been poured. Then a 4-inch-thick dome made with steel and concrete will be erected on top of it. The structure is about 80 feet in diameter, 25 feet tall, and measures 4,300 square feet. It includes restrooms, electricity, and water, but has no windows. The anticipated completion date is November. The capacity of the severe-weather safehouse is 856 people. The total cost is almost \$1 million. A \$600,000 federal grant is combined with monies from ODNR, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, and the Delaware County Commissioners. The structure will be used as a safe house, but it can and will also be used as a community room, auditorium, or gym. Similar storm shelters in other counties and states have even been used for social events, incl. at least one wedding. – There was a discussion in the past about whether campers can bring their (crated) companion animals to the shelter in an emergency, but we do not know what the outcome was.

Delaware County Historical Society

The Delaware County Historical Society has embarked on a 2½-year, \$300,000 "Our History, Our Heritage" capital campaign to provide financial support for necessary vital repairs and maintenance of historically significant properties: the Barn at Stratford, the Forrest Meeker Homestead & Museum, and the Cryder Historical Center and Research Library. These facilities provide educational programs for 3,300 school children and 2,500 adults each year. Donated monies will not go into an endowment (which the Society also has); instead, they will be spent directly on required upgrades. Donations at all levels are welcome. For questions and details, please contact the Executive Director, Donna Meyer. She can be reached at info@delawareohiohistory.org.



The Bieber Mill Ruin on Chapman Rd.

The Bieber Mill on Chapman Rd. south of Delaware remains one of the most impressive stone mills ever constructed in Ohio. It is also one of the most architecturally significant historic structures left in Ohio. Built in 1876/77 by the brothers James and Henry Bieber, the walls are 3' thick and constructed with beautifully cut limestone. Only one side is still standing after the mill lost its roof, floors, and beams during an early 20th-century fire that also destroyed an adjacent grist mill. Due to financial difficulties the mill was auctioned off in 1889. Eventually, Elmer Wigton became the owner until he sold it in 1923. Floods were common during that period, and the mill's dams were destroyed several times. Today, the ghostly site is owned by the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources. At one point there was talk about restoring the building to its former glory, but no funds ever materialized.



Ashley's Spiritualist History

In 1893, a Spiritualist Camp Association created Woolley Park north of Ashley (Oxford Township) as a Christian summer camp and as a place to hold their meetings. They built summer homes, a restaurant, and a swimming pool. People live in these homes year-round even today. In 1972, Margaret Fling (1910-2001), a spiritualist pastor who founded the White Lily Chapel in 1922, was reportedly nominated for the 1972 Peace Nobel Prize. ("Community Matters" has so far not been able to verify this claim.) Ashley still has several spiritualist churches – First Spiritualist Church, Spiritualist Church, and White Lily Chapel. The website of White Lily Chapel lists 9 principles to live by. Among them: All natural phenomena are expressions of the

divine Infinite Intelligence. A good life is one that is lived in harmony with nature's physical and spiritual laws. The church does believe in the moral responsibility of individuals and abides by the Golden Rule: "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye also unto them." The church also believes that life does not end after death. It continues, and it is therefore possible to communicate with the so-called dead through mediumship. It seems odd that spiritualism is still around in the 21st century, but survive it does. To learn more about the religion, check out the website of the National Spiritualist Association (NSA).

BIA Has Interim Executive Director

According to the website of the Building Industry Association (BIA) of Central Ohio, the current Interim Executive Director is Tracy Schiefferle. The previous Executive Director, James Hilz, accepted a new position elsewhere. Below is the BIA's mission statement: "As leaders in the housing industry, we are dedicated to protecting the industry while promoting ethical business practices and standards. We support our community and our members through professional development, legislative outreach, industry promotion, and charitable efforts. The notion of "protecting the industry" has occasionally led to interesting conversations between the BIA, the City of Delaware, and certain City commissions.

New Health Commissioner for Columbus

Dr. Mysheika Williams Roberts was named Columbus Health Commissioner in October. She replaces Dr. Teresa Long who is retiring. Dr. Roberts will start her new job Dec. 1. She is the first African-American to hold the position. She has a strong theoretical and practical background in medicine that includes time at the federal CDC. – Dr. Roberts will continue to work on issues such as child mortality, the opioid epidemic, tobacco use, and obesity. However, in an interview with the Columbus Dispatch she stated that her main focus will be on "the social determinants of health" – everything from education and jobs to safe, affordable housing, violence as a public-health issue, and access to healthy food. In Columbus and elsewhere, health outcomes can vary dramatically based on the ZIP code you live in. Without addressing these issues, the city won't be able to make meaningful progress, she says. – Our hope is that the good work of Dr. Roberts will lead to tactics and strategies that can eventually be adopted by other health districts, incl. conservative Delaware where consideration of "the social determinants of health" are not front and center.

Columbus Crew May Move to Texas

The owner of the Columbus Crew, California-based investment banker Anthony Precourt, wants to move his team to Austin, Texas, which is the largest city without a major professional sports franchise. Major League Soccer (MLS) has already registered "Austin FC" and "Austin Athletic" as trademarks of the league. Efforts to keep the team in Columbus were unsuccessful; not even a new \$200 million downtown stadium is likely to satisfy the owner. City and county officials complained that Precourt blindsided them and left them in the dark. According to sources, the deal is "all but done" and the ship has sailed. Negotiations to keep the team in Columbus are not officially dead, but it is standard industry practice to keep hope alive for the purpose of selling more tickets. – Precourt purchased the Crew in 2013 for \$68 million and seems to have intended to move it to Austin from the start. There is little that ties him to Columbus. In fact, there is evidence that little ties him to Austin either. He may be using the Austin escape clause in his contract to pull out of Columbus to eventually relocate in a third city.

STATE OF OHIO

Pat Tiberi Will Resign from Congress

Rep. Pat Tiberi, 54, has announced that he plans to resign from Congress effective Jan. 31, 2018. He will reportedly join Columbus-based Ohio Business Roundtable instead, a business consortium that announced last summer it was searching for a new president to replace President Richard Stoff, now retired. Tiberi was first elected in 2000 and is widely considered to be a moderate

Republican. He recently joined the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus of Congress.

The Ohio Business Roundtable

Many people have not heard of the Ohio Business Roundtable (BRT) before. According to its website (www.ohiobrt.com), the BRT is "a partnership of the chief executives of leading Ohio companies that collectively account for more than \$1 trillion in annual revenues, \$1 trillion in market value, and \$2.6 trillion in assets." Since its inception in 1992, the BRT has focused its work in 6 priority policy areas: (1) Education & Workforce, (2) Economic Development, (3) Business Climate, (4) Healthcare, (5) Governance & Fiscal Policy, and (6) Energy Competitiveness.

Joe Schiavoni, Democratic Candidate for Governor

Joe Schiavoni, Democratic candidate for Ohio Governor, made an appearance in downtown Delaware on Oct. 24 that was sponsored by the Delaware County Young Democrats. Schiavoni, 38, has been a member of the Ohio Senate since 2009. He is term-limited and has decided to run for governor in 2018. He grew up in Boardman, Ohio (Youngstown area), where he and his family (wife, and two little boys) reside today. He attended Ohio University in Athens and went on to law school at Capital University in Columbus. He received his Juris Doctor in 2004, is licensed to practice law, and is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association. His specialty is worker's compensation law. While in the Ohio Senate, he helped repeal the infamous Senate Bill 5 in 2011 that eliminated collective bargaining, incl. for teachers, police officers, and firefighters. Schiavoni has also been a strong champion for public education and charter-school reform. He has advocated for stronger oversight of fraudulent e-schools and helped introduce Senate Bill 298 that addressed data collection and reporting rules for e-schools. Schiavoni has also created bullying-prevention programs and introduced legislation that would ensure proper child restraints in vehicles. There are many other community-friendly positions Schiavoni holds, such as a revolving loan program for businesses with fewer than 500 employees. He also wants to see opioid-treatment programs expanded and affordable healthcare for women and families restored.

Schiavoni is likewise interested in environmental issues. A typical example is the issue of water quality. In 2015, he introduced a resolution that would permit the use of state bonds to help fund local sewer & water infrastructure projects. After the Sebring lead-in-water scandal in 2016, Schiavoni insisted on getting answers from the OEPA and introduced legislation that required faster public notifications when drinking water was compromised. He is now proposing a \$1 billion, 10-year program to upgrade Ohio's water and sewer systems. In addition, his plans for Ohio include a grant program for projects such as urban reforestation, floodplain restoration, rainwater harvesting, dam removal, and other environmentally oriented jobs. When asked about alternative energy, Schiavoni said he has fought against Ohio's Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) freeze, and believes we should actively invest in all forms of alternative energy. Lastly, the state has multiple brownfields and toxic sites that need to be cleaned up, not just for the health and safety of the residents but also to be able to encourage businesses to locate here.

Schiavoni knows that gaining and maintaining the trust of people is not an easy task, especially in this jaded age. But he has been working on establishing a solid reputation for years. In an interview with the Columbus Dispatch in 2016 (8/4/16), he stated that he understood the problem: "I'm trying to garner that trust and show the work ethic so people understand who I am." When it comes to politicians, "Community Matters" is often skeptical. However, we feel that Joe Schiavoni is an exceptionally honest and truthful candidate, worthy of the trust of voters. Over the years, he has stayed away from "political BS" (his phrase). Instead, he has been a steadfast advocate for workers and the middle class. The state and the nation need more genuine and authentic voices like him. Schiavoni's website is www.ioeforohio.com. He is also on Facebook and Twitter. [David Carpenter contributed information to this article.]

William O'Neill Launches Run for Governor

Term-limited Supreme Court Judge William O'Neill has voiced interest in running for Ohio Governor, joining four other Democratic candidates (Pillich, Schiavoni, Sutton, and Whaley). He said he would wait to officially declare his candidacy in Feb. 2018 to avoid a

conflict of ethics. Among Bill O'Neill's liberal ideas are a \$15 minimum wage, tax credits for solar panels, expanded mental-health care, legalization of marijuana, and high-speed rail. While his ideas may sound attractive, especially to millennials, he was quickly criticized by some for not being a team-player and for not making a good-faith effort to participate in joint election activities with fellow Democrats. – Be it as it may, Community Matters is pleased to see Ohio Democrats finally engaged in substantive discussions about public issues. In recent public debates, they also addressed opioid epidemic and charter schools.

Issue #2

In 2009, the campaign to bring casino gambling to Ohio raised \$47.1 million. That record has now been beaten by the \$58 million Big Pharma has so far raised to defeat Issue #2, a statewide ballot issue aimed at lowering prescription prices. The new record could climb even higher before Nov. 7. The pharmaceutical industry is doing everything it can to muddy the waters and to confuse people, but the numbers don't lie. They are fighting Issue #2 because it is not in their financial interest to see drug prices lowered. – "Community Matters" continues to recommend a "yes" vote on State Issue #2.

Problem Gambling in Ohio

A new survey states that the percentage of Ohioans deemed "problem gamblers" has doubled since the introduction of racinos and casinos in 2012. The Ohio Gambling Survey says that 0.9% of residents (76,400 people) are problem gamblers, up from 0.4% (46,200 people) in 2012. (The math does not quite work out, but this is what was reported.) The national average of problem gambling is 2.2%. It is lower in Ohio because of existing education, prevention, and treatment programs. However, the survey is based on people's self-reported gambling behavior, and there is the distinct possibility that many people downplayed their addiction or were in denial about it. The number of at-risk gamblers, problem gamblers, and people with full-blown "gambling disorder" is certainly higher than official statistics indicate. There is a significant cost for society in terms of debt, family disruption, crime, suicide, and treatments. However, the problem is rarely addressed because of the high revenues and profits involved for the gaming industry and the state. Health districts, for example, routinely discuss the problem of substance abuse, but never the problem of gambling addiction.

"Citizens for Community Values" Is a Hate Group

Under its former leader, Phil Burress (now retired), the Citizens for Community Values (CCV) organization was listed as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. The organization has since transitioned to a new leader, Aaron Baer, and moved its headquarters from Cincinnati to Cleveland. It claims it has softened its approach to make itself more attractive to millennials. However, a closer look shows that CCV is still pushing a biblical ideology that says homosexuality is unnatural and sinful. School choice and abortion bans are also among their mantras. It also advocates for the right of white supremacists and neo-Nazis to speak on college campuses. According to the Columbus Dispatch (10/8) and its own website (www.ccv.org), CCV has directly influenced Ohio State Representatives Andy Brenner and Wes Goodman and their proposed "Campus Free Speech Act" legislation. The leader, Baer, has stated that the group "still champions the same issues" as it did under Burress, and Burress' daughter still works for the organization. – CCV is not the benign Christian advocacy group it claims to be. It is a wolf in sheep's clothing and very much a political lobbying group in sync with the alt-right. Baer says his goal is "to inject Christ-centered values into the statehouse." CCV's unconstitutional end goal is the establishment of a Christian theocracy based on biblical values at the expense of everyone else. Imagine the outcry if Muslims said they wanted to inject Islamic values and Shariah law into Ohio. What CCV does is no different.

The Social Responsibility of a University

Ohio University in Athens has a new president – Dr. M. Duane Nellis. Although his appointment was announced in February and he arrived in June, he was only now formally sworn in as the 21st president of OU. In an interview with the Columbus Dispatch he discussed the responsibilities of a university and several strategic pathways. 1. According to Nellis, a university has the responsibility "to

make a difference in the region it calls home." In OU's case, that's Appalachia where there are a lot of economic and social problems. 2. Nellis also stated that he wants OU to be a national leader in diversity and inclusion. The university has only now approved the position of a vice president for diversity and inclusion. 3. Nellis also wants the university to be known as a place for free expression and rigorous debate. Free speech creates the potential for conflict, and it remains to be seen how Nellis will balance freedom of expression with campus safety. 4. Although the Dispatch did not mention this fact, Nellis is also endorsing actions being taken at the local and state level to address climate change in support of the Paris Agreement. In an open letter, he wrote, "Human impact on climate is real, and the threat to our planet is undeniable. Ohio University chooses to lead by example by working toward a sustainable future in every capacity we can." – It is not our sense that Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware feels a particularly strong ethical responsibility toward the region it serves. OWU recruits from all over the nation, indeed the world, and that may lead to a certain disinterest in local matters. Town-gown relations are good, and a strong service-learning program is in place. But other than that, OWU's involvement is superficial. Joint projects are almost non-existent.



Ohio Has Teacher Shortage in Foreign Languages

Ohio continues to experience a shortage of qualified world language teachers, according to state and federal sources. The demand has exceeded the supply for the past 10 years. The Ohio Dept. of Education itself may be part of the problem. The requirements for obtaining a teaching license are tougher than for other college majors. For example, one semester of study-abroad is required instead of being an elective. However, financial aid is often not available, which is a disincentive for students to pursue a teaching license. Another idea to address the teacher shortage is to offer loan forgiveness to students who agree to teach in the state for a minimum number of years. America's retreat from the world is not helping either. In an "America-first" nation it is no longer cool to pursue a degree in world languages and literatures.

Course on Concussions in Sports

Thanks to "This Week Delaware News," we learned that the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), in conjunction with CDC, is offering a free course entitled "Concussions in Sports." The course is intended to educate young athletes and their coaches and parents on the importance of proper concussion recognition and management. The 4-unit course (as well as some 50 others) can be ordered through www.nfhslearn.com.

Hit-and-Skip Drivers

Time and again, drivers who hit pedestrians or bicyclists leave the scene of the accident. It may be natural instinct to flee from the scene, but it is both illegal and immoral. People have died as a result of not receiving medical attention quickly enough. After bicyclist Bob Lennon was killed in a hit-skip crash in 2013, Ohio passed a law in 2014 that increased the penalty for leaving the scene of a crash involving death or serious injury. It was upgraded to a second-degree felony and a prison sentence of two to eight years. Charges for manslaughter come in addition to these already stiff sentences. Ohio averages 473 hit-skip crashes a year in which people are killed or seriously injured, according to the State Highway Patrol. Most of them are eventually found because of the damage to their vehicles and the evidence they leave behind. If you are a motorist involved in a crash, guilty or not, it is your ethical and legal duty to stay on the scene and wait for police and EMS to arrive.

Christopher Columbus Being Reassessed

In conjunction with Columbus Day (10/9), Joe Blundo from the Columbus Dispatch took a fresh look at the hero, viewing him through the 1969 book "Christopher Columbus: The Four Voyages."

The explorer's primary motivation was not discovery but gold and trade. Blundo mentions the heartbreaking account of a native man who begs to be captured because Columbus has already kidnapped his wife and children to be taken to back to Spain. Considering the terrible things that followed Columbus to the New World – enslavement, disease, genocide – it is no surprise that we are now "in a period of correction," according to Blundo. What is surprising is that it took so long for the uncritical hero worship to subside.

Green Buildings Council Honors Ohio

Ohio has surpassed the number of 300 green K-12 school buildings. Green-certified schools, mandated a decade ago, are designed to be more energy-efficient and reduce water consumption. The U.S. Green Buildings Council recently recognized the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and its Executive Director, David Williamson, for Ohio's efforts in this respect. Ohio Governor John Kasich issued a resolution honoring the commission and its staff.

THE NATION

George W. Bush on Liberty

On Oct. 19, former President George W. Bush gave a timely speech in New York that garnered much attention. In the first part of his talk, Bush described the "democratic deconsolidation" that the U.S. is currently witnessing: "At times, it can seem like the forces pulling us apart are stronger than the forces binding us together. Argument turns too easily into animosity. Disagreement escalates into dehumanization. Too often, we judge other groups by their worst examples while judging ourselves by our best intentions – forgetting the image of God we should see in each other. We've seen nationalism distorted into nativism – forgetting the dynamism that immigration has always brought to America. We see a fading confidence in the value of free markets and international trade – forgetting that conflict, instability, and poverty follow in the wake of protectionism. We have seen the return of isolationist sentiments – forgetting that American security is directly threatened by the chaos and despair of distant places." Bush also stated his conviction that "people of every race, religion, and ethnicity can be fully and equally American. It means that bigotry or white supremacy in any form is blasphemy against the American creed. [...] Bullying and prejudice in our public life sets a national tone, provides permission for cruelty and bigotry, and compromises the moral education of children." Bush did not name the current American president by name, but he clearly fits the bill.

The second part of his talk was a call for action. Bush described four necessary steps to put the country back on a more balanced course: 1. America must harden its defenses and show strong resolve against foreign cyberattacks on its electoral infrastructure and other national assets. 2. American leaders should make every effort to maintain America's role in the world because "security and prosperity are only found in wise, sustained, global engagement." At the same time, however, "we should not be blind to the economic and social dislocations caused by globalization. People are hurting. They are angry. And they are frustrated. We must hear them and help them." 3. Thirdly, Bush advocated for a renewed emphasis on civic education in schools. It is "democratic citizenship" that defines us as a nation – not blood, soil, or gender. 4. Bush also notes declining trust and confidence in America's institutions. He calls upon schools, churches, the media, and other institutions to once again provide cultural and moral leadership for the nation.

U.S. Withdraws from UNESCO

UNESCO is best known for its World Heritage program intended to protect sites of historic, natural, or cultural significance. However, it also works to improve education for girls, raises awareness of genocides, and defends media freedom. Over the decades, the organization has done a lot of good work. However, the U.S. stopped funding UNESCO after it voted to include Palestine as a member state in 2011 and is now about \$550 million behind in back payments. Important projects and new initiatives cannot be funded as a result. Under Trump, the U.S. has now announced that it would leave the educational, scientific, and cultural organization altogether. The step comes as no surprise since the current U.S. administration has shown zero interest in education and science, culture and history. The

announcement signals further American alienation and isolation from the rest of the world.

U.S. Accepts Fewer Refugees

There are more than 17.2 million displaced refugees worldwide, but the U.S. accepts few of them although it is a disproportionately large country with plenty of space and resources. The percentage has been 0.6%. It fell to 0.5% in 2016 and is on track of being even lower in 2017. So far this year, the U.S. has accepted only 28,000 refugees, fewer than half of the 97,000 resettled in 2016, according to the Pew Research Center. In Sept., the Trump administration announced that the cap for refugee resettlement for fiscal 2018 would be 45,000. That number represents 0.26% of all global refugees, which is a minuscule sliver and not enough to make a dent. In addition, the research shows the U.S. accepts more Christians than Muslims as refugees although the number of refugees from the Middle East and Africa is far greater. – In the past, resettlement was not a national issue. But in the current political climate xenophobia and fear of refugees is pronounced and a hot political issue as immigration. It should not be. Decisions about refugee resettlement should be made by cool heads, not by people propelled by gut instincts.

Opioids a Public-Health Emergency

Opioids are killing 100 Americans every day. On 10/26, President Trump declared them to be “a public-health emergency.” However, the declaration is good only for 90 days and does not come with any additional designated monies. Critics were quick to call the step “empty rhetoric” because of the absence of comprehensive prevention and treatment programs. The president’s opposition to expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) shows that he is not serious about addressing the issue, according to skeptics. There is also a certain disconnect between Trump’s predilection for harsh police tactics and what medical experts recommend: substance abuse and drug dependency should be treated first and foremost as a medical crisis, not a law-enforcement problem. Arrests and prisons do not address the root cause and are not the answer.

Distracted Pedestrians

Zombies are everywhere these days – people walking with their eyes glued to their mobile phones, paying no attention to their surroundings. Oblivious of the world around them, they bump into other people and sidewalk furniture. The injuries are usually minor. When crossing busy city streets, however, the consequences can be fatal. In the U.S., pedestrian deaths spiked 9% in 2016 from the year before, rising to a total of 5,987, the highest since 1990. Because walking & texting is dangerous, Hawaii’s Honolulu has now passed a law that allows the police to fine pedestrians up to \$35 when viewing their electronic devices while crossing city streets. Honolulu is thought to be the first major city to enact such a ban.

Taxing Sugary Drinks?

Given the poor condition of Delaware’s residential streets, City Council has been searching for a dedicated funding source to maintain and expand the 360 miles of local streets and roads. Taxing sugary drinks is one option they might want to look at. Many U.S. cities have now enacted laws to tax sugary drinks, the single largest source of sugar in the American diet. Sugary drinks pose a major public health threat, leading to obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and other problems that cost the nation billions and trillions in the long haul. The local Health District agrees with these facts and urges people to drink “water first for thirst.” It counts the following drinks as “sugar-sweetened beverages”: soda pop, Gatorade, Powerade, lemonade, energy drinks, Kool-aid, fruit drinks, smoothies, flavored coffee & tea drinks, and even some fruit juices. Many U.S. cities have enacted laws to tax sugary drinks, the rationale being that a higher price (e.g., 1 penny per ounce) leads to a reduction in consumption and thus better health outcomes. Berkeley, Cal. (a city of 115,000), raised about \$1.5 million in 2016 in this way for nutrition and health programs. Philadelphia is using its soda-tax income to fund universal pre-K. There is no reason why tax income from sugary drinks could not be spent on a local program that builds and maintains complete streets (i.e., streets with tree lawns, multi-purpose trails, etc.) to promote walking, bicycling, exercise, and weight reduction.

Big Soda will not like the idea, of course. The American Beverage Association is in the business of selling as many sugary drinks as possible, just like Big Tobacco is in the business of selling cancer-causing cigarettes. Health issues don’t matter to them – they are all about profit. So, if and when cities embark on taxing sugary drinks they better have their act together and lots of community support. Big Soda will lie, fund faux research, and spend millions on TV and radio ads as happened in Chicago where the decision to tax soda was eventually overturned. Despite the industry onslaught, however, cities with strong community engagement have prevailed, and the residents are now benefiting from the additional revenue.

“Americans Don’t Last”

Employers would love to hire more American workers, but they are often scrambling to find enough people who have the skills, pass background & drug tests, and are willing to work long and hard hours in agriculture, food processing, cleaning, landscaping, or construction. “The reality is that few Americans last,” according to the Columbus Dispatch (10/9). They may show up for a while, but sooner or later most of them can’t take it anymore and drop out. Low wages and lack of job security are also disincentives. What the country needs is a guest-worker program that allows seasonal workers from Mexico and other countries to work here legally and then return to their home countries. Immigrants often “do the work of 1½ people already here,” one employer stated about the work ethic of his laborers.

Student-Loans Defaults Reach Record High

A record 8.5 million federal student borrowers have defaulted on their student loans. Nationally, the 3-year student loan default rate has risen to 11.5%. In Ohio, it is 13.6%. Students at for-profit schools continue to account for a disproportionate share of student-loan defaults. With 23.4%, Ohio Christian University’s default rate is the highest among Central Ohio colleges and universities. Denison, Kenyon, OWU and similar institutions have default rates below 5%. According to experts, students and families should consider schools’ default rates when applying to a college. The information is available from the U.S. Dept. of Education. – Unfortunately, the Trump administration has shown little interest in helping indebted students, including those who were defrauded by on-line for-profit schools. Trump University was one of those fraudulent unaccredited schools that promised much and delivered little. We are going to see many more students defaulting in the coming years because of the inaction of the current administration.

A Case of Corruption in the Trump Administration?

How is it that a tiny business with only two full-time employees in Whitefish, Montana, was able to secure a \$300 million contract to rebuild the power grid of Puerto Rico, thousands of miles away? The main reason seems to have been that the company’s owner, Andy Techmanski, knew the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, and his son. There was no competitive bidding, and in the meantime the deal has come under heavy criticism. On 10/29, Puerto Rico’s governor has Ricardo Rosselló canceled the contract. In the meantime, many weeks after hurricane Maria 70-75% of Puerto Rico is still without electric power... Shady deals have always been made, but they appear to have accelerated under the Trump administration.

NCAAP Issues Travel Warnings

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. The mission of the NCAAP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. For a good part of its history, the organization has been pretty docile and accommodating. However, as racism, xenophobia, and hate crimes have spiked in recent months and years, the NCAAP has seen the need to take a more assertive stance. In August, the NCAAP urged African-Americans to avoid the State of Missouri, citing discriminatory policies and practices (e.g., Senate Bill 43). In October, the association issued another travel warning for African-Americans, warning people of color to exercise caution when traveling on American Airlines, which – according to the NCAAP – has “a corporate culture of racial insensitivity and possible racial bias.” The organization cited instances where the airline reseated blacks away from whites or removed them from airplanes altogether.

In the meantime, the airline's CEO, Doug Parker, has sent a message to employees indicating that the company does not tolerate "discrimination of any kind."

Tribal Nations Conference in Columbus, Ohio

The Ohio History Connection in Columbus, Ohio, is hosting the 2nd annual Tribal Nations Conference from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. The conference coincides with National Native American History month, which is held each November. Representatives from 13 tribes and nations will meet, share information, and visit ancient American-Indian sites. Among them are the Delaware, Miami, Ottawa, Seneca, Tuscarora, and Wyandotte. More than 40 federally recognized tribes are connected to Ohio through homelands, treaties, and historic sites. However, American-Indians were forcibly removed from Ohio in the 19th century. Today, many tribes are working to rediscover their ancestral lands and reconnect with their history.

"Free Leonard Peltier!"

Most people have never even heard of Leonard Peltier, born in 1944 and now 73, although there are books, films, and songs about his life. He is essentially forgotten. Born in North Dakota, he was a Native American activist and a member of Anishinabi and Dakota / Lakota tribe. Despite lack of direct evidence, in 1977 he was convicted and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences for the alleged murder of two FBI agents. He has been in federal prison for the past 40 years. Over the decades, he has received much national and international attention and support from Nobel Peace Prize winners and human-rights groups who believe that he is innocent and did not receive a fair trial, incl. Amnesty International and the European Parliament. The American Indian Movement (AIM) considers him a political prisoner. There are also accusations that many FBI documents were kept secret and that racial bias played a decisive role. As is often the case, prosecutors were eager to score a win at the expense of justice. There is wide consensus that this is a case that would not be upheld by the courts today. The case has also hurt America's image and reputation nationally and internationally. Clemency seems the best solution under the circumstances.

Dennis J. Banks (1937-2017)

Native-American activist Dennis Banks has died at the age of 80 in Minnesota. To his supporters, he was a tireless champion of native pride and rights. His detractors saw only an outlaw, felon, and fugitive to be hunted down. As a 5-year-old child, he was taken from his Indian family and sent to government boarding schools that sought to eradicate his Ojibwa (Chippewa) language, culture, and identity. However, in 1968 he founded the American Indian Movement (AIM), which became quite influential. Over the decades, Banks appeared in many movies and documentaries. His autobiography, "Ojibwa Warrior," was published in 2005. A recommended introduction into the struggles that Native Americans faced over the centuries is Dee Brown's best-selling book "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" (1970). Native Americans continue to be a marginalized and underserved minority until the present day.

Trump is #248

Trump's ranking in the Forbes list of wealthiest Americans keeps dropping. He is now #248 in the U.S., with wealth worth \$3.1 billion. That's a drop of 16.2% in the last year and a 31% drop in two years. Half of Trump's worth comes from New York City real estate, but the value of luxury real estate is way down, incl. that of Trump Tower. Some of Trump's golf courses have also declined in value. In addition, Trump spent some \$66 million on his presidential campaign and \$25 million to settle a lawsuit involving his fraudulent "Trump University." While the Trump family continues to have significant assets, there are also a great number of liabilities (debts) involved. – As a candidate, Trump claimed to be worth \$10 billion, but that has always been an overstatement.

"The Dumbest Student I Ever Had"

Late professor Dr. William T. Kelley (1917-2011) taught Marketing to undergraduate and graduate students at Wharton School of Business & Finance at the Univ. of Pennsylvania for 31 years, ending with his retirement in 1982. He was the respected and award-winning author of a widely used textbook entitled "Marketing Intelligence"

(1968), considered standard at the time, co-authored other books, contributed to many marketing journals, and had extensive experience as a consultant to companies and the U.S. government. He died 6 years ago at the age of 94. Bill Kelley often told his friends in conversations that "Donald Trump was the dumbest goddam student I ever had." He said that the young Trump was spoiled and arrogant and believed he already knew it all. It seems that Donald Trump was admitted to the Wharton School as a special favor, according to biographer Gwenda Blair. He certainly was not a student committed to intellectual and academic pursuits. According to his former classmates and teachers, he was loath to study and consistently unprepared. He seemed to skip class a lot and often traveled to New York on weekends. – The pattern continues to this day. Trump is uninformed and unprepared, but that has never stopped him from making unfounded statements. It seems the less people know the more sure they are of themselves.

Tom Steyer Wants to See Trump Impeached

California billionaire Tom Steyer has launched a campaign to impeach the 45th president. In an ad that aired on Fox TV, Steyer accused Trump of bringing America dangerously close to the brink of a nuclear war with North Korea, obstruction of justice when he fired FBI director James Comey, for violating the First Amendment when he threatened to shut down media outlets, and for taking money from foreign governments. Steyer is spending well over \$10 million on airing the ad in all 50 states. Steyer, 60, has made his fortune in hedge funds. Since retiring from the financial world in 2012, he has also been involved in fighting climate change and has supported progressive candidates with more than \$165 million of his personal fortune. Steyer is reportedly not ruling out jumping into the political fray himself, incl. running for governor of California in 2018. – With the GOP firmly in control of Congress at this point, impeachment proceedings have little chance to pass. However, there is also a growing number of Republicans who are openly discussing Trump's mental instability and personality disorder. If push comes to shove, impeachment proceedings are not impossible. According to the U.S. Constitution, however, Amendment 25 stipulates that "in case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President." For many people, this is a scary thought that makes them reluctant to push for impeachment. As for Trump, he has tweeted that Steyer was "wacky and totally unhinged." This is not our impression at all. Tom Steyer is a serious award-winning environmentalist who practices a frugal lifestyle. His worldview, including his interest in Earthcare, is influenced by Episcopal values.

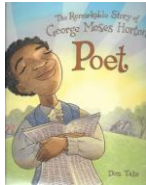
Denali Is Back in the News

Everything that Obama stood for, Trump wants to repeal and replace. It's a consuming obsession for the President. The latest example is the name of Alaska's highest mountain, the Denali (6,190 meter or 20,310 feet). In 2015, Obama agreed to restore Mount McKinley to its original name, following the lead of the State of Alaska and a prolonged national debate. Denali ("the High One") has been the name of the mountain in the language of the native Athabascans for centuries and millennia. The two senators from Alaska, Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, see no reason to overturn Obama's executive decision and advised Trump against doing so. However, during his campaign Trump pledged to change the name of "the big mountain in Alaska" (he has trouble remembering names and other specifics, as we know). He called Obama's action a "great insult to Ohio" and promised to overturn it eventually. – Ohio-born William McKinley never even set foot on Alaska, and most Ohioans have no idea who McKinley was in the first place. We have yet to find a single Ohioan who feels insulted by the name change. Secondly, if the word "Denali" is an insult to Ohio, then the word "McKinley" is obviously an insult to Alaska and its indigenous population. However, Trump does not seem to be worried about that insignificant little detail one bit. He seems to prefer mountains to be named after, and the world to be owned by, white people.

George Moses Horton (1798-1884)

George Moses Horton is believed to be the first published African-American poet in the Southern United States. Born into slavery, he remained enslaved until he was emancipated at the end of the Civil War in 1865 when the 9th Michigan Cavalry arrived in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. His first book of poetry, "The Hope of Liberty," was published

in 1829 and heavily focused on slavery and bondage. However, it failed to raise enough funds to release him from slavery. Later poetry collections include "Poems by a Slave" (1837), "The Poetical Works of George M. Horton" (1845), and "Naked Genius" (1865). Even after emancipation, Horton felt oppressed because of the color of his skin. One of his poems is called "Forbidden to Ride on the Street Cars." – Long forgotten, Horton has received more attention in recent years. A George Moses Horton Society for the Study of African American Poetry was founded in 1996. In 2015, author and illustrator Don Tate published "Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton," an illustrated biography for children. The New York Times just reported that an unknown 500-word essay by Horton has been found ("Individual Influence"), penned when he was 60 years old. It will be published in the October issue of the PMLA, which should be out before the end of the year.



On Liberty and Slavery by George Moses Horton

Alas! and am I born for this,
To wear this slavish chain?
Deprived of all created bliss,
Through hardship, toil and pain!

How long have I in bondage lain,
And languished to be free!
Alas! and must I still complain—
Deprived of liberty.

Oh, Heaven! and is there no relief
This side the silent grave—
To soothe the pain—to quell the grief
And anguish of a slave?

Come Liberty, thou cheerful sound,
Roll through my ravished ears!
Come, let my grief in joys be drowned,
And drive away my fears.

Say unto foul oppression, Cease:
Ye tyrants rage no more,
And let the joyful trump of peace,
Now bid the vassal soar.

Soar on the pinions of that dove
Which long has cooed for thee,
And breathed her notes from Afric's grove,
The sound of Liberty.

Oh, Liberty! thou golden prize,
So often sought by blood—
We crave thy sacred sun to rise,
The gift of nature's God!

Bid Slavery hide her haggard face,
And barbarism fly:
I scorn to see the sad disgrace
In which enslaved I lie.

Dear Liberty! upon thy breast,
I languish to respire;
And like the Swan unto her nest,
I'd like to thy smiles retire.

Oh, blest asylum—heavenly balm!
Unto thy boughs I flee—
And in thy shades the storm shall calm,

With songs of Liberty!

"Kari's Law" Makes Calling 911 Easier

In 2013, a 9-year-old girl attempted to call 911 when her mother was stabbed and killed in a Texas hotel. However, despite repeated attempts she never got through because she did not know she had to dial "9" first to get an outside line. Under a new measure by Congress, businesses would be required to include direct-dial 911 on any new telephone system they install. It is relatively easy and cheap to install multi-line telephone systems with programming or software upgrades. Both the House and Senate passed different versions of the bill earlier this year without opposition.

Guantánamo Bay Prison

You don't hear much anymore about the Guantánamo Bay prison, located on the island of Cuba. However, 41 prisoners remain as of mid-October. The majority of them (31) are held as "enemy combatants" in indefinite wartime detention without trial. Only 10 have been charged and/or convicted. The government has argued that the Guantánamo Bay prison is not on American soil and that therefore American civil and criminal law does not apply. – The prison was opened by President George W. Bush in 2002. Much of the world is appalled by the subhuman conditions and the specious charges. Keeping the facility open is also extremely expensive, costing taxpayers millions and billions (more than \$5 billion since it opened). President Obama promised to close "Gitmo," but he never did. President Trump has not discussed the Guantánamo Bay prison, to our knowledge, but it would be out of character for him to do what is the politically and economically, morally and ethically right thing to do.

Passports Required for Domestic Travel

Flying used to be fun. These days, however, is a hassle and nightmare. As of Jan. 22, 2018, a federal passport is required to take any kind of flight, domestic or international, in the following 9 U.S. states: Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, S. Carolina, and Washington. The Real ID Act of 2005 requires that state-issued IDs from these 9 states meet certain security standards imposed by the federal government. More states will be added to the list by 2020. It is possible, perhaps even likely, that some of the states will be taken off the list once they start to issue federally approved state IDs. Of course, the whole thing is designed to further reduce the home-rule principle for states. One can only imagine what's next in line – passports for banking and voting, to eliminate non-existing "fraud"? Nevertheless, if you are frequent flyer it might be a good investment to apply for a federal passport soon.

Where Marijuana Is Legal, Overdose Deaths Are Down

Here is a news item that caught our eyes. A recent study in the American Journal of Public Health came to the conclusion that Colorado's decriminalization and legalization of medical and recreational marijuana appears to have led to a 6.5% drop in opioid overdose deaths. The explanation – marijuana is highly effective at treating the same types of chronic pain for which patients use narcotics. If marijuana is available, many patients see no need to opt for opioids and stay away from them. Marijuana carries zero risk of fatal overdoses. – "Community Matters" is not in the business of promoting alcohol, nicotine, gambling, guns, and drugs. However, if medical marijuana indeed promises to reduce opioid overdose deaths, it should be investigated further.



The Fastest-Growing Jobs

According to just-released projections from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the top-growing jobs from 2016-26 will be installers of solar panels (#1) and wind-turbine technicians (#2). Their jobs are expected to double within the next 10 years (106% and 96%, respectively). Jobs in health care are also expected to grow at a good

clip. Even bicycle repairers are expected to grow by 29%, but coal miners did not make the list...

Home Depot Goes Solar

Home Depot stores are big, typically over 100,000 square feet in size. Earlier this summer, the company announced that it will install solar farms on the roofs of 50 of its buildings in 5 states (California, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey & New York) and the District of Columbia. The rooftop-solar project is part of the company's efforts to create and utilize 135 megawatts of alternative and renewable energy by 2020. Home Depot is also investing in solar farms in Delaware and Massachusetts, fuel cells in over 170 stores and distribution centers, and two windfarm projects in Texas and Mexico. [Roxanne Amidon provided this information]

WORLD

Neonicotinoids in Honey

Swiss researchers who tested honey samples from around the world found that 75% of them contained neonicotinoids (neonics), a common insecticide. The scientists said the chemical is not near levels that would harm humans. However, neonicotinoids are a huge concern for the bees themselves and are widely thought to be responsible for the collapse of bee colonies. The chemical giants Bayer and Syngenta are the main producers of neonics.

Forty Million Ensnared by Slavery

U.N. agencies say some 40 million people were ensnared by slavery last year. A new report by the U.N.'s labor organization, ILO, and migration agency, IOM, found that women and girls accounted for 29 million affected by modern slavery. Of the total, 25 million were victims of forced labor and 15 millions of forced marriages. About 152 million children ages 5 to 17 were subject to child labor.

"Abolish Nuclear Weapons" Wins Peace Nobel Prize

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is the recipient of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. The Geneva-based ICAN coalition has campaigned actively for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was adopted by 122 United Nations countries last July. On Sept. 1, the first day the treaty was open for signature, 51 countries signed it. Most are expected to formally ratify it soon. Under the agreement, all nuclear weapons use, threat of use, testing, development, production, possession, transfer, and stationing in a different country are prohibited. Unfortunately, the states that already have nuclear weapons (and some of their close allies) do not support the treaty: China, France, Great Britain, Russia, and the U.S. boycotted the negotiations; India, North Korea, and Pakistan did not vote. NATO has also criticized the weapons treaty. The U.S. and Russia have the world's biggest stockpile of nuclear weapons. – Chemical and biological weapons, landmines and cluster bombs were successfully outlawed in the past, although outliers remain. ICAN hopes that the treaty that bans nuclear weapons will increase public pressure and shame & stigmatize the possession of nuclear weapons in a similar manner.

Landmines

Landmines were outlawed in 1997. 162 countries (over 80%) have signed the "Ottawa Treaty." However, they continue to plague the world for two reasons: 1. Millions of unexploded landmines are still located in many countries, causing numerous civilian deaths and injuries. Often children are the victims. In some cases, farming remains difficult or impossible. Detecting landmines through radar technology and removing them is possible, but land clearance is expensive and dangerous work. Recent efforts focused on Afghanistan, Cambodia, and Croatia. It took Mozambique 22 years of work to rid itself of mines. Most of the clearance work was done by the Halo Trust based in Scotland. 2. Despite the ban, landmines are still being manufactured, and countries such as Myanmar, N. Korea, and Syria are defying the ban and openly use anti-personnel landmines. – Landmines are an insidious plague whose victims are predominantly innocent civilians. Every effort should be made to eradicate the manufacturing, stockpiling, transfer, and deployment from the face of the earth. The U.S., which has a stockpile of at least 3 million

landmines, is one of 34 states that has yet to sign the treaty. The Obama administration ducked the issue, saying it was under review. An immediate moratorium should be imposed.



The Myth of Ethnic Purity

Swedish archaeologists have made an interesting discovery. In a boat grave dating back to Viking times they unearthed lots of Middle Eastern and Asian treasures: coins from Baghdad, piles of silk, and textiles that spelled "Allah" in Kufic characters (the oldest Arabic script, named after Kufa, Iraq). Arab coins and Asian silk have been found in plenty of other Viking burial sites before. It is well known that the Vikings, a sea-faring people, traded with the Asian world and traveled as far as North America long before Columbus. However, the latest discovery suggests more than just occasional trade or plundering. Researcher Annika Larsson from Uppsala Univ. has suggested the existence of a deeper cultural affinity and shared cultural and religious beliefs and practices. She says, "Viking burial customs were very likely influenced by Islam." Future DNA research will determine to what extent interracial marriages also existed at that time. – Why does this matter? Nazi and neo-Nazi ideology typically views the Vikings as a racially pure and untainted Arian race, uninfected by allegedly inferior and unhealthy Jewish or Christian, black or Slavic influences. Of course, all that is utter nonsense. As long as humanity has existed, there have been fruitful economic, cultural, religious, and ethnic exchanges. East and West, which share a common origin, have been interconnected for centuries and millennia. Migration (both voluntary and forced) is also the origin of America's diversity, wealth, and prosperity today. "Ethnic purity" is a dangerous fantasy that does not exist anywhere in the real world.



Meet George Soros. 87

After the Bill & Belinda Gates Foundation, George Soros' "Open Society" is now the second-largest philanthropic organization in the U.S. Founded more than 30 years ago, Open Society promotes democracy, education, science, and human rights around the world (it is active in more than 120 countries). Given the deplorable situation in the U.S., the organization has increased its attention on America in recent years, investing in programs that address hate crimes, protect the LGBT community, and reduce police abuse. The foundation now has a total endowment of \$18 billion. As part of his estate planning, Soros is expected to transfer additional billions to his foundations. Soros, born in 1930, lived in Nazi-occupied Budapest as a boy and also experienced post-war communism. He adopted the name "Open Society" from an influential 1945 book by Karl Popper ("Open Society and Its Enemies") that argues against totalitarian regimes and for democratic governance, free expression, and civil rights. Soros equally funded dissident groups behind the Iron Curtain and black freedom movements in South Africa. He created the first Open Society foundation in his native Hungary in 1984 where he also built a university, and the organization has supported freedom and democracy around the world ever since – helping despised and marginalized Roma in Eastern Europe and African-Americans in Cleveland, Ohio. Needless to say, Soros has become a lightning rod for the paleo-right, incl. Breitbart.

Japan Confronts Death from Overwork

Karoshi, or death from overwork, became a widely recognized phenomenon in the 1980s in Japan, a country known for its relentless work ethic. Reported cases of karoshi include both blue-collar workers and white-collar executives. 80 hours of overtime per

month is a familiar story in a country where physical and mental exhaustion is seen as a sign of dedication and diligence. It is especially prevalent among people of younger age who are eager to prove their mettle. The latest case involves a 31-year-old woman, journalist Miwa Sado, who died of heart failure after clocking 159 hours of overtime within one month. At the time of her death, she was in a state of chronic sleep deprivation and accumulated fatigue. Her employer, the broadcaster NHK, announced her death in the hope that such a case would not happen again. The Japanese government reports that about 2,000 people a year kill themselves due to work-related stress. National guidelines use a threshold of 100 hours of overtime per month, or 80 hours average over a 6-month period, but they are often ignored. To reduce the risk of physical and mental harm, both a mindset change and more stringent legislation is needed.

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" is hymn that has become known as the black national anthem. The poem was written in 1900 by James W. Johnson (1871–1938) and set to music by his brother John R. Johnson (1873–1954) in 1905. Today, it is often sung in conjunction with "The Star-Spangled Banner," codified as the official national anthem in 1931. African-American Princeton scholar Imani Perry has now written a whole book on the song's history ("May We Forever Stand"), due out February 2018. The work was embraced almost immediately as an anthem that captured the story and the aspirations of black Americans. Since the song's creation, it has been adopted by the NAACP and performed by countless artists in both times of crisis and celebration, cementing its place in African-American life up through the present day. The hymn is often sung at MLK breakfasts and services. In her rich and readable work, Imani Perry tells the story of the Black National Anthem as it traveled from South to North, from civil rights to black power, and from countless family reunions to Carnegie Hall and the Oval Office. Drawing on a wide array of sources, Perry uses "Lift Every Voice and Sing" as a window on the way African-Americans have used music and culture to organize, mourn, challenge, and celebrate for more than a century. Below is the complete text of the hymn. Multiple sung versions are available on YouTube.

James W. Johnson **"Lift Every Voice and Sing"**

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered;

Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

SPACE

The Nibiru Theory

It seems the 18th-century enlightenment never took place. Reason is being aborted left and right. Irrationality, superstition, and conspiracy theories are once again ascendant in America, catapulting us back into another dark age dominated by charlatans and doomsayers. The latest avatar of Nostradamus is David Meade. He has claimed that a mysterious planet, Nibiru, would appear on Sept. 23 and foretell the world's end. The date came and went with any calamity, as did another predicted date, Oct. 23. The new date is now Nov. 19. On that day, the world is supposed to see an unprecedented series of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, according to Meade and the "Daily Express" tabloid. Another apocalyptic author, Terral Croft, is also promoting the Nibiru theory, which seems to have been first promoted by Nancy Lieder in 2005. He predicts that Nibiru is rapidly approaching Earth, perhaps even collide with it. – Needless to say, all this is utter delirious rubbish. Nibiru is an imaginary planet that does not exist. Meade and Croft have provided zero evidence for their outlandish claims. For one thing, planets don't carouse around the universe; they travel within fixed and predictable orbits. NASA scientists say the same. If Nibiru existed, they would have detected it by now. Meade's claims are all false – based on nothing by speculative numerology –, but they seem to generate lots of interest and money. One astronomer says the Nibiru theory is the most common pseudoscientific topic people inquire about. – It is sad and scary that in America today many people can no longer distinguish between science and pseudoscience, fact and fiction, truth and lies, fake news and actual news, reality and fantasy. It is also disconcerting to see folks obsessed with and consumed by alternative worlds. People disconnected and disengaged from the world have little or no interest in problems of real-existing communities and societies. And unscrupulous shysters are stoking the fire by encouraging such lunacy and benefiting from it financially. – There is no plausible threat to Earth, but the Nibiru theory and other Internet hoaxes are a real and present danger to American democracy today. Perhaps it's time for a new age of enlightenment.

A Dark-Sky Reserve in Idaho?

About 80% of North Americans live in areas where light pollution blots out the night sky. Whole generations have never seen the Milky Way. An area in the state of Idaho has been working for several years to designate 1,400 square miles as a designated dark-sky reserve, the first to be recognized by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) in the U.S. and the 12th in the world. Dark-sky reserves have a core area dark enough to meet the association's standards as well as a buffer zone surrounding it. The population numbers of Ketchum, Sun Valley, and Stanley have gone down in recent years, and the towns hope to attract astro-tourists, a point driven home when thousands descended earlier this summer on towns and cities in the path of the total solar eclipse. In addition to International Dark-Sky Reserves, there are also dark-sky communities that block lights from going upward. Flagstaff (AZ), Dripping Springs (TX), and Beverly Shores (IN) are currently among the members. Ketchum has now applied to become one, too. There are also a number of dark-sky parks in the world, incl. in the U.S. – To learn more about the work of the IDA, visit www.darksky.org.

"The Last Jedi"

"The Last Jedi" won't be released until Dec. 15, but already there a lot of buzz. There is little we actually know, but that has never stopped people from guessing. Indeed, the less we know the more we tend to speculate. – After "The Force Awakens" and "Rogue One," "The Last Jedi" marks the 3rd film that Disney has made from the George Lucas series and the 8th in the entire "Star Wars" franchise. The director is Rian Johnson, and composer John Williams returned to compose the score. The movie is focused on Rey; she is front and center. Luke Skywalker and Rey are at the heart of the movie. The story starts when Rey seeks the tutelage of Luke on the planet Ahch-To, where he has removed himself, for reasons unknown. Luke, played by Mark Hamill, is the last Jedi. Another central character is villain Kylo Ren (played by Adam Driver) who is Rey's nemesis and represents anger and rebellion. A trailer was released in October, and tickets are available now.

[10/31/17]