

Community Matters

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

October 2017
Vol. 3, no. 4

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

Disclaimer: *This newsletter is independently produced and financed. While it uses a wide variety of sources, it does not necessarily reflect the policies and views of the City of Delaware, Ohio Wesleyan University, Sustainable Delaware Ohio, or any other entity. Also – while we strive for accuracy, please note that dates, events, and specifics can change. Please attempt to verify details before attending an event.*

CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS



Green Energy Ohio Solar Tour (10/1-2)

The 15th Annual Green Energy Ohio Tour provides a unique opportunity for Central Ohioans to see first-hand how members of their community are living and working with clean energy technologies. In the past five years, the Ohio Tour has had an average of over 100 sites with at least one tour site in 58 of Ohio's 88 counties. The places include homes, businesses, public buildings, parks & churches. On average, 2,000 people witness a range of technologies, including solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and energy efficiency systems. The 2017 tour will take place Oct. 1- 2 and is presented in partnership with the American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour. For details, visit www.greenenergyoh.org. – One participating house in Delaware is the Carpenter residence at 932 Executive Blvd. It is open Sat., Sept. 30, from 10 am – 2 pm. Come see, talk to David, and find out why more than 34 roofs went solar in & around Delaware in the past year.

All Life Community Open House (10/1)

The All Life Community just south of Delaware is a non-profit cooperative of 180+ independent service providers who specialize in enriching the human body, mind, and soul. On Sun., Oct. 1 (3:30-6:30 pm), the ALC has one of its quarterly open houses where the public is invited to tour the beautiful facility for free, meet the associate members, and enjoy mini-classes, demos, and workshops. The address is 5700 Columbus Pike (US 23 S) and/or 123 Hyatts Rd.

"No Impact Man" Week (10/1-8)

Sustainable Delaware Ohio (SDO) has organized a "No Impact Man" week, based on the book by Colin Beavan. From Oct. 1- 8, residents are encouraged to reduce their footprint by purchasing less, eating local food, recycling more, using alternative means of

transportation, consuming less energy, cutting back on water use, and more. Accept the challenge at <tinyurl.com/SDONoImpact>!

Meet the Candidates (10/3)

The nonpartisan Delaware League of Women Voters (LWV) will host a Candidates Night on Tues., Oct. 3 (7-9:30 pm), at the North Orange Park Community Room at 7560 Gooding Blvd. (same road as Orange Library). Invited candidates include people running for Delaware City Council, Powell City Council, and multiple village councils (Ashley, Galena, Ostrander, Shawnee Hills, and Sunbury). There will be discussion of local and state ballot issues as well. For general info about elections in Delaware Co., visit <delawareboe.org>.

Genealogical Society Talk (10/3)

The Delaware County Genealogical Society and the Ohio chapter of Palatines to America have invited Nancy Ottman to give a talk, entitled "New Home, Old Customs," about German immigration to the U.S. Ottman will discuss reasons for German migration, the ports of departure, the migration experience itself, and German customs that have affected America. The event, which is free & open to the public, is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 3 (7:30 pm), at the Main Library in Delaware.

Delaware Community Coalition (10/4)

Invited guest Bruce Pijanowski, Delaware Police Chief, will discuss the Delaware Community Coalition at the next meeting of the Delaware Ministerial Association (DMA). The group will meet on Wed., Oct. 4 (11 am – 1 pm) in OWU's HWCC (3rd floor). – The DMA meets every month; the next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 1.

"Operation Street Smart" (10/4)

Delaware City Schools, the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office, and United Way are presenting "Operation Street Smart" on Wed., Oct. 4 (6-8 pm) at Hayes High School. This program is designed to educate parents, teachers, social workers, community partners, and anyone else with a connection to children & teenagers about current drug trends, terminology, and paraphernalia. The event is free & open to the public.

Preservation Parks Has Open House (10/4)

Preservation Parks of Delaware County is inviting the public to attend an open house on Wed., Oct. 4 (6-8 pm), at Deer Haven Park, 4183 Liberty Rd. The purpose of the open house is to view and comment on conceptual plans for a new 115-acre park on Pollock Rd. in Delaware, adjacent to the Olentangy River. Elements being considered include a trail system, a picnic shelter, a natural play area, a sledding hill, reforestation, and wetlands. The concept plan can also be viewed at www.preservationparks.com. – The still unnamed park will be the 10th in the system and the one closest to Delaware City.

100 Days in Rutherford B. Hayes' Life (10/4)

The Delaware County Historical Society celebrates Rutherford B. Hayes' birthday on Oct. 4, 1822, with a presentation by author Eric Ebinger on Wed., Oct. 4 (7 pm) at The Barn at Stratford (2690 Stratford Rd.). The event is free & open to the public. – Among other titles, Ebinger is the author of "100 Days in Rutherford B. Hayes' Life" (2016), which provides a positive reassessment of the president.

Asbury Organ Series (10/5)

The Asbury Noontime Organ Series resumes this fall. Organ recitals can be heard on the first Thursday of each month (12:15-12:45 pm) at Asbury UMC (55. W. Lincoln Ave.). It runs from Oct. 5, 2017 through May 3, 2018. The concerts are free & open to the public. The complete program can be accessed on Asbury's website.

Novelist Thrity Umrigar at OWU (10/5-6)

American-Indian novelist Thrity Umrigar will be the 2017-18 Carpenter Lecturer at OWU. Her visit includes a reading on Thurs., Oct. 5 (4:10-5 pm) in the Bayley Room of Beeghly Library and a moderated talk on Fri., Oct. 6 (12:10-1 pm), also in the Bayley Room. – Umrigar was born in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India, and came to the U.S. at the age of 21. She currently holds a teaching position at Case Western Reserve Univ. She is the award-winning and best-selling author of "Bombay Times," "First Darling in the Morning" (a memoir),

"The Space between Us," "If Today Be Sweet," "The Weight of Heaven," "The World We Found," and "The Story Hour." Both events are free & open to the public. You can learn more about the author by visiting www.umriqar.com.

OWU Lecture on Vector-Borne Diseases (10/5)

Dr. Omar Saucedo (OSU) will present a public lecture entitled "Spatial Dynamics of Vector-Borne Diseases" on Thurs., Oct. 5 (4:10-5:10 pm) at the Schimmel-Conrades Science Center, Rm. 163. The talk is free & open to the public. Vector-borne diseases affect approximately 1 billion people and account for 17% of all infectious diseases. With travel becoming more frequent across the globe, it is important to understand the spatial dynamics of vector-borne diseases. The talk is free & open to the public.

Witches Night Out at Leeds Farms (10/5) – \$

The 4th annual Leeds Farm Witches Night Out benefit to fight breast cancer will take place on Thurs., Oct. 5 (6-8:30 pm) at the farm on Ostrander, 8738 State Rt. 36. Attendees are encouraged to wear witch costumes. The event includes food, a disc jockey, prizes, and access to the farm's many amenities such as zip lines & hayrides. Four Central Ohio wineries will serve the guests (the price of admission includes 1 glass of wine). Tickets are \$40, with all proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. They can be purchased at the Richmond Bank offices in Delaware, Marysville, Plain City & Richmond or online at www.leedsfarm.com/witchesnighout. – In case of inclement weather, the rain date is Thurs., Oct. 12.

"Global Health" Lecture #6 (10/5)

The Sagan National Colloquium presents Laxmi Mehta, director of the Women's Cardiovascular Health Program & associate prof. of internal medicine at the OSU Medical Center. Mehta is the first female president / governor of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (ACC). She specializes in women's cardiovascular health / prevention & cardiac imaging. She will speak in the Benes Rooms of HWCC on the OWU campus on Thurs., Oct. 5 (7 pm). Admission is free & open to the public.

Olentangy River Watershed Forum (10/6)

The 14th Annual Olentangy River Watershed Forum will take place Fri., Oct. 6, at Highbanks Metro Park. The event starts at 8 am and typically ends at 4 pm. It is organized by FLOW and co-sponsored by its many partners, the Olentangy Watershed Alliance and Preservation Parks of Delaware County among them.

OWU Performs "Fahrenheit 451" (10/5-8)

OWU's Dept. of Theatre & Dance has an exciting 2017-18 season. The first major production is "Fahrenheit 451," adapted for the stage by novelist Ray Bradbury himself. Performances are Oct. 5-7 (8 pm) and Oct. 8 (2 pm) in the Chappellear Drama Center on the OWU campus. Glen Vanderbilt is the director. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students & seniors, and free for OWU students, faculty & staff with a valid ID. The play presents a dystopian future where words and ideas on paper are illegal and books are banned. The powerful and insightful drama depicts the struggle of a fireman, who has burned books for ten years, having his eyes opened to the chilling existence he lives in. Will he decide to risk everything for the right to think and communicate ideas? – Spring 2018 productions include "Royal Gambit" and "Cabaret."



Ohio Gourd Show (10/6-8) – \$

The 55th Annual Ohio Gourd Show will be held Fri., Oct. 6 (12-5 pm), Sat., Oct. 7 (9 am – 5 pm), and Sun., Oct. 8 (10 am – 4 pm) at the Delaware County Fairgrounds at 236 Pennsylvania Ave. The theme is "The Wizarding World of Gourds." There are gourd sales all weekend as well as workshops on Fri. & Sat. and live music. Watch the demos for cleaning, carving, wood-burning, and more. Gourd vendors will sell their amazing hand-crafted masterpieces. Craft supplies and

tools will also be available. Admission is \$5; children 12 & under are free as is parking. Visit www.ohiogourdsociety.com for details on workshops, entertainment, etc.

First Friday (10/6)

Activities for all ages will be in ready supply during Main Street Delaware's Oct. 6 First Friday celebration. The 6-9 pm event includes a display of fire-fighting equipment by the Delaware Fire Department, along with informative fire-safety demonstrations. The Fire Department plans to conduct live burn and rescue demonstrations, as well as a rappelling and aerial demonstration using downtown buildings. Firefighters will be on hand for a children's "spray house" and drills, as well as to train people to use fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. First Friday also includes free pumpkins for the littlest ghouls & goblins provided by Main Street Delaware and Powell-based MadMax Farms. Sandusky St. will be closed between Spring & Winter streets to accommodate the activities. In addition, everyone is invited to stop by OWU's Ross Art Museum to watch "The Shadows We Cast," a 12-minute architectural-scale video that will be projected on the building's exterior beginning at dusk. The video was created using materials from the archives of OWU and the Delaware County Historical Society. Lastly, the Strand Theatre will host a trivia contest at 9:30 pm (free), followed by the classic Christmas movie "Die Hard" at 10 pm (\$5). For more info, visit www.mainstreetdelaware.org.

Oakland Nursery Fall Festival (10/7-8)

Oakland Nursery at 25 Kilbourne Rd. (Rt. 521) has its 37th annual fall festival Sat., Oct. 7 (8 am – 7 pm), and Sun., Oct. 8 (8 am – 6 pm). Enjoy the haunted village, balloon art, an obstacle course, musical entertainment, petting zoo, face painting, a life-sized hamster ball track, refreshments, all-you-can-carry pumpkins (while they last), special guests, door prizes, and more. The event is free & open to the public. Visit www.oaklandnursery.com for more details.

Ghost Walks through Haunted Delaware (10/7) – \$

On Sat., Oct. 7, the Northwest Neighborhood Association presents another round of Ghost Walks through "some of the most haunted streets in Delaware's historic Northwest Neighborhood." The 75-minute tours start at 5:30, 6:30, and 7:30 pm at Gallery 22 on E. Winter St. and conclude with a visit to the Old Jailhouse, followed by cookies & cider. Tickets are \$17 per person. The tour is not appropriate for children under the age of 12. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. For tickets, visit www.delawareanna.org. You can also purchase them in person at the Delaware Antique Mall. [The event is now sold out.]

Columbus Day / Indigenous People Day (10/8)

In August, Oberlin has become the first Ohio city to celebrate the second Monday in October as Indigenous People Day instead of Columbus Day. The idea of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day (aka Native American Day) was born in 1977, at a U.N.-sponsored conference in Switzerland. In 1992, activists in Berkeley, CA, convinced City Council to declare the second Monday in October a "Day of Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples." There has been a growing movement to appropriate Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples Day. At least 4 states do not celebrate Columbus Day. Instead, Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, and S. Dakota have changed the holiday's name. Numerous U.S. cities have taken similar action.

Fall Festival at Miller's Country Gardens (10/8)

Miller's Country Gardens at 2488 St. Rt. 37 W. (about 1 mile west of Kroger's) has its annual fall festival on Sun., Oct. 8 (12-5 pm). Festivities include hayrides, a play area, face painting, a straw tunnel, a corn maze, food trucks, live music, farm animals, and more. There is no admission charge. – Miller's Country Gardens are open Wed. through Sat., 9 am – 7 pm, and Sun. 12-5 pm. They are closed on Mon. & Tues. For more info, visit www.millerscountrygardens.com.

Delaware Hunger Walk (10/8)

The 2017 Delaware CROP Hunger Walk is planned for Sun., Oct. 8 (2 pm). Registration begins at 1:30 pm at the HWCC Campus Center on the OWU campus. This year's local recipient is People in Need. Last year's walk raised \$9,981 to help hungry people around the world through the work of Church World Service; 25% of the proceeds

remain in the local community. – CROP stands for Christian Rural Overseas Program. The organization has outgrown the acronym, but retains it as its historic name.

Oakgrove Cemetery Walk with Brent Carson (10/8)

The Delaware County Historical Society has once again organized an "Oakgrove Cemetery Walk" with local historian Brent Carson on Sun., Oct. 8 (2 pm). The program includes impersonations by re-enactors. Tickets are \$15 for adults & \$5 for children ages 6-17.



History of the Campbell Family (10/8)

The Campbell Family played a leading role in Delaware's history. "A History of the Campbell Family: Their Home and Church" is planned for Sun., Oct. 8 (4:30 pm), at the Arts Castle, 190 W. Winter St. Guided tours of the home built in 1854 are available. Tours will continue at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 45 W. Winter St., founded & built by George Campbell's father-in-law, William Little. The tour includes church music & a reception in St. Peter's Memorial Garden.

Hispanic & Latinx Poetry Festival at OWU (10/9-10)

The entire Delaware community is invited to participate in the First Hispanic & Latinx Poetry Festival to be held at OWU as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. The event takes place Mon., Oct. 9, and Tues., Oct. 10. Invited poets and translators include individuals from Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Spain, and the U.S. A public poetry reading is planned for Mon., Oct. 9 (6-8 pm) in 301 Merrick Hall. Another poetry reading is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 10 (12:52-2:30 pm) at Hayes High School; visitors have to sign in at the front desk. Lastly, there will be a book presentation on Tues., Oct. 10 (6-7:30 pm), in the Bayley Room of Beegly Library. For info, contact Dr. Juan Armando Rojas at jarojas@owu.edu.

Voter Registration Deadline (10/10)

Ohio has a 30-day voter-registration requirement. The deadline for voter registration is thus Tues., Oct. 10. Early voting begins Wed., Oct. 11. Election Day is Tues., Nov. 11.

Sustainable Delaware Ohio Meets (10/14)

Sustainable Delaware Ohio (SDO) meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the Public Library. The next meeting will thus be held on Oct. 14 (9:30-11 am). The gatherings are open to the public.

39th Season Debut of the Central Ohio's Symphony (10/14)

The 2017-18 season of the Central Ohio Symphony, its 39th, is going to be another exciting year, with several pleasant surprises on the program. The debut concert on Sat., Oct. 14, will open with Zoltan Kodaly's "Dances of Galanta," followed by Sergey Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2. The soloist is Frank Huang, faculty at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Johannes Brahms' lyrical Symphony no. 2 in D is on the program for the second half of the concert. Jaime Morales-Matos will be the conductor. Fans of classical music will be familiar with three works from the late-Romantic period, incl. Kodaly's catchy Hungarian Gypsy music. Ticket prices are unchanged from last season: \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$6 for students, and \$4 for children. Regular season tickets are \$80, half price (\$40) for first-time new subscribers (limited sections only). They can be purchased at the Symphony's office at 24 E. Winter St. Visit www.centralohiosymphony.org for more info.

Sunbury Heritage Festival (10/15)

The Village of Sunbury is celebrating its Heritage Festival on the Square on Sun., Oct. 15 (3-7 pm). The event includes carnival games, a food court, a blacksmith at the forge, a haunted house and trail, a Civil War camp, and a special appearance by an Abraham Lincoln impersonator. Myers Inn will be open, and local author Karen

Meyer will be signing her books. Bring your family and meet your friends. For more info, visit www.bigwalthistory.org.

"Global Health" Lecture #7 (10/16)

As part of OWU's Sagan National Colloquium, Harvard prof. David Williams will speak on "Racial Inequalities in Health in Global Perspective: Opportunities for Intervention" on Mon., Oct. 16 (7 pm) in 301 Merrick Hall. Williams is the author of more than 400 scientific papers. The talk is free & open to the public.

"Global Health" Lecture #7 (10/17)

As part of OWU's Sagan National Colloquium, filmmaker Menen Hailu will speak on Tues., Oct. 17 (7 pm) on "The 21st Century Challenges of HIV / AIDS in Ethiopia: Film Screening & Discussion of *Young Voices, New Dream*." The venue is Phillips Auditorium, between Phillips & Merrick Hall. (Note: this is a change from the previously announced location.) The event is free & open to the public.

Art Exhibit: "Precious Objects" (10/19-12/14)

"Precious Objects" features photographs by Cleveland artist Charles J. "Chuck" Mintz, at the Richard M. Ross Art Museum, 60 S. Sandusky St. Mintz's exhibit pairs images of people holding their self-selected "precious objects" with hand-written statements explaining their choices. To learn more about Mintz, visit www.chuckmintz.com.

Democratic Party Meets (10/19)

The Delaware County Democratic Party has its monthly Central Committee Meeting on Thurs., Oct. 19 (7:30 pm). The meeting at 12½ N. Sandusky St. is open to all.

"Shark Tank" Daymond John at OWU (10/19)

"Shark Tank" investor Daymond John will speak in OWU's Gray Chapel (inside University Hall at 61 S. Sandusky St.) on Thurs., Oct. 19 (8 pm) on "5 Shark Points: Fundamentals for Success in Business and Life." His talk represents the 2017 "Leaders in Business" lecture. – John is the founder & president of FUBU, a TV personality, an inspirational public speaker & a published author. You must have a ticket (avail. for free through "Eventbrite") and an ID to be admitted.

Great GeekFest (10/21)

The Great GeekFest is a celebration of all the things people geek out over. Come and share what you're geeky for in the home of all geekdoms: the library. Whether you're a die-hard cosplayer, a video-game nut, or a casual fan, there's something to entertain you all day. All ages are welcome to attend; there is even an area for the littlest of nerds and geeks. This year's Great GeekFest will be celebrated at the Delaware Main Library (84. E. Winter St.) & downtown Delaware on Sat., Oct. 21 (10 am – 5 pm). The GeekFest will once again fill the library with vendors, cosplay, kids activities, gaming, speakers, and more. Special guests include Todd Robbins, host of the ID's series "True Nightmares," and Grace Ellis of LumberJanes. Admission is free. Last year, over 1,000 people participated. View the full schedule at www.delawarelibrary.org/ggf.

OWU Piano Recital (10/22)

OWU's Frank Chiou will give a piano recital on Sun., Oct. 22 (3:15 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.



An Evening of Jewish Klezmer Music (10/23)

Ben Gelber and his Friday Night Live Music Band will perform an evening of Klezmer music on Mon., Oct. 23 (8-9:30 pm) in the Atrium of HWCC on the OWU campus. Klezmer is the traditional dance music of Eastern European Jews. Gelber is well-known in the community through his 37 years as an award-winning meteorologist. He is also an accomplished speaker and author, but you may not have

known that he is also a talented practicing musician. The concert is sponsored by the University Chaplaincy, OWU Hillel, and OWU Better Together (Interfaith Council). It is free & open to the public. – To get a taste of what to expect, go to YouTube and search for Ben Gelber.

"Global Health" Lecture #8 (10/24)

The Sagan National Colloquium presents Deborah McFarland, prof. in the Dept. of Global Health and the Dept. of Health Policy and Management at the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University. She has been involved in health policy and health financing issues for 30 years with particular interest in the interface of disease-control programs and health systems, and the ethics and economics of resource allocation for public health priorities. McFarland will speak on Tues., Oct. 24 (7 pm), in the Benes Rooms of HWCC on the OWU campus. Admission is free & open to the public.

MTSO Lecture (10/24)

MTSO faculty member Dr. Elaine Nogueira-Godsey will give a lecture on Tues., Oct. 24 (7 pm), in the Alford Centrum on the MTSO campus (3081 Columbus Pike = US 23 S). Her topic is "Connecting Theology, Ecology, and Race: A Conversation on Environmental Justice." The talk is free & open to the public. Visit www.mtso.edu for more info.

SourcePoint's 25th Anniversary Celebration (10/25) – \$

SourcePoint (800 Chesire Rd.) celebrates its 25th anniversary on Wed., Oct. 25 (6:30 pm). Part of the festivities include honoring Larry Harris, former president of the SourcePoint Board of Directors and current CEO of Willow Brook Christian Communities. The event includes a celebratory dinner. For details & to buy tickets, go to mysourcepoint.org/25years.

SAFE Delaware Coalition Meets (10/26)

The SAFE Delaware Coalition meets Thurs., Oct. 26 (8:30-10 am) at the Police Dept., 70 N. Union St., to conduct business, hear guest speakers, and listen to committee reports.

Book Reading at OWU (10/26)

Award-winning author & essayist Elena Passarello will read from her works on Thurs., Oct. 26 (4:10 pm) in the Bayley Room of Beeghly Library. Her latest book is "When Animals Strike Curious Poses" (2017), which earned starred reviews and praise from Publisher's Weekly, Booklist, Marie Claire & the New York Times Book Review. Her first essay collection, "Let Me Clear My Throat," won the Independent Publishers' gold medal for nonfiction and was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award. She also has earned the Whiting Award in Nonfiction. Admission is free & open to the public.

"Global Health" Lecture #8 (10/26)

As part of OWU's Sagan National Colloquium, Joseph White from Case Western Reserve Univ. will lecture on "Can Nations Afford Health Care for All? Understanding the 'Fiscal Sustainability' of Health Care Systems" on Thurs., Oct. 26 at 7 pm in the Benes Rooms of HWCC. The event is free & open to the public.

OWU Lecture on China (10/26)

Robert Ross, prof. of political science at Boston College, discusses "The Rise of China and the New Balance of Power in East Asia" on Thurs., Oct. 26 (7 pm) in Merrick Hall 301. His recent publications include "Strategic Adjustment and the Rise of China," "Chinese Security Policy," and "New Directions in the Study of Chinese Foreign Policy." His talk represents OWU's 15th Annual Corinne Lyman Lecture on International Studies. Admission is free & open to the public.

Make-a-Difference Day (10/28)

The Delaware County Connections Volunteer Center is celebrating Make-a-Difference Day on Sat., Oct. 28 (8 am – 12 pm). National Make-a-Difference Day provides an opportunity for people of all ages to gather together in the largest national single-day of volunteering. Delaware County's intergenerational Make-a-Difference Day event is the perfect occasion for individuals, families, and groups of all ages to volunteer together as a team. Just one morning of volunteering truly makes a lasting difference. Hundreds of volunteers

will gather, beginning at 8:00 am, at Camp Lazarus (US 23 S) with a light breakfast and job assignments. Volunteers then go out at 9:00 am to the homes of older adults and area non-profits to do outdoor chores or a special project. The volunteers then return to Camp Lazarus around noon to turn in their paperwork, grab a hot dog, and talk about how much fun they had and how much it meant to the people they served. For more info and to register, please visit ConnectionsVolunteerCenter.org.

Reformation Celebration at St. Mark's (10/28)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 28 E. William St. will celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation on Sat., Oct. 28 (12-3 pm). Festivities include a bounce house, Reformation-themed games, costumes, gifts, Martin & Katie Luther impersonators. The event is free & open to the public. Meals are available for purchase through a Schmidt's Sausage truck.

Trunk-or-Treat Event at Mingo Park (10/28)

The City of Delaware and the Delaware YMCA are inviting local businesses, organizations & churches to take part in this year's Trunk-or-Treat party on Oct. 28 (4-7 pm) at Mingo Park. This is a fun & free event for the community that features trunk-or-treat stations, bounce houses, inflatables, live music, grilled hot-dogs, a bonfire for roasting marshmallows, a costume contest, and a cartload of pumpkins. Come dressed in your finest ghoulish gear and join the family-friendly event. There will also be the Pumpkin Run & Sweet Feet Run / Walk at 3 pm prior to the event.

Choral Festival Day Concert (10/29)

The Ohio Wesleyan Music Department presents a Choral Festival Day concert in Gray Chapel inside University Hall on Sun., Oct. 29 (3:30 pm). High school singers will join the OWU Choral Art Ensemble, conducted by Jason Hiester, for a community concert that includes a composition by native Ohioan Paul John Stanbery that was commissioned for the festival. Admission is free & open to the public.

Democratic Gubernatorial Debate (10/29) – \$

The 2017 Democratic State Dinner & Gubernatorial Debate will be held Sun., Oct. 29 (starting time TBD), at the Greater Convention Center in Columbus. The keynote speaker is Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe. Connie Pillich, Joe Schiavoni, Betty Sutton, and Nan Whaley are the Democratic candidates for Ohio governor. Tickets are \$100, preferred seating \$200. Tables seating 10 are \$1,000, preferred seating \$2,000. For more info, visit www.ohiodems.org. – Fundraising is important, but this pricey VIP event to meet & greet gubernatorial candidates excludes ordinary people.

Trick-or-Trick Night (10/31)

Halloween in the City of Delaware will take place Tues., Oct. 31 (6-8 pm).

CITY OF DELAWARE

Delaware a Good Place to Live

According to "Money Magazine," Delaware is one of the 100 best places to live. It has "a healthy economy, affordable homes, and a high quality of life." In partnership with realtor.com, "Money Magazine" analyzed 170,000 data points from 2,400 U.S. places to identify the nation's 100 "Best Places to Live in America." The City of Delaware landed in the magazine's coveted top 100, coming in at no. 71 in the 2017 rankings released in September. Delaware was also listed no. 29 among midwestern cities. "Money" considered data on economic health, cost of living, public education, crime, ease of living, and amenities. Delaware joined Wooster (#37), West Chester (#56), and Powell (#66) as the only Ohio cities on the list. "We are proud to be one of America's best towns and cities," Mayor Carolyn Kay Riggle said. "Credit goes to our residents, our businesses, and our schools for creating a community within our city. We also owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our city employees; their pride in their work each and every day shows in this recognition."



Delaware Receives MORPC Assistance

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) will provide the City of Delaware with assistance to research, review, and develop a complete-streets policy. "Complete streets" are streets that also take into consideration bus stops, sidewalks, tree lawns, and/or designated bikeways or bike trails as well as bicycle parking, among other things. Safety is an important consideration. Complete streets also make possible and encourage alternate forms of transportation that help reduce traffic congestion and air pollution and make communities more attractive and sustainable. In addition, well-designed streets enhance property values. They also encourage walking and biking and thus lead to better health outcomes. MORPC's "insight2050 Technical Assistance Program" is funded through MORPC's Federal Surface Transportation Program. The City of Westerville and several Central Ohio townships will also receive assistance.

City of Delaware in October 2017

The City of Delaware will be busy this October. City Council has at least 1 CIP work session on Mon., Oct. 1 (6 pm), and meets Mon., Oct. 9 and 23. 10/9 is the CIP deadline as well as the date for a public hearing on DORA. Other meetings include the Civil Service Commission (Wed., 10/4, 3 pm); the Planning Commission (Wed., 10/4); the Sister City Advisory Board (Tues., 10/10, 6 pm); Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (Tues., 10/17); the Shade Tree Commission (Tues., 10/24); and the Historic Preservation Commission (Wed., 10/25). All meetings start at 7 pm unless otherwise noted. The following meetings are cancelled: Public Works & Utilities (10/3), Board of Zoning Appeals (10/11), and Airport Commission (10/19). It is possible for other meetings to also be canceled due to a lack of agenda items or quorum. Check the City's website before going.

Mosquito Fogging Questioned

Councilwoman Lisa Keller, Second Ward, questioned the value of mosquito fogging at the Sept. 25 meeting of City Council. She reported that after receiving a complaint from a dog walker who was sprayed by the fogging truck she looked deeper into the matter. According to information from the Health Dept., the pesticide "Kontrol 4-4" is classified as both an "immediate" and a "delayed" health hazard. The warning label reads, "Harmful if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin. Causes moderate eye irritation. May cause moderate skin irritation with prolonged or repeated contact. May cause allergic skin reactions. Toxic to aquatic organisms, including fish and aquatic invertebrates. Toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment on blooming crops or weeds." 90.8% of Kontrol 4-4 is an inert substance, but 10.2% contains the active ingredients Permethrin (4.6%) and Piperonyl butoxide (also 4.6%). For humans, the toxicity of these materials is considered "low" when used in small and diluted doses, but excessive exposure can lead to liver and kidney tumors and even oncogenicity (cancer). Perhaps most disturbing is the fact that Kontrol 4-4 is extremely toxic to both insects and aquatic organisms such as fish and invertebrates. Inevitably, storm-water run-off will carry the toxic substances to creeks, ponds, and the Olentangy River, supposedly a protected "Scenic River." In flower beds and vegetable gardens around suburban homes Kontrol 4-4 will indiscriminately kill much insect life, incl. pollinators such as bees, as well as pond fish.

Councilwoman Keller was of the opinion that the potential risks of mosquito fogging are greater than the benefits. In her view, West Nile is not a major threat. 80% of infected people do not show any symptoms, and only one in 250 develop an actual illness. Deaths are extremely rare and occur only when someone's immune system is already compromised due to other problems. Keller says she is more scared of the chemicals than of West Nile and would like to see the use of Kontrol 4-4 or similar pesticides phased out and stopped within the city. She added that Delaware would not be the first community to ban mosquito spraying.

"Community Matters" did some research on WNV years ago and determined that of all mosquito-control options fogging was

among the least effective. Kontrol 4-4 only kills those Culex mosquitoes that are present and in flight. It leaves mosquitoes in backyards and their eggs and larvae unaffected. There are better alternatives. For example, eliminating stagnant water from bird baths and flower pots, gutters and old tires is a more effective, healthier, and cheaper option. To the credit of the Health Dept., they are heavily promoting this option as well.

We know from a national West Nile outbreak in 2012 that WNV can be a real and deadly risk, but it is also fairly clear that spraying is not the best answer because it creates more problems than it solves. Mayor Carolyn Riggle indicated that discussion of the topic will be continued at a future meeting of City Council. The point of this little entry is not to criticize the professionalism of the Health Dept., which uses standard practices and is in full compliance with nationally recommended procedures. Nobody is disputing this. The question is whether or not these standard practices and recommended procedures still represent the best industrial practices available today.

Delaware's Municipal Airport

A couple of years ago, the runway of Delaware's municipal airport was extended with financial help from the FAA. At the time, city officials were adamant about saying that it was primarily done for safety reasons. More recently, the conversation has shifted. During recent discussions involving the Airport Commission, the Planning Commission, and the 2018-22 CIP, it has come into focus that the measure was primarily taken to attract more corporate jet traffic to Delaware. A longer runway is "significant" because it permits faster and bigger airplanes and allows jets to carry more fuel and to travel farther. City officials are hoping to see "more corporate aircraft based at the airport." – There is nothing wrong with attempts to make the local airport more attractive as long as it is in compliance with all FAA rules and reasonable steps are taken to address air, noise, and light pollution. A modern airport is an asset that eventually even ordinary residents of Delaware may benefit from. But we wish city officials would be less opaque and less guarded about their motives. When something is not done in a forthright and transparent manner, it can cast doubts on someone's credibility.



The Sheets Building (Engineering Building)

The City of Delaware is determined to demolish the vacant building at 20 E. William St. known today as the "Engineering Building." It is located on the south side of E. William St. and sits between the former Delaware Gazette Building and St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The building was constructed in the Italianate style between 1880 and 1885. The first documented owner and occupant was Edwin D. Sheets who operated a funeral home at the site, hence the historic name "Sheets Building." The City, which today owns the building, used it as the home for its Engineering Division from 2001 to 2015. – The building is in stable condition, structurally sound and intact. The City fully expects the demolition to create "consternation for some" and considerable debate. Its rationale, however, includes the following main talking points: 1. The demolition would add up to 10 additional parking spaces to downtown Delaware, increasing the number of parking spaces from 20 to 30 at the site. City Manager Tom Homan is interested in building a "City Hall Campus" for which additional parking is needed. 2. The City has no "reasonable economic use" for the building. 3. Buildings in the Italianate style are common in Delaware, and there is nothing special about the Sheets Building. In fact, the City says the interior and exterior have been "compromised" over the decades. It is also not included in the National Register of Historic Places and said to be situated on the "transitional" margins of the City's historic downtown district. It is of debatable architectural significance and therefore not worth preserving. – It is interesting to note that parking needs seem to trump all other considerations for the City. The failed "Moving Delaware Forward" was equally car-centric. Delaware does not have a good track record of preserving historic buildings, as is evident by the demolition of Rutherford B. Hayes'

birthplace to build a gas station and the more recent removal of the Elks Building to make room for a \$40 million monstrosity. Another observation – the estimated demolition cost is \$23,000, which is greater than the estimated cost to repair and rehab it, according to information provided by the City. Lastly, it has been suggested that 20 E. William St. would be a perfect place to build a roofed bike shelter and/or a memorial for Rutherford B. Hayes if the planned demolition were to go ahead. So far the City has either not considered these suggestions or dismissed them, thus limiting the chance of community support. **Update 9/28:** The Historic Preservation Commission met on Sept. 27 and voiced strong and unanimous opposition to the demolition of another historic building in downtown Delaware. (Obviously, HPC's mission is to preserve historic buildings, not to destroy them.) A representative from Preservation Ohio was also at hand, informing City staff that the case is being discussed well beyond the confines of Delaware. As a result, the City proposed tabling the motion for now, which is what HPC did. – The Nov. issue of "Community Matters" will provide a summary of HPC's arguments. In the meantime, see below.

Columbus Offers Free Bus Passes

The Columbus Dispatch reported on 9/28 that some 45,000 workers in downtown Columbus will receive free COTA bus passes starting in 2018. The program is intended to ease downtown parking problems by reducing the number of people who drive to work alone. It will help alleviate the tight parking situation in the downtown area that is partially responsible for vacant office and retail space. With more people riding buses, hundreds & thousands of parking spaces would free up, decreasing the need for parking garages & parking lots. MORPC has guaranteed funding for the program for the first few years. – Perhaps Delaware could learn from Columbus' initiative. Our fair city is willing to spend tens of thousands of dollars to tear down the historic Engineering / Sheets Building at 20 E. William St. and to replace it with 6 or 7 additional parking spaces. Wouldn't it be better to save the building and to spend this amount of money on a pilot program that expands DATA bus service and gives downtown workers (incl. City employees) free bus passes? The Parking & Safety Committee has timidly mentioned the possibility of alternative means of transportation such as walking, bicycling, and mass transportation in its latest study. We suggest it investigate the DATA bus option much more vigorously.

City Still Looking for Answers

One year after Delaware's road levy failed, the City has no answer to what happened and no path forward. No comprehensive effort has been made to develop a deeper understanding and build a strategy. After a months-long stunned silence, even today there are only incomplete attempts to explain the outcome. No autopsy or survey has been conducted. That became evident at the 9/6 meeting of the Planning Commission and at the 9/11 meeting of City Council when the topic was brought up. One frequently mentioned reason is the fact that the "Moving Delaware Forward" levy would have been permanent instead of temporary. From our vantage point, however, there were other problems as well. It was a tactical misstep to stubbornly cling to controversial projects such as the Valleyside Drive extension across the Delaware Run despite opposition from environmentalists and affected neighborhoods. It should have been dropped immediately because it created a distraction and provided welcome ammunition to "no" voters. In addition, the MDF initiative was extremely automobile-centric and perhaps even racially insensitive because it failed to take into consideration alternative forms of mobility and transportation such as walking, bicycling, and mass transportation. Not everyone owns a car in underserved neighborhoods. It also ignored infrastructure such as complete streets or charging stations for electric cars. Verbal pledges to make adjustments were too little and came too late. A broader, forward-looking approach might have yielded stronger community support for the measure. Thirdly, it was a major faux pas to remove an open critic of MDF from one of City's commissions. Even though the step was not unwarranted, it reinforced an existing animus and tarnished the City's brand in immeasurable ways. The City shot itself in the foot when it did that. The situation could have and should have been handled in a more diplomatic and less antagonistic manner. It was likewise imprudent and counterproductive to remove illegally placed oppositional signs from

public right-of-ways. Meddling with the constitutional right to free speech before an election is not something authorities should be doing, even when it might be legally justified. To be clear – the City consistently behaved in transparent and legal ways, as far as we are concerned, but what was lacking was a deeper wisdom about when it is appropriate to forcefully speak and act. Also, many people felt that during the campaign the City was prone to lecturing and hectoring rather than taking into consideration the concerns of residents. – **Update 10/2:** During its 10/2 work session City Council started to discuss reasons for the failed road levy for the first time. Council-member George Hellinger stated that many residents are suspicious of the City's motives and that "we have to earn their trust." Council-woman Lisa Keller felt there was not a unified message. There was consensus that more community feedback is needed. There will be consultants, some kind of a survey, and possibly a City Council retreat to discuss the options. – We certainly agree that Delaware's 162 miles of streets, esp. the 86 miles of residential streets, are not in the best condition and that a long-term funding mechanism must be found.

Delaware Still Mulling Anti-Tethering Law

A while back, Delaware resident Shannon Roof suggested that Delaware look into anti-tethering laws for dogs. Adopting language from other communities and the State of Ohio she suggested that no person shall inhumanely tether an animal for extended periods of time in any of the following circumstances: 1. between the hours of 10 pm and 6 am; 2. if a heat or cold advisory has been issued; 3. if a severe weather warning has been issued; 4. if the teather is less than 20 feet in length; and 5. if the owner or occupant is absent from the premises. After several readings, City Council still hasn't come to a consensus. Some council members used words like "overreach," "too restrictive," and "micromanager" to express their misgivings. A public hearing has been tentatively scheduled for Oct. 23. – In the meantime, the City of Columbus has approved restrictions on tethering, incl. an overnight ban between 10 pm and 6 am. Columbus Humane (formerly the Capital Area Humane Society) will enforce the new rules.

Concerns about Quarry Blasting

Concerns over blasting at the National Lime & Stone Company quarry at 2406 S. Section Line Rd. have been voiced for many years. However, in recent months complaints have spiked for a number of possible reasons: 1. the company seems to be expanding north, closer to SR 36 W. and Warrensburg Rd.; 2. as Delaware continues to grow in a western direction, more housing complexes are closer to the proximity of the quarry; 3. National Lime & Stone has applied for permission to allow for an increase in the total tonnage of overburden / soil removal, resulting in greater activity; 4. the frequency and intensity of detonations appear to have increased, according to residents; and 5. social media such as Nextdoor and Facebook have created new awareness and platforms to express worries. "Community Matters" first reported on the problem in the Dec. 2016 issue. The "Delaware Gazette" published a major article in its Sept. 2 issue. – Specific concerns of residents include not only noise and ground vibrations, described by people as similar to earthquakes. They also include cracks in the walls & foundations and misaligned doors & windows. Cracks in driveways and city roads have also been reported. In addition, there may or may not be damage to underground infrastructure owned by the City. Lastly, some folks have expressed fear about the dam safety of certain retention ponds in the area. Many residents are quite upset, fearful about loss of property value, and are now considering asking for "restitution." – In 2016, "Community Matters" did some sleuthing and reported that the Findlay-based National Lime & Stone Company emphasizes "the importance of safety" and says it is proud to be "a company with a conscience" that wants to be "a good neighbor," according to their website (www.natlime.com). Noise and vibration is an issue any time blasting operations are in close proximity to neighbors. In such cases, companies often spend considerable time and resources on community relations, but National Lime & Stone has made no effort to reach out. In addition, according to information from ODNR (Division of Mineral Resources) nearby residents are not even supposed to hear and feel explosions going off. If they do, the company has an obligation to adjust the blasts. However, people who contacted the ODNR inspector in charge of the area reported being told at one point in no uncertain

terms that they should stop bothering him because ODNR was aware of the problem and – supposedly – busy investigating.

The legal realm of liability, restitution, and reparations is where it gets difficult. As with cancer clusters, it is extremely difficult to scientifically prove with certainty that industrial activities or emissions are responsible for health or property problems, especially if company owners and public authorities are in denial and/or unresponsive and uncooperative. Also, even if correlation is established it does not necessarily prove causation. We are not surprised one bit that Eric Kaster's group has "hit a wall"; it is unfortunately the normal situation. We cannot provide legal advice, but we urge residents to do the following: 1. Don't stop calling or writing the company, the city and county, ODNR, and elected representatives until a satisfactory outcome has been reached. Nothing ever changes without patient and consistent pressure. And don't settle for nice words and empty promises without a firm timetable. 2. Start to document everything you hear and see. Record every explosion (day, time, intensity), take pictures of vertical and horizontal cracks as they develop, and save repair receipts. Without documentation, you have little or no standing and your claims will be rejected as unproven and baseless. 3. Neighborhoods should rally together and have some seismic testing done, involving independent and reputable service providers who are not in bed with the company. (We are inclined to stay away from Vibra-Tech, for that reason, but they do have an interesting website that addresses blast monitoring: www.geosonicsvibratech.com.) Colleges and universities may be able to help because their faculty are typically not employed by the industry or state agencies that profit from surface mining and resource extraction. ODNR, for example, cannot be trusted given its long and sordid history of supporting the mining, logging, and fracking industries at the expense of the environment.

Crawford Cemetery in Scioto Township

Crawford Cemetery is located west of S. Section Line and east of the Scioto River, approximately 750 feet south of State Rt. 36 on property now owned by National Lime and Stone Company. The cemetery has been at the center of controversy since about 2006. A number of years ago Scioto Township Trustees removed the grave markers and placed them in a barn owned by the township. One of the trustees, Richard Moxley, was an employee of National Lime & Stone at that time and clearly had a conflict of interest. It seems only the gravestones were relocated, not the actual remains. – We are not sure if the cemetery is still in existence or if it has since been blasted for surface mining, but will investigate further.

Farmers' Market Continues

Main Street Delaware Farmers' Market continues from 3-6 pm on Wed.s and from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm on Sat.s through Oct. 28. The markets are held outdoors on the shady side of Sandusky St.

OWU Celebrates 175th Anniversary

OWU celebrates its 175th anniversary during the weekend of Oct. 19-22. An official birthday celebration is scheduled for Fri., 10/20 (12 pm). In addition, there are numerous lectures, concerts, classroom visits, open houses, reunions, sports events, receptions, breakfasts & dinners, parties, etc. Event details are subject to change. For specifics & updates, check www.owu.edu/175celebration.

OWU Joins "Ohio Business Competes"

There are 21 U.S. states that protect LGBTQ employees and consumers from discrimination in the housing and job market. Ohio is not among them. However, there is Ohio Business Competes, a non-partisan coalition committed to "achieving non-discrimination policies at the state level in order to attract the best talent, to increase business-to-business and business-to-consumer relationships, and to grow Ohio's economy." To date, more than 200 businesses have joined Ohio Business Competes, incl. many of the state's largest employers such as Abercrombie & Fitch, AEP, AT&T, Bob Evans Farms, Cardinal Health, GE, Huntington, KeyBank, OhioHealth, Procter & Gamble, and Sysco. – Ohio Wesleyan Univ. recently joined OBC, one of the first colleges and universities in the state to do so. OWU President Rock Jones has stated that the coalition's effort to promote equality is a perfect fit with the university's long-standing policy of non-discrimination and acceptance: "Ohio Wesleyan supports the dignity

and value of all people. No one should be discriminated against because of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identification, or any other identity. Ohio's LGBTQ community deserves equal protection under the law." OBC is an excellent initiative, and employees and consumers should urge companies to join or face a boycott. To learn more about the coalition and its members, visit ohiobusinesscompetes.org.

OWU Working on Free Speech Policy

At the first faculty meeting of the 2017-18 academic year, OWU President Rock Jones stated that OWU is forming a review panel to come up with recommendations for a comprehensive and consistent free-speech policy. The policy would seek to balance issues such as free speech, legal compliance, civility, and campus safety. Members of the panel will include faculty, staff, and students. President Jones indicated that he was hoping that the task force would finish its work no later than Jan. 31 of next year. – The topic of free speech is more relevant than ever. Many colleges and universities are desperately trying to balance the right of free speech on the one hand with concerns over hate speech, hate crimes, and violence on the other. Certain Ohio politicians have introduced legislation that would effectively force public universities to let Klansmen, white supremacists, and neo-Nazis to march on their campuses despite grave risks to public safety. A clear policy is indeed needed. – We value free speech, but in our view known right-wing criminals and terrorists should not be permitted to set foot on public or private campuses.

OWU Bookstore Once Again Independent

In 2010 OWU outsourced its bookstore, which became part of the Follett brand, a national operator. There was much storm and stress at the time. Employees lost their positions, and other promises were broken as well. However, the restructuring was touted as a necessary cost-saving step for the university. A different Vice President for Finance and Administration, Lauri Strimkovsky, has now concluded that OWU would be better served by returning to a self-operated model after all. OWU spokespeople say that what was relevant seven years ago may no longer be relevant today in a fast-changing industry. Becoming an indie bookstore gives the manager, Lisa Tackett, more flexibility to order what she needs, at more attractive pricing levels, and from a broader spectrum of sources. In addition, a self-operated campus store better represents the OWU culture and identity than a national chain of 1,200 stores. Follett's affiliation with the OWU bookstore ended Thurs., Sept. 28, and the new "campus store" opened Mon., Oct. 2. A grand opening celebration is scheduled for the week of Oct. 16, which includes Homecoming & Family Weekend. The transition is expected to be seamless. The new bookstore is committed to buying back qualifying textbooks purchased from Follett and to accept textbooks rented from Follett's. – OWU is also taking a comprehensive look at other services it has outsourced in the past, incl. its student-dining services.

Climate Instability and Human Health

As part of the 2017 Sagan National Colloquium, organized by Dr. Randolph Quaye, Dr. Lise Van Susteren spoke on Sept. 28 on the OWU campus on the topic of climate instability and human health. Van Susteren works as a practicing psychiatrist in Washington, D.C., and is thus not beholden to corporate interests. Her presentation was refreshingly candid and unguarded in a toxic political landscape where even the word "climate change" is sometimes taboo. – Her talk focused on three aspects: the reality of climate instability, its impact on human health, and steps to address the situation. Climate change is an undeniable fact, as evidenced around the world by increased warming, melting, sea-level rise, storms, floods, droughts, wildfires, air pollution, vector-borne diseases, and so on. Greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, are the main culprits because their presence in the atmosphere traps the heat from sunlight, disallowing it to escape. Coastal hurricanes and wildfires in the American West of the past summer have shown that extreme-weather events are already upon us and that there is an urgent need to address the new norm. – The impact on human health and well-being is obvious, although much of it is not yet fully understood and/or poorly researched: Heat waves have killed scores of people. Catastrophic wildfires have increased in size and number, and the season starts earlier and lasts longer. The melting of the polar caps and the world's glaciers has led to sea-level

rise, threatened coastal areas around the world. Sea-level rise combined with hurricanes was responsible for widespread and devastating flooding in Florida, Puerto Rico, and Texas this past summer. Vector-borne diseases such as Lyme, Malaria, Dengue, West Nile, and Chikungunya are also spreading in the U.S., and new ones such as Anthrax and Zika are emerging. Weather extremes can also lead to a lack of potable water and food insecurity, causing economic and political destabilization. Air pollution (smog) has been identified as causing numerous problems, from cancer and asthma to an increase in neurological diseases and crime. She also linked autism and dementia to chemicals and air pollution, but unfortunately the science is not as clear as she suggested. Then, there is the national-security and geopolitical issue that may lead to water wars, terrorism, political collapse, regime change, climate-change refugees, etc. Van Susteren also mentioned the risk to biodiversity and with it the irretrievable loss of plant and animal species that can help with making remarkable medical discoveries in many areas. As a practicing psychiatrist, Van Susteren also has first-hand knowledge of the tremendous personal toll climate change and the disasters in its wake can bring: fear, anger, sorrow, depression, suicide, violence, breakdowns, PTSD, substance abuse, and more. – The last part of her presentation was devoted to actionable steps people can take. People can reduce their personal environmental footprint by reducing, reusing, and recycling. Instead, she focused on systemic change such as the replacement of fossil fuels through renewable energy. She also mentioned groups and organizations such as Terrapass (to buy carbon offsets to balance carbon emissions), the Earth Day Network (“MobilizeU”), and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Future issues of “Community Matters” will describe them in more detail. At the end of her talk, the audience was reminded that there are also groups at OWU and in Delaware that are responding to the challenge of climate change: the Tree House, the Environment & Wildlife Club, OWU’s Sustainability Task Force, Sustainable Delaware Ohio, Citizens’ Climate Lobby, and Indivisible. In addition, the City of Delaware employs a Watershed / Sustainability Coordinator, and the Delaware County General Health District (DGHD) has an environmental-health division.

OWU Reads Maggie Smith’s “Good Bones”

OWU’s Book Club is reading Maggie Smith’s poetry collection “Good Bones” this semester. The first meetings, attended by a dozen people, took place on 9/7 and 9/21. Future dates are 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, and 11/30. Maggie Smith is busy traveling at the moment, but she will join the club for at least one meeting in October or November. The Book Club meets bi-weekly on Thursdays (12-1 pm) in the Faculty Dining Room in HWCC on the OWU campus. Affordable food choices are available. – A formal book launch & reading with Maggie Smith is scheduled for Thurs., Nov. 2 (4:10 pm), in the Bayley Room of Beeghly Library. The event is free & open to the public.

Outdoor Exhibit at OWU’s Ross Art Museum

“The Shadows We Cast” is an outdoor video exhibit by Tiffany Carbonneau and Susanna Crum, two artists at Indiana Univ. Southeast. It runs daily from dusk to midnight at OWU’s Richard M. Ross Art Museum at 60 S. Sandusky St. through Oct. 31. The exhibit, which opened Sept. 20, features a 10-minute architectural-scale video created specifically to be projected onto the museum’s front facade. It highlights materials from the archives of OWU and the Delaware County Historical Society. The exhibit is free & open to the public. The two artists gave a formal presentation on Sept. 20 during which they showed examples of their video installations. You can learn about them by visiting www.tiffanycarbonneau.com and www.susanna-crum.com. – Since the front of the Ross Art Museum does not have a smooth facade, it is hard to make out specific faces and words. The artists and the museum should consider making some of the images available in the form of a booklet, poster, or on a website to help people make sense of what they see. Or is the chiaroscuro effect intentional? Ghostly shadows fleetingly come and go, concealing more than they reveal. History, too, is present everywhere in Delaware, but knowing and understanding it is a different story.

Hispanic Film Festival at OWU (9/21-10/26)

OWU’s Hispanic Film Festival kicked off with a screening of “Ixcanul, Volcano” on 9/21 and continued with “Pelo Malo” (“Bad

Hair”) on 9/28. Three more movies will be shown in October: “Neruda” (Oct. 4), “Aquí y allá” (“Here and There”) on Oct. 17, and “Bajari: Gypsy Barcelona” (Oct. 26). The venue is the Bishops Café in the basement of HWCC, across from the bookstore / campus store. (Please note that this is different from the originally announced information.) All movies begin at 6:30 pm and are shown in Spanish with English subtitles. Admission is free & open to the public, and there will be free-of-charge popcorn! For more info, contact Dr. Andrea Colvin in the Dept. of Modern Foreign Languages (arcolvin@owu.edu).

Bob Olmstead Discusses “Harrowing Choices”

OWU’s Robert Olmstead has published a short essay in the fall 2017 issue of “The Algonquin Reader” (vol. 6, issue 2), “What Left the Earth,” written in conjunction with his just released work of fiction, “Savage Country.” The novel thematizes the 19th-century buffalo hunts that nearly wiped out the animals. In the essay he also mentions the disappearance of other wild animals in North America and elsewhere: bears, deer, elephants, giraffes, hippos, lions, wolves, passenger pigeons, and more. The massacre continues to this day: “the current global wildlife trade is estimated to generate billions of dollars annually – from whale products to rhino horns, mounted, confiscated animals and animal parts, every species imaginable. The large, charismatic megafauna still trafficked for their ivory, horn, bone, and skin are especially at risk.” Olmstead concludes that “we humans have not done a very good job with the world we have been given. We have yet to stop taking, rendering, killing, commodifying, abusing, using, using up.” In addition to animals, people are also exploiting oil, gas, and coal. Will we take these resources until they are exhausted? “What of our children’s children and their children and their children? How will they answer when asked if the choices we made, as a civilization, were humanizing or harrowing?” Clearly, none of this is sustainable, and we might be condemning future generations to a grim form of existence, or perhaps even none at all if climate change gets factored into the equation. The day will come when the savage age of colonial conquest, capitalist exploitation, and industrial destruction will be cursed as a dark, subhuman or prehuman era. (We are currently reading Bob Olmstead’s new novel, “Savage Country,” and plan to publish a critical review soon.)

School Reports Are Out

Ohio has released its 2017/17 report cards on the 608 regular school systems in the state, and the results are sobering news for most of the Buckeye State. The Columbus Dispatch described it as “a sea of mediocrity dotted with some islands of high performance – and looming icebergs of low performance.” Columbus City Schools, for example, received 5 Fs and 1 D. The 266 graded charter schools also performed poorly. ECOT, for example, scored all Fs except for 1 D – the same as the score of Columbus City Schools. Only 1 school district in all of Ohio received a perfect report card – Ottawa Hills, an affluent suburb of Toledo. – The situation in Delaware County (Big Walnut, Buckeye Valley, Delaware City, and Olentangy) is average. Although the districts have fairly solid numbers, even they sport Cs, Ds, and Fs in certain categories. Here is the situation for Delaware City Schools: Achievement C, Graduation Rate B, Progress B, Gap Closing F, K-3 Literacy C, and Prepared for Success D. In two areas, Delaware went down instead of up (Progress and Prepared for Success). On a 4-point scale, that translates into 1.8 or C-. In a statement, Delaware City Schools’ superintendent Paul Craft emphasized the positive aspects of the report. According to him, the school system has a 5-year graduation rate of 95.7%, which is a record high for the district. – Many superintendents stressed, rightly so, that test scores cannot capture the full and true extent of someone’s education. However, it is concerning most Ohio’s K-12 schools are barely passing or not passing at all. Are Ohio’s high school graduates workplace-ready or college-ready? Are they competitive internationally? The answer is a resounding no. America has fabulous educational and medical facilities and opportunities for the rich and powerful elites. But when it comes to schools and health care for the great majority of the population, it is terribly mediocre. Neither item is a funding priority.

Delaware County Court House

The original completion date for the \$39 million Delaware County Court House on N. Sandusky St. was June 30. Three months later, “substantial completion” has not yet been achieved. Lendlease,

the construction company supervising the project, claims “a labor shortage” has slowed the progress. – Agriculture and construction are two areas where America’s current anti-immigrant fever has resulted in industry-wide labor shortages and severe economic harm. It will take decades to repair or rebuild the devastated buildings in Florida and Texas after hurricanes destroyed them. Few Americans have the will or skill to work overtime in harsh conditions. It sounds like the Delaware County Court House is a good example of what happens when political ideology interferes with the reality of economic markets.

Strand Theatre Announces Fall Movies

The Strand Theatre at 28 E. Winter St. is now able to announce movies much sooner than in the past. According to their website, the fall line-up includes “Blade Runner 2049” (10/6), “Thor: Ragnarok” (11/3), “Murder on the Orient Express” (11/10), “Justice League” (11/17), and “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” (12/15). General admission is \$7, students pay \$6. Matinees (before 6 pm), children, and seniors 55+ are \$5. The Strand’s website is www.thestrandtheatre.com.

Mark Butler for School Board

Mark H. Butler, a Delaware resident for 18 years, is running for one of the open School Board seats as a write-in candidate. In a statement, Mark Butler describes his background that includes law enforcement, a career in theatre & television, and religion. He holds two masters degrees from MTSO, in counseling and divinity. Combining his interests, he has served as chaplain in jails and prisons. However, education has always been at the forefront of his philosophy. As a Delaware City School Board candidate, he wants to strengthen commitment and support for *all* students. His goals also include improving relationships within the Delaware City School system and with the broader community. His wife, Francine Butler, also works as an educator. You can follow Mark Butler on Facebook or on Twitter. – “Community Matters” has had conversations with Mark Butler in the past. He deeply cares about the well-being of the community and has repeatedly spoken at public meetings. His voice is an important one, and he has our full endorsement.

Joshua Keeran Replaces Brandon Klein at the “Delaware Gazette”

Readers of the “Delaware Gazette” will have noticed that reporter Brandon Klein has accepted a new position elsewhere. On Sept. 11, he tweeted that this was his first day with “The Daily Reporter” in Columbus, a leading outlet for business and legal news with an extensive on-line presence. He wished the “Delaware Gazette” good luck. We wish him good luck as well. Taking over for him is Joshua Keeran, who reports on City Council and City commission meetings. His first day on the job was Mon., Sept. 25. Welcome to the community, Joshua!

“Delaware Ohio News”

Everything on the Delaware Ohio News website (www.delawareohionews.com) is made up and satirical in nature, including its faux history. Supposedly, the publication was founded in 1808 and is Delaware’s oldest newspaper. None of that is even remotely based in reality. The website explicitly states, “Do not rely on anything said here.” No attempt is made to deceive and to present fake news as authentic. However, inevitably there are people who don’t pay attention to details and naively believe what they read. A recent “Delaware Ohio News” story claimed that Governor John Kasich had signed an executive order to destroy the graves of buried Confederate soldiers in Ohio and to dump their remains into lakes. That caused quite a stir, with people discussing the topic online and contacting authorities. Other typical stories have claimed that the Solar Saloon in downtown Delaware is becoming a gay bar, that there are heroin block parties in the Northwest Neighborhood, that dead horses are sold for meat at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, that OWU teaches a course on sexual positions, that the Strand Theatre is acquiring a live Bengal tiger, that Colony House is considering changing its name to “Thug Mansion,” etc. Some of the stories are actually humorous and hilarious, others have a juvenile obsession with sex and drugs. However, we happily concede that generally “Delaware Ohio News” is funnier than “Community Matters.” – The person behind “Delaware Ohio News” is Ricardo Payne. We have no idea who he is,

or if this is even his real name, but this is what he says about himself: “Ricardo Payne is a Senior Correspondent with Delaware Ohio News. Born and raised on Delaware’s gritty North side, he is a reporter with a deep knowledge of the streets who isn’t afraid to ask the tough questions. He’s a prominent heroin addict and volunteers his time throughout Central Ohio showing new junkies the ropes. His fondest childhood memory is getting a hand job from a public utility worker in the basement of Pilsner’s 5 & Dime store. He holds a degree in Amusement Park Design from Ohio Wesleyan University.” You can see from his little self-portrait why “Delaware Ohio News” is not intended for people under the age of 18.

The Flying Pig Ale House

The Flying Pig Ale House at 12 S. Sandusky St. hopes to open soon after Oct. 1. The place, which has an indoor capacity of 49, was completely renovated and now looks very attractive. According to the new owners, the Flying Pig will be a full-service bar-and-grill restaurant offering “contemporary American” dinners prepared under the supervision of an executive chef. After 10 pm there will be reduced menu offerings, and the restaurant turns more into a bar that offers beers, wines, and classic cocktails. An outdoor patio has already been added. – Recycling glass bottles is a problem for downtown businesses, but the owners stated in an ad-hoc interview that they plan to recycle all their glass through a weekly or bi-weekly pick-up service, thus setting a good example. They seem to care a lot about the community and are working closely with other businesses in the area. You can follow The Flying Pig on their Facebook page, “TheFlyingPigAlehouse.”

DELAWARE COUNTY & CENTRAL OHIO

Health District Has New Website

The Delaware General Health District (DGHD) has launched a new website. It is not only easier and more user-friendly, it is also mobile-friendly, meaning it can now be accessed through smart phones. The Health District’s services are now listed under 3 different categories: Clinic Services (immunizations, diseases, etc.), Community Services (health data, birth & death certificates, Environmental Health, etc.), and Licensing Services. The DGHD worked with the local marketing group Holony Media to launch the new website. Residents are invited to visit it at www.delawarehealth.org.

DGHD Will Conduct Community Health Survey

In the next several weeks, nearly 3,600 adults living in Delaware Co. will be receiving a health survey by mail through the Partnership for a Healthy Delaware County as part of the Delaware General Health District’s community health-assessment process. The Partnership is working closely with the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio to conduct the survey. Residents will be randomly selected to participate in surveys divided into two age groups, including parents of children under 11 years and adults 19 years and older. The anonymous survey asks participants to answer questions about general health, risks, and access to health care. These answers will create a snapshot of the health of Delaware Co. adults & children. The results will guide public and private agencies in their program planning over the next several years by identifying key health problems. The Partnership asks residents who receive this health survey to please complete it and send it back ASAP. Survey answers are completely anonymous and confidential. The survey is funded by the DGHD, OhioHealth Grady Memorial Hospital, and United Way of Delaware County. The Partnership is a group of agency directors, organizations, businesses and residents representing multiple sectors of Delaware Co. – from healthcare to business and industry, schools and churches.

“How Animals Impact Our Health”

As part of OWU’s Sagan National Colloquium, on Sept. 18 Dr. Heather Lane and Adam Howard from the Delaware General Health District (DGHD) discussed “Global Health and the One Health Initiative: How Animals Impact Our Health.” Lane’s talk focused on so-called zoonotic diseases, i.e., the more than 300 diseases that can be transmitted from animals to people and vice versa. Typical vectors may be mosquitoes or ticks. The latest example is a multi-state campylobacter outbreak where infected puppies sickened at least 39 people last month. West Nile continues to be endemic in the Buckeye

State. Salmonella infections are also not uncommon. According to Lane, more than 75% of emerging diseases are zoonotic in nature, incl. Ebola and Zika. The unified "One-Health" approach was created in response to the situation. It looks at zoonotic diseases holistically, taking into consideration the health of people, animals, and the environment. When animals are healthy, there is less of a chance they will infect people. Howard then explained the research and efforts conducted within Delaware County, from active monitoring to control measures. With a trained and capable staff of 76, the DGHD is in a position to respond very rapidly in case of a suspected infections and outbreaks. He described a scenario where information can lead to comprehensive mitigation efforts within 24 to 48 hours. That is indeed admirable. Public education also plays a big role. Stagnant water, for example, can become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. So, teaching people to regularly empty birdbaths and flower pots, clean roof gutters, and dispose of old car tires can make a difference.

The following remarks should not be misconstrued as a criticism of the good work of DGHD. It is more of a philosophical dispute. – Dr. Lane mentioned in passing that animals can also have a positive impact on people's physiological and psychological health. Contact with animals can help boost one's microbiome and immune system, for example. However, there was no time to elaborate on this because the topic deserves a separate lecture. It is certainly understandable that health officials tend to have an anthropocentric mindset that elevates public health above all else. When they hear of chickens and bats, their alarm bells go off immediately, and they can think only of salmonella and rabies. Critters are seen as enemies rather than friends. And what do you do if an "enemy" is in your sight? You take out your heavy weapons and look for military-style solutions, hoping to eradicate the foe with pesticides, insecticides, larvicides, herbicides, fungicides, etc. (The police have a similar "warrior" mentality that often results in open warfare and combat.) However, people have much contact with companion animals, livestock, and wildlife. Animals are an integral part of our lives, now as in the past. It might be a better approach to think about ways to peacefully and respectfully coexist with each other. The One-Health initiative is a step in the right direction, but more can be done. For instance, rather than culling scores of infected mammals and other animals, often the practice in the past, it should be possible to immunize them. Another example – deforestation and habitat destruction has forced wildlife into closer proximity to humans. If more preserves or similar conservation areas were created, that would reduce some of the human-animal interactions and collisions. Animals do indeed have a tremendous significance in our lives. The impact can be positive and negative. A talk about "How Animals Impact Our Health" should therefore give equal weight to both sides.

Brenner & Jordan Not Interested in Public Education

The Oct. 2017 issue of "Chamber Notes," the monthly newsletter of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, notes that representatives Andy Brenner and Kris Jordan were conspicuously absent at last month's annual State of the Schools luncheon that focused on the four Delaware County K-12 schools plus the Delaware Area Career Center. Due to a funding freeze, the growing Olentangy district is losing tens of millions of dollars each year. Delaware City is losing around \$7 million. Delaware County school districts perform well above the state average, but spend well below the state average per pupil. The Chamber is urging residents to contact legislators to get an answer about fair funding. District 67 House Rep. Andy Brenner of Powell chairs the House Committee on Education and was not present at the luncheon. Contact him at 740-602-5033 or by email at rep.brenner@brenner4Ohio.com. Similarly, State Senator Kris Jordan was not in attendance, but he needs to hear from his constituents as well. Contact him at 614-466-8086 or by email. – The Chamber says that nothing is more important than education. We agree that public schools should be of the highest priority, but apparently not every legislator shares that conviction.

Pat Tiberi Joins Climate Solutions Caucus

Pat Tiberi from Genoa Township represents Ohio's 12th Congressional District, which includes all of Delaware, Licking, and Morrow counties as well as parts of others. He is a predictably conservative Republican who upholds traditional conservative values such as shrinking the size of government and cutting taxes for

everyone. (He recently published an op-ed piece against granting "amnesty" to the 800,000 "dreamers" and is in full support of President Trump's tax plan.) However, he remains closer to John Kasich than to Donald Trump. Tiberi credits his career to Kasich for whom he worked as a staffer decades ago. Unlike Rep. Chris Jordan, he is not a member of the hard-right Freedom Caucus. – It comes as a pleasant surprise that Pat Tiberi last month joined the Climate Solutions Caucus, a bipartisan group in the U.S. House of Representatives that is exploring policy options to address and respond to climate change and its causes and impacts. The caucus, which was founded in 2016, serves "as an organization to educate members on economically viable options to reduce climate risk and protect our nation's economy, security, infrastructure, agriculture, water supply, and public safety." – The Trump administration has called climate change "a hoax." It has eliminated federal funding and has even gone so far as to ban "the double c word" from being used. It is welcome news indeed that there is a group of pragmatic Republicans who do not share the unscientific views of the extreme right. Tiberi is one of the more moderate GOP members. The recent devastating hurricanes in Texas (Harvey) and Florida (Irma) may have convinced him that climate change, the melting of ice, the warming of the oceans, and sea-level rise are real and present dangers that must be faced through a bipartisan approach. Tiberi's decision to join the CSC may secondarily also be the result of a political calculus and career considerations. The new president has become so unpopular and toxic that even Trump has started to distance himself from Trump and make deals with Democrats. Republican moderates seem to have the upper hand at the moment, and Tiberi is both benefiting from this development and helping to strengthen it. – Even if the work of the CSC may more symbolic than effective, as some critics have claimed, its mere existence is a positive sign in this day and age and sends an important signal to the American public and to the world: the U.S. is not completely gone and lost. There is hope for a turnaround.

Bob Evans No Longer Locally Owned

The restaurant chain Bob Evans is no longer a locally owned. The company sold its restaurant division to Golden Gate Capital earlier this year and has now sold its prepared-food division to Post Holdings. The sale is targeted to close in early 2018. Lay-offs are expected.

"Highlights for Children"

"Highlights for Children," a Columbus-based magazine for kids, is currently available in more than 40 countries and in more than 20 languages around the world, reaching as many as 6.6 million children. The company's CEO, Kent Johnson, recently announced that his publishing house, in a new partnership with Chung Chy, is in process of expanding its reach even further to China, Hong Kong, Japan, and South Korea. According to Johnson, the international line is the fastest-growing unit (30-40% per year) and helps boost morale for everyone in the firm.

ECO Center Holds Fall Festival

Caledonia's ECO Center is holding its 4th Annual Fall Festival on Sun., Oct. 1; Sun., Oct. 8; and on the weekend of Oct. 14-15. For details, visit www.ecocenterohio.com. The ECO Center is located at 1757 County Rd. 59 in Caledonia north of Delaware. It was profiled in the July 2017 edition of "Community Matters."

Filibuster Hanover Wins Little Brown Jug

Filibuster Hanover won the 72nd Little Brown Jug on Sept. 21 in 1 min. 50 sec. The 3-year-old male horse won the harness race by a full length over Funknwaffles and beat other favorites such as Fear the Dragon and Downbytheseaside. Filibuster Hanover was trained by Ron Burke, is owned by Burke Racing Stable and others, and was driven by Yannick Gingras.

Rudy the Pug

A Powel pug, Rudy, has become a TV star. When the 12-year-old canine fell sick last year, his owner started to feed him Freshpet refrigerated dog food, a natural & organic brand, to go with his medications. Once he was healthy again, his family wanted to transition him back to his original dog food, a well-known brand. However, Rudy refused to touch it and went on a hunger strike. He became lethargic, too weak to stand, and his owner feared he might

die. But once they fed him Freshpet food again, he started to bounce back to life. The New Jersey-based company is now featuring Rudy the Pug in commercials. A TV crew visited Powell in June and spent nearly three days filming Rudy, now 13. Plans are to also run the picky-eater story on social media and on the company's website. To learn more about Freshpet and to watch a brief 1-minute video, visit <freshpet.com>. – Dog owners know very well that canines resemble people in many ways. They too have their likes and dislikes, their habits and quirks, and they can be as loyal or as stubborn as humans.

OHIO

Immigrants Benefit Ohio by John Kasich, Ohio Governor

If you're reading this and not already in Ohio, I have a message for you: You should move here. It's a great place to work and raise a family. We want you to come to Ohio. – I'm not just talking about people in Indiana or Michigan, but everyone everywhere, worldwide. In the face of so much negativity we hear these days toward people who move to new places to pursue better lives — immigrants — it will strike some as contrarian to reach out to them instead of demonizing them. But Ohio's never done things like everyone else. We have a history of seeking to stay a step ahead and, for us, immigration has always been part of achieving "the next thing." – Ohio was America's first frontier, and we identify with and celebrate the diverse waves of immigrants who settled here. Among them Germans in Cincinnati and central Ohio, Eastern Europeans, Latinos and Irish in northeast Ohio, Italians in eastern Ohio, and people from the Middle East in northwest Ohio. – Today, we see new waves of immigrants finding a home here, feeding into the same cities enriched by the first generation. People from East Africa, the Himalayas, Latin America and other places continue to become proud Buckeyes and weave their stories into the broader, historic Ohio narrative: a history of how hard work, ingenuity and creativity are hallmarks of our success, both past and future. – As a grandchild of Croatian immigrants, I grew up with a grandmother who didn't speak English. Many in my Pennsylvania steel town had similar stories. The varied nature of our backgrounds gave our community strength and vibrancy. It was part and parcel of that classic immigrant drive to get ahead that helped make Pittsburgh's steel industry an engine of American prosperity. – But today, our memory of America's immigrant past no longer enjoys this same celebrated status. The negative tone on some sides of the immigration debate should be a flashing red light to those of us who understand immigration's benefits. Not only does that negativity suggest a misunderstanding of our country's past and a disconnect with the immovable reality of our connections to the rest of the world, it risks becoming a barrier to future economic growth. At its worst, it hints at a scapegoatism that blocks us from understanding and addressing the real causes of challenges that face certain regions or industries. – The conversation about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, the program for children who arrived with undocumented parents, is one such problematic signal, and Congress must act quickly to put this program into law. Swift, successful action could reassure policymakers that progress on other immigration challenges is possible also. A regulated guest-worker program would be an important next step because it would meet America's need for more workers while protecting all workers from unfair labor practices. From there we should move ahead to deal with the 11 million or more undocumented immigrants who, let's face it, are not going anywhere. I don't support a pathway to citizenship in these cases, but legal permanent residence, after careful background checks and other measures, serves everyone's interests. – We forget America's immigrant heritage at our peril, because it means we forget what immigration did, does and will do for America and Ohio. If the wealthiest, most powerful country in the world were to start closing itself off to new people and the new ideas and energy they can bring, it would deny us access to the full range of possible solutions to tough problems. When did we lose the collective national confidence to welcome good ideas wherever we find them? When we send anti-immigration signals, those seeking a new, better life will only choose other destinations. Canada, Europe, the massive metropolises of Latin America and other places, they all stand to benefit at our expense. – When we affirm our immigrant heritage going forward, we prepare ourselves for the ongoing success that

comes from the power and innovations that can flow from new ideas and new people. We thrive on both in Ohio. Our state was built by immigrants, and because we want to continue building we'll need new people from everywhere, and that includes from outside the United States. We welcome new neighbors who work hard, contribute to their communities, raise their families and join in the great story. – Whether you're from Indiana or India, New England or Old England, we want you in Ohio.

Congressional Delegates Out of Touch

An analysis by the Columbus Dispatch shows that more than half of Ohio's congressional delegates have over \$1 million in assets. Rep. Jim Renacci, R-Wadsworth, is the wealthiest with a net worth of at least \$64 million. (He is now running for Ohio governor.) It is clear that Congress has increasingly become a millionaire's club rather than the microcosm of America it was intended to be. The members are out of touch with the problems that everyday Americans face. Instead, they are surrounded by other people of means, heavily lobbied by moneyed interests, and schmooze with big-league donors for even more money. They lack knowledge about and empathy for their constituents. Their reluctance to hold local meetings and face crowds is one sign of the existing divide. It is a fair question to ask if our congressional delegates still adequately represent ordinary people.

Ohio Raises Minimum Wage to \$8.30

Ohio's minimum wage rises each year by the rate of inflation, which was 1.9% from Sept. 2016 to Aug. 2017. Thus, Ohio's minimum wage will increase 15 cents to \$8.30 per hour starting Jan. 1, 2018. For tipped employees, the new wage will go from \$4.08 to \$4.14 per hour. Exceptions are in place for 14 to 15-year olds and for businesses with annual gross receipts of \$305,000 or less. For them, the Ohio minimum wage remains at \$7.25, which is the federal minimum wage per hour.

Comparing Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus

In terms of GDP (the value of goods & services produced), the three major cities in Ohio are similar: Cincinnati is #1 (\$132 billion), Columbus #2 (\$130.8 b), and Cleveland #3 (\$129.4 b). However, for the first time in history Columbus has surpassed Cleveland. Columbus's economy has been growing faster (at the rate of 2.5%) than Cleveland's (0.6%) in recent years. Nationally, the 3 Ohio cities are ranked #28, #29, and #30 based on GDP.

Ohio's Top Attractions

USA Today's 2017 Readers' Choice online vote has named the Toledo Art Museum as the top attraction in Ohio. Another Toledo attraction, the National Museum of the Great Lakes, finished second. The other places are the Cedar Point amusement park, Ohio's Amish country, the Hocking Hills, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens (Akron), Put-in-Bay, Franklin Park Conservatory (Columbus), the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Cincinnati Museum Center. It may come as a surprise that museums rank so high on the state and national lists, but they are indeed popular destinations that attract a lot of national and even international visitors. (Perhaps there is a lesson in there for Delaware?) For more info, visit www.10best.com. – Hywet Hall in Akron was new to us. Here is a brief excerpt from their website (www.stanhywet.org): "Stan Hywet is Akron's first and largest National Historic Landmark and is also the nation's 6th largest historic home open to the public. It is an accredited museum of the American Alliance of Museums, one of only 26 in Ohio and 802 in all of the U.S. The Estate includes 5 historic buildings and 8 historic gardens on 70 acres."

Ending Child Marriages in Ohio

Across the nation, laws permitting marriages before the age of 18 are common. Practically all states allow 16 and 17-year-olds to marry. Even 14 and 15-year-olds are often permitted to marry with judicial and parental approval. Ohio is among the states where girls as young as 14 are given away in arranged marriages or in cases where religious or cultural customs encourage the practice although they lack maturity and skills to sustain marriage. Sometimes, the girls are bargaining chips in exchange for money or green cards. The potential for exploitation is great. What would be considered unlawful misconduct under normal circumstances is legal after marriage. Premature marriages carry other burdens as well. For example, they

can permanently derail a young person's education. In addition, a girl can marry at 14, but cannot legally divorce until 18. Shelters for victims of domestic violence generally do not accept anyone under 18. Opponents to child marriage say the practice is a form of coercion and child abuse and should be stopped. The State of New York recently abolished marriage for 14 to 16-year-olds. Ohio should consider a similar step.

Ohio Firefighter Suspended for Racism

Tyler Roysdon, a volunteer fire fighter in Warren County's Franklin Township (south of Dayton), has been suspended after he posted on Facebook that he would save a dog from a burning building before a black person. The post, which contained multiple racial slurs, was ordered to be removed by the township. Roysdon has since resigned. – Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. Derogatory comments of this nature continue to be widespread.

"I'm Going to Choke the Life out of You"

During an arrest on Sept. 1, Columbus police officer Joseph Bogard, 32, used profanities and threatened to kill Timothy Davis, 31: "I am going to choke the life out of you," he is heard saying on his body camera. A Facebook video of the arrest showed multiple officers punching and kicking Davis, as well as yelling profanities. Police Chief Kim Jacobs said, "It is situations like this that anger our friends and give fuel to those that already don't trust us." She stated she was saddened and embarrassed by Bogard's words because they reinforce the image that police officers are "brutal thugs." She added, "Trust is critical to your safety and support from our community. When it breaks, it is hard to win it back." – The People's Justice Project and 8 families of black men who have been killed by Columbus Police protested later in the month at a City Council meeting, demanding an investigation. Davis has since filed a federal civil-rights lawsuit, alleging the police department fails to properly train, supervise, monitor, counsel or discipline officers who use excessive or unreasonable force.

Police Officer Shoots Journalist in Ohio

Andy Grimm, a reporter for the "New Carlisle News" in Ohio, wanted to take a picture of a traffic stop he witnessed on Sept. 4. His father, Dale Grimm, is the paper's publisher. But when he took out his tripod and camera, Clark County Deputy Jake Shaw fired two rounds at him without warning. Grimm was shot in his side, but is expected to survive the ordeal. The police officer said he mistook the camera for a gun and felt threatened. – No doubt the deputy will not be held accountable for his recklessness (no police officer ever is except in very rare circumstances), but it seems to us that incidences of this nature have become way too common. They appear to happen on a daily basis. Police officers are supposed to protect the public peace and safety, but quite frankly it does not seem to be very safe being in their presence.

Hate Groups in Ohio

Ohio is one of the incubators and epicenters of hate-group activities in the U.S. The Southern Poverty Law Center is counting 35 of them in Ohio, eighth in the nation. Also, Ohio was third for the number of hate crimes reported in 2015. Many of these groups operate in Central Ohio. Why is that? Many factors have led to the phenomenon. First and foremost, it is a reaction to the fact that Ohio remains mismanaged and is today a backward state with enormous economic and social suffering and pain. In many respects, the Buckeye State ranks at the bottom in the nation (e.g., the opioid epidemic). Another reason is that no state authority tracks hate groups. To be sure, the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety intervenes when there are credible threats, but its stance is reactive rather than proactive. Hate groups have been able to organize and thrive for years here while conservative politicians and prosecutors turned a blind eye to them. They are now established, endemic, and hard to eradicate. Ohio was "open for business," but it was also "open for hate." – Perhaps a turning point has been reached. A proposed new state law, introduced by Democratic State Rep. David Leland of Columbus, directs police in Ohio to recognize white nationalist and neo-Nazi groups as terrorist organizations. The measure would allow law enforcement to pursue such groups with the same resources and attention devoted to other domestic terrorists. It remains to be seen how serious the Ohio GOP is about combating the alt-right.

Pit Bulls in Ohio

The Fifth District Court of Appeals has ruled that under Ohio law "residents may keep or own any dog they choose" as long as they observe other state laws. It means, in effect, that pit bulls and other dog breeds can no longer automatically be classified as "vicious," requiring confinement or outright ban. Of course, other restrictions against dangerous animals remain on the books. Opponents of pit bulls have claimed it should not take the death of a child to restrict animals. Proponents of pit bulls, along with animal-rights groups, maintain that a dog's bad behavior is not breed-specific and usually the owner's fault. They say there is no such thing as a born attacker or killer. Breed-neutral legislation has become the norm in the U.S., following race-neutral and gender-neutral laws.

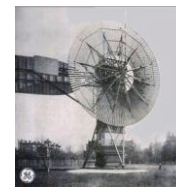


Lidl Is Coming to Ohio

German-owned grocery store Aldi will soon have competition from another German-owned discount store – Lidl (pronounced "lee-dle" in German). At the moment, Lidl has just 21 stores in North & South Carolina and in Virginia, but it has plans for more than 100 of them by 2018 and is also looking to expand into Ohio. The company is hiring real-estate managers in Ohio and Pennsylvania whose duties include scouting and acquiring suitable store sites. There are no specific plans and timetables at this point. – Food retail is fiercely competitive in Ohio, and the profit margins are slim. However, Lidl is confident that its business model will work in the U.S. Lidl stores are cheaper, smaller, and more nimble, and they can go where Giant Eagle, Kroger, and Meijer and others cannot. There is also no prescribed architectural design. If you google "Lidl" images, you will find many store configurations. Given the low and stagnant wages in America, industry analysts say that discount stores are the future of grocery shopping. A Lidl store somewhere in the S. Sandusky St. corridor in Delaware would be a great help for low-and-moderate-income families who live in that neighborhood.

STD Cases on the Rise

The CDC says that cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have increased in Ohio, incl. in Delaware County. Chlamydia was responsible for the bulk of diagnoses (60,758), followed by gonorrhea (20,534) and syphilis (716). Nationwide, there were nearly 1.6 million cases of chlamydia, followed by 469,000 cases of gonorrhea, and about 28,000 cases of syphilis. All three of the STDs can be cured with antibiotics, but undiagnosed and untreated cases are a problem that can lead to serious consequences. The CDC is urging health departments around the nation to refocus education, detection, and treatment efforts on STDs. Society as a whole is not practicing safe sex, not using condoms, or not abstaining from sexual relationships.



Charles F. Brush Invents Wind Turbine

Most folks know that James Watt invented the steam engine, Thomas Edison the light bulb, Alexander Graham Bell the telephone, and the Wright Brothers the first airplane. However, the average person may not know that Ohio resident Charles F. Brush (1849-1929) was the inventor of the first electricity-generating wind turbine. Born in Euclid Township near Cleveland, Brush developed an early interest in science and technology and graduated in engineering from the Univ. of Michigan. He received his Ph.D. from Western Reserve in 1880 (today Case Western Reserve Univ.). He is best known for his arc-light systems, widely used for public light in major cities around the nation. In 1888, he invented a wind-turbine

generator that powered his mansion on Euclid Ave. in Cleveland. It was the first home in Cleveland to have electricity. The wind turbine, which had a 12 kilowatt dynamo, was 60 feet high, weighed 40 tons, and was made of wrought iron. The windmill's wheel measured 56 feet in diameter, had 144 blades made of wood, and a sail surface of 1,800 square feet. The turbine reportedly lasted for 20 years, until 1909. Pioneer Brush won many awards in his lifetime and died a wealthy man. Despite his fame and fortune, however, both his home and his remarkable windmill were demolished after his death.

NATION

Arrests & Deportations Up

According to statistics provided by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), its agents have made 43% more arrests since President Trump took office than in the same period last year. The fastest-growing category of arrests is those of people facing no criminal charges. As of Sept. 9, ICE has deported 211,068 people. Trump took office pledging to round up and deport as many as 3 million undocumented people living in the U.S.

Episcopal Church Supports DACA

In a full-page ad in the New York Times on 9/21/17, some 125 bishops of the Episcopal Church encouraged President Trump not to end DACA. Ohio's Episcopal bishops were among the signatories. The statement is significant because Trump is closer to the Episcopal Church than to any other church. In 2005, the president and the first lady got married in an Episcopal church. Here is the full text:

"President Trump and Members of Congress, as bishops of the Episcopal Church we implore you not to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA. To do so would endanger the lives of thousands of young people and their families and run contrary to the faith and moral traditions of our country. It is unfair to threaten the well-being of young people who arrived in our country as children through no choice of their own. Ending DACA without a similar replacement program will force these young people to face the future in this country with little access to education and employment, and ultimately, could very well lead to sending them to countries where they did not grow up, have few support structures, may not even speak the language, and may be vulnerable to violence and persecution. The alternative for us as a country is to move forward, to celebrate and benefit from the the presence of these 'Dreamers' and to provide a pathway to citizenship that enables them to remain and strengthen our country. The Episcopal Church has long advocated for bipartisan comprehensive immigration reforms that prioritize family unity and humanitarian concerns. It is time for Congress to develop long-term solutions for immigrant families. In front of most of the Episcopal Churches across the country is a sign that says, 'The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.' We have this sign because we are followers of the way of Jesus of Nazareth, and our Christian tradition shares with many other faith bodies the absolute importance of welcoming the foreigner in our midst. Throughout the centuries this tradition has brought us great wisdom and strength as the foreigner among us has become a part of the fabric of our country's life. In recent years, our congregations throughout the United States have witnessed firsthand the benefits that the young 'Dreamers' have brought to our community programs and life. We have been inspired by, and gained much from, their American spirit. We urge you to enact permanent, meaningful legislation that will protect 'Dreamers' and enable these young people to remain a part of our country – which is also theirs."

Homeland Security Collects Social Media Data

The Dept. of Homeland Security has announced that it will begin to collect social-media data from all immigrants, effective Oct. 18. Green-card holders and naturalized citizens will also have their social-media information collected. Critics call the collect-it-all approach overreach. For example, the ACLU fears a chilling effect on free speech in the country. There is also a lack of transparency on what the department would use the data. Another concern is that the monitoring could suck in information on American citizens who communicate over social media with immigrants.

The Economic Pain Persists

Politicians and economists want us to believe that the American Dream is back on track. If so, how come that tens of millions of Americans are still feeling left behind? A group of researchers and the Social Security Administration have now produced a longitudinal study on earnings that goes back as far as 1957, sixty years ago. They came to the surprising conclusion that the forces holding back and decimating the middle class go back much further than economists believed. Progress pretty much ended in the 1960s. Adjusted for inflation, every cohort since then has made less in median income than the previous one. For example, in 1967 the median income for men at age 25 was \$33,300; in 1983 it was \$29,000. Four out of five men experienced income declines between 10% and 27% since 1967. Only people with annual incomes of \$120,000 and more saw growth. The result is a widening lifetime inequality. "That's because nearly all of the financial gains have been funneled to those at the top of the income scale." (New York Times, 9/17/17.) Many external factors have contributed to this development, but it is also true that high-income jobs require a much higher level of education than in the past. This is where personal responsibility comes in. Millions of men looking for work do not have the requisite skills set, which is why many have given up and dropped out of the labor market altogether, often succumbing to depression, alcohol, drugs, suicide, or right-wing radicalism. Due to these factors, the life expectancy of middle-aged men has shrunk in recent years. Their presence in our midst represents a volatile mix of aggressive anger and hatred on the one side and passive disengagement and alienation on the other. In their understandable desperation, many voted for President Trump in 2016.

Trump Wants Military Parades

Following the examples of China, North Korea, and Russia, Trump wants to see military parades go down Pennsylvania Ave. in the American capital. After he saw a French parade on Bastille Day (July 14) in Paris, he was besmitten and more determined than ever to hold a similar domestic event every Fourth of July, with lots of tanks, missiles, and aircraft. His administration has already moved toward planning such a parade, perhaps as early as 2018. Although it is not clear what exactly Trump has in mind, it is obvious that he is partial to strong displays of macho muscularity and virility. His plans are "to top" what he saw in France because supposedly it would be a great thing for the spirit of America. Such parades would cost many millions of dollars, of course. Past administrations were reluctant to stage military parades on Independence Day. For much of the Cold War, big displays of military might that mimicked the former Soviet Union were seen as a sign of weakness. – As far as we are concerned, such a parade would be nothing but a side show and waste of money. Instead, we'd rather see some actual accomplishments of the Trump administration.

Space Corps

Like all strongmen, President Trump is enamored with police and military personnel in uniform. No expense is spared when it comes to build a powerful army, and he wants law-enforcement to have full access to military equipment as well. So the new Trump administration set out to create a new 6th branch of the U.S. Armed Forces – the Space Corps. The new branch would be tasked with establishing, equipping, and maintaining combat-ready forces for conflicts involving space. America has always had a predilection for space exploration, and film series such as "Star Wars" and "Star Trek" occupy an iconic place in popular culture. However, the plan quickly became the object of a fierce battle. Although the House of Representatives passed the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in July, opposition remains strong. The measure is unlikely to pass the Senate, which is not sold on the idea. Some legislators have gone so far as to introduce a ban the creation of the Space Corps or similar programs. Proponents quoted real or perceived threats from Russia and China. Opponents called it "a solution in search of a problem" and expressed concerns over the disruption of existing branches, the staggering costs involved, the creation of yet another bureaucracy, and worries about its technological feasibility. More money for the 6th branch would certainly result in less resources and a diminished role for the existing branches. The proposal is therefore opposed by the U.S. Air Force, the Dept. of Defense, and numerous military leaders. – We are no experts on space matters, but it seems that the the proposed Space Corps is more a prestige object rather than something that is truly warranted,

possible, and affordable at this point in time. In conversations with local men and women in military uniform, we were surprised to learn that without exception they thought the idea of a Space Corps was a "crazy" or "ludicrous" idea. Perhaps a Space Corps or something similar will be in operation in a few decades or a hundred years from now, but the current existential threat that could paralyze entire nations is cyber warfare. If job creation is the issue, then how about securing coastal areas from the threat of record-breaking hurricanes?

"It's a Cult of Personality"

The mercurial personality of candidate and President Trump is well known. He is utterly devoid of self-discipline or party discipline. His positions shift all the time and are almost impossible to pin down. According to the "New York Times," he has switched party affiliation even more often than his wives – at least five times over the years. If you are looking for consistency, you are looking in vain. He has never respected conventions, or facts, or the truth. No one should be surprised by the moral equivocation and prevarication he displayed after Charlottesville. He stands for nothing. It is his hallmark to manipulate facts and to fabricate alternative realities. Deception is an integral part of his shtick. What Trump is concerned with, and committed to, is not the welfare of his party, the nation, or its people. His primary concern is his own fragile ego, image, and reputation, followed by his business interests and his family's bottom line. He has torpedoed the Republican Party, of which he is the nominal leader, multiple times and is currently in open warfare with many GOP leaders. He is now flirting with the Democrats again. Trump does not give a hoot about the future of the Republican Party or, indeed, America. The serious threat of climate change, which he denies as "a hoax," is a good illustration of that. "What really matters to him is praise," writes conservative columnist Jonah Goldberg.

"It's a cult of personality," Rep. Mark Sanford of S. Carolina says of Donald Trump. "He's fundamentally, at the core, about Donald Trump. He's not about ideas." Sadly, the Congressman is right. Trump may own some very nice places, but he is philosophically a homeless person. He does have a certain charismatic personality, and he is a pro at advertising his own brand both qualitatively and quantitatively with the help of television and other means of propaganda. He basks in adulation, glorification, and exultation. Anything that diminishes his stature or even remotely suggests smallness or pettiness is fiercely attacked. Trump's obsession with attendance and poll numbers, which he routinely exaggerates, is rooted in this. However, leaders who put their egos front and center have little or no interest in economic or social progress; specific solutions to problems (such as infrastructure) are secondary or tertiary to their agenda. The cult of personality becomes a substitute for actual accomplishments. There is little doubt that Trump fits the description of a leader in the tradition of personality cult. Most were totalitarian dictators, which should be a huge concern for this democratic country.

The Myth of the Heroic Entrepreneur

Donald Trump and the Republican Party share many of the same values. Among them is the mythology that entrepreneurship is the highest calling and most deserving of respect, eclipsing even religion, culture, and politics. In that view, the health and strength of a country depends on these god-like figures, not on the masses that constitute the labor force. This undemocratic ideology has numerous dangerous consequences. For one thing, it elevates entrepreneurs over everyone else, making them – supposedly – indispensable and giving them an exalted perch. In addition, the divinization of the entrepreneur has resulted in astronomical incomes. Research has also shown their strong capacity and proclivity for rule-breaking, for evading laws, and for engaging in misconduct and illicit activities. Social norms, safety rules, and environmental protections are widely perceived by entrepreneurs as liabilities to be removed or evaded. The morally disengaged Trump administration has therefore proposed dramatic cut-backs to both OSHA and the EPA, the elimination of the Affordable Care Act, is strongly opposed to raising the minimum wage, and is fighting hard to keep labor unions weak. The welfare of the people who actually perform the work is taking a back seat. The GOP likes to say that there are active "makers" (entrepreneurs) and passive "takers" (workers). The word choice implies that that employees are less meritorious than employers. Doesn't it make more sense to say that the hard workers of America are the true pioneers and makers of

the country and the entrepreneurs are the parasitic moochers living off of them so that they can waste their lavish lives in luxury? Republicans have been clamoring to dismantle the social safety net for years, long before Trump entered politics, but they do have a very soft spot for corporate welfare and tax cuts for the rich. Their worship of entrepreneurs comes at the expense of everyone else.

Trump Family Strains Resources

Security for Donald Trump's extended family comes with a cost. The workload has increased. The Secret Service now protects 42 people around the clock, 11 more than it did under Barack Obama. Eighteen of them are members of the Trump family, which loves to travel for pleasure, profits, and politics. The agency's staff level has grown by 800 since Trump's inauguration. The cost has strained the Secret Service to such a degree that has run out of money for the year. – **Update 9/20:** Citing privacy concerns, Donald Trump Jr., the president's eldest son, has decided to forgo protection by the Secret Service. He is an avid hiker and camper. Additionally, Kellyanne Conway will no longer be covered by agents. The president's other children and grandchildren will continue to be protected by the agency, as will several of the president's top aides.

Police Arrest Three Democratic Congressmen

Three Democratic members of Congress were arrested Sept. 19 during a protest outside Trump Tower in New York. They were among protesters who demanded that Congress pass legislation protecting thousands of young immigrants from deportation. U.S. Reps. Raul Grijalva of Arizona, Luis Guitierrez of Illinois, and Adriano Espaillat of New York were arrested, handcuffed, and led away. The Democratic speaker of New York's City Council, Melissa Mark-Viverito, was also arrested. Intimidating and silencing, arresting and jailing the political opposition is widely practiced in totalitarian states such as China and Russia, Turkey and Venezuela. To see this happen in the U.S. is chilling and disturbing.

Fewer Tourists Coming to the U.S.

As expected, the number of international visitors and tourists to the U.S. has dropped 4.4% during the first three months of the year, according to figures released by the Commerce Dept. Overall, the 15.8 million international tourists during the first quarter was down by 697,791 (4.4%), representing nearly \$2.7 billion in reduced spending. The travel industry had warned of a decline in tourism in response to President Trump's nativist "America First" agenda. Mexican arrivals were down to 3.9 million visitors (down 7%), and European arrivals were down to 2.6 million visitors (down 10%). The steepest drops were from the Middle East and Africa; these regions sent about ¼ fewer visitors to the U.S. than two years ago, according to figures from the National Travel and Tourism Office. A widely practiced strategy by international tourists (and students) is to travel to blue (Democratic) states only where they feel safer and more welcome. According to figures by the World Economic Forum, the popularity of the U.S. as a travel destination was waned. The U.S. is now in 6th place, behind Great Britain and Japan. A spokesperson for Intrepid Travel, which has experienced a 24% decrease in bookings, said, "now is an especially important time for the travel industry to stand for open borders, inclusivity, and the celebration of diversity."

A Drop in International Students

The "Chronicle of Higher Education," in cooperation with the Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), has done a preliminary survey to assess the impact of the Trump administration on the enrollment of international students in the U.S. It turns out that the situation is not the catastrophic enrollment Armageddon that was widely feared. By the time Trump declared his travel bans and other intentions, many students had already made their plans. Also, in response to falling applications many schools decided to offer higher scholarships and other incentives. Some institutions doubled their recruitment efforts and added countries to their visitation lists they had not considered before. In 2016/17, more than a million international students studied in the U.S. It is unlikely that the same number will be reached this year because it has gotten much harder to recruit students, with some markets more volatile than others. At the moment, it is not clear what 2018/19 will bring. Much depends on the

political path the Trump administration will pursue in the coming months. Obviously, that path is unknown and uncharted at this point.

Price-Gouging Should Be Banned

During the recent hurricane season, in addition to heavy rain thousands of complaints about price-gouging poured into Florida and Texas. Customers complained about retailers dramatically jacking up prices for gas, water, ice, batteries, and medical supplies, among other things. Price-gouging before, during, and after national disasters and other horrific events should be banned by the federal government in all cases, and stiff penalties should be imposed. It is a moral abomination to take advantage of victims already suffering from death and destruction. Bipartisan legislation should be introduced and passed before the next disaster strikes.



Chelsea Manning Disinvited from Harvard

Chelsea Manning, 29, was scheduled to be a 1-day Visiting Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School, but after a firestorm of protests the school rescinded the invitation. Some in the military and secret services consider her "a traitor" to the nation. The revocation of her appointment led to another fiery backlash, this time from the liberal side. On 9/15, Manning blasted Harvard, accusing the Ivy League school of caving to pressure from the CIA. "Honored to be 1st disinvited trans woman visiting Harvard fellow," Manning tweeted, adding "they chill marginalized voices under CIA pressure." In a follow-up tweet she wrote, "This is what a military / police / intel state looks like," she continued, "the CIA determines what is taught and what is not taught at Harvard." Many people would agree that the school, one of the richest in the nation, buckled under political pressure and kowtowed to the powers that be. The case raises serious issues about free speech and moral leadership.

"We Only Shoot Black People"

A dashcam video from July 2016 has surfaced in which a police officer in Cobb County, Georgia, asked a white woman involved in a DUI stop to pick up her phone. The woman was reluctant to do so and said she was scared to put her hands down because she might get shot and die. The police officer, Lt. Greg Abbott, reassured her that there was nothing to fear because "we only shoot black people." Cobb County police chief Mike Register said he would look into the incident. Cobb County, a suburban area northwest of Atlanta, does have a reputation of racism and discriminatory policing.

Michael Bennett Held at Gunpoint by Police

NFL star Michael Bennett was held at gunpoint and handcuffed in Las Vegas after the Mayweather-McGregor fight on Aug. 26. When people heard what they thought were gunshots, they started to duck and/or run to safety. The Seattle Seahawks star, who is black, was singled out by police because they they assumed he was involved in the shooting, forcibly wrestled him to the ground, and handcuffed him so tightly that his fingers went numb. Bennett says his only "crime" was being a black man. He was terrified and wondered if he would ever see his family again. The police eventually determined that no shots had been fired after all and let him go. Press reports aren't saying anything about an apology being issued by the Las Vegas Police Department. – NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell called for "mutual respect between law enforcement and the communities they serve" and for "fair and equal treatment under the law." Unfortunately, in large parts of the country fair and respectful treatment of Blacks and other minorities remains the exception.

Who Is Worse?

According to a new study by the Anti-Defamation League (New York Times, 8/16), of 372 murders that were committed by domestic extremists between 2007 and 2016, 74% were committed by right-wing extremists, 24% by Muslim extremists, and 2% by left-wing extremists. How numbers are calculated is always subject to debate,

but it is clear that there is little evidence that the left has become unhinged and dangerous. "Alt-right" and "alt-left" (antifa) radicals and extremists are not "an equal menace," as claimed by many conservatives. Few on the left preach hate, violence, and anarchy. Instead, they tirelessly promote awareness and education, non-violent solutions, and peaceful outcomes. It is false and misleading to say that both sides are equally to blame.

Johnson & Johnson Sued Over Baby Powder

Over 4,800 women across the nation are suing Johnson & Johnson over its baby powder, claiming that talcum particles caused their ovarian cancer. The talc in Johnson's Baby Powder can be absorbed by the reproductive system and cause inflammation in the ovaries. A 1971 paper found particles of talc embedded in 75% of the ovarian tumors studied. Research published in 1995 and 2000 concluded that it was plausible that talc mineral could cause ovarian cancer, but the evidence was not conclusive. In 2006, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classified talcum powder as a possible human carcinogen if used in the female genital area. Johnson & Johnson has lost 6 of the 7 cases decided so far. In one of the cases the plaintiff was awarded \$417 million. Johnson & Johnson maintains that its products are safe. The company recorded \$16.5 billion in profits last year. Its reputation could be harmed if one of its longest-standing products is perceived by the public as unsafe.

Petland Linked to Campylobacter Outbreak

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has traced a multistate outbreak of campylobacter infections to puppies sold a Petland, a nationwide chain of about 80 pet stores. The bacteria has sickened about 40 people in FL, PA, KS, MO, OH, TN, and WI, including 12 Petland employees. Nine persons had to be hospitalized. In people as well as puppies, the symptoms include bloody diarrhea, vomiting, and fever. Most cases of campylobacteriosis are associated with eating raw or undercooked meat or poultry, but the disease can also easily spread from animals to people. – Petland is now the only major national chain that sells dogs from commercial puppy mills. Hundreds of cities and counties prohibit pet shops from selling dogs bred at puppy mills, but last year Ohio passed a state law that prevents communities from local bans. The CDC announcement is likely to galvanize critics of pet stores that source puppies from commercial breeding operations.

Kaspersky May Be a Trojan Horse

Kaspersky security-software products are readily available at big-box retailers throughout America and have more than 400 million users around the globe, including many government agencies. However, it has come to light that Kaspersky Lab, the Moscow-based company, has extensive ties to the Russian government. The firm's billionaire founder, Eugene Kaspersky (born in 1965), graduated from a KGB school in 1987 and worked as a software engineer and cyber technology expert for the Soviet military. Documents found by Bloomberg prove a link between the company and the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (FSB), the KGB's successor. Many of the firm's thousands of staff members previously worked or currently work for Russian military and intelligence agencies. In Russia, companies do not have the option of staying independent from the government; they are required to cooperate. Installing Kaspersky software means that the company has total access to a user's computer and network, including all files, applications, and emails. As required by Russian law, all that can be monitored by the FSB. Come to think of it, such cyber technology is a brilliantly conceived Trojan horse to learn about other countries' overt and covert activities and to exploit the knowledge for one's own benefit. It is a well-documented fact that the Russian government has also actively attempted to interfere with elections in several European nations and in the U.S. Top intelligence officials in America have indicated that they are not comfortable installing Kaspersky Lab software on their computer systems. It remains an interesting phenomenon why and how Kaspersky has been able to infiltrate foreign governments and industries to the extent it did. – In the U.S., legislative efforts are now underway to ban Kaspersky software in all of the federal government. Other public and private entities should also reconsider their ubiquitous use of Kaspersky software. – **Update 7/14:** The federal government has moved to ban Kaspersky Lab products from all its computer

systems. Acting Homeland Security secretary Elaine C. Duke ordered federal agencies to develop plans to remove Kaspersky software from all government systems within 90 days. The Senate has also voted to ban Kaspersky Lab products from being used by American government agencies, effectively codifying the directive into law.

No Privacy on the Internet

Supposedly, there were “riots” in Washington, D.C., at Trump’s Inauguration Day, involving “dozens” of people. (This has been a well-kept secret until now, it seems. We certainly have never heard of them until now.) D.C. prosecutors have now demanded, and a judge has ruled, that Los Angeles-based DreamHost hand over the email addresses and other information from everyone who visited an anti-Trump website in the months leading to Inauguration Day. Last month, the company filed a motion with D.C. Superior Judge Robert E. Morin requesting that he put his order on hold while they consider an appeal. Prosecutors are fighting the request and have asked the judge to force DreamHost to turn over the data immediately. – This is noteworthy for a couple of reasons. The supposed “riots,” which may or may not have occurred, may be a disguise and excuse for the Trump administration to get broad access to information of people who remain opposed to the president. This smacks of practices that totalitarian states are known to employ. Another painful lesson – don’t ever assume that your private and personal data are safe with tech companies such as Apple, Facebook, or Google. Data breaches by hackers are ubiquitous, and no one is immune to them. It is unfortunately also a sad reality that your own government tracks your phone calls and website visits. “Big Brother” is alive and well in America.

Contact Sports Injure 600,000 Per Year

Nobody knows for sure how many injuries and deaths are caused by contact sports such as football, the most dangerous collision sport. Researchers at Yale Univ., under the leadership of senior author Ray Fair, have now attempted to count the numbers and to put an economic price tag on them. According to their calculations, over 600,000 high-school and college players suffer injuries every year. The cost is as much as \$19.2 billion for high schools and \$1.5 billion for colleges. The researchers did not take into account the long-term repercussions of brain injuries or ligament tears that often lead a lifetime of physical and mental pain. Insurance for football players has become so expensive that a number of schools have decided it is no longer a sport they can support. – Although it is well-known that high-risk contact sports may have serious consequences, the public’s appetite remains insatiable and many players seem to have no regrets.



Black History Museum Celebrates Anniversary

The Smithsonian’s Black History Museum on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., opened Sept. 24, 2016. Now one year old, it has met and exceeded expectations. Nearly 3 million people have visited it in the first year, over 8,000 per day. The museum quickly became more than a repository for historic artifacts; it has become a shrine, temple, and pilgrimage site for people of all ages, colors, and religions. The exhibits take visitors through African-American history from slavery to Oprah, Obama, and the Black Lives Matter movement. It is constantly collecting and adding new items to fill in existing gaps and to keep up with contemporary history. The museum’s official name is National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). Its website is <nmaahc.si.edu>.

Trinity School Builds Community

The head of New York’s elite Trinity School, John Altman, has written a remarkable letter to the parents of the institution’s K-12 students. The letter, which sent shock waves across the conservative establishment, is available on the Internet and deserves to be widely heard. – Altman laments that for many students and their parents

Trinity has become little more than “a credentialing factory.” A diploma from Trinity is perceived by many as nothing more than something that guarantees them “a comfortable perch atop a cognitive elite that is self-serving, callous, and spiritually barren.” However, Altman says that “individualism unredeemed by a commitment to purposes beyond the self leads to unhappiness and meaninglessness.” As he interacts with students, he sees that many of them suffer from elements of disconnection. They feel isolated, lonely, and alienated. – In accordance with his school’s original vision and mission, Altman says he will be working on ways to leave the ideology of narrowly individualistic self-advancement behind. Attentiveness to the needs of others is essential to the well-being of individuals, communities, and societies. There will be a renewed emphasis on how to build community at Trinity. Public service, civic activism, and social justice will be better incorporated into the academic curriculum. Finally, Altman stresses that a relationship with Trinity is more than a transactional contract – it is a moral covenant defined by loyalty, fidelity, and faithfulness. The purpose of the partnership is to build a learning community that benefits the common good and in which the children serve others for the rest of their lives.



Philadelphia Goes Naked

Thousands of naked or near-naked bicyclists participated in the 9th annual Philly Naked Bike Ride (PNBR) on Sept. 9, a clothing-optional bare-as-you-dare event. Many went proudly in their birthday suits or wore only body paint and glitter. Others biked topless, sporting only underwear or thongs. Vehicles included mostly bikes, but also scooters, skateboards, and rollerblades. Many used bicycles rented through Philadelphia’s bike-sharing program. Participants included PNBR regulars and newcomers, but not anyone under the age of 18. The goal of the 10-mile ride was to protest dependence on fossil fuels, to advocate for bicycling safety, and to celebrate a positive body image. – Millions of Americans live in conflict rather than in harmony with their body, mind, and soul, so the PNBR is a great community event to promote a more natural and sustainable lifestyle that emphasizes body positivity instead of the mindless and foolish accumulation of ever more possessions.

Connecticut’s Hartford Sets Example

Connecticut’s Hartford, a city of well over 100,000, recently adopted a “complete streets” initiative, which requires all new road projects to include bicycle lanes. Hartford has a long history of bicycling. It already has a bicycle-sharing program and designated bike lanes on multiple streets. In addition, the East Coast Greenway runs through the city. Hartford is now offering free roadside assistance to bicyclists when they suffer a flat tire or other minor mechanical problems. The initiative was launched in May. The city has a Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator, and 6 district employees have been trained to fix flats, replace tubes, inflate tires, reattach slipped chains, adjust brakes, and tighten up loose bolts, and other problems. The employees carry tools, patrol the streets on bikes, and have already responded to dozens of calls. The program is designed to encourage the use of bicycles for work, shopping, and recreation and is touted as the first of its kind in the nation.

Kurt Andersen’s “Fantasyland” (2017)

The United States are an unhealthy breeding ground for conspiracy theories, superstition, fanaticism, and other mass delusions, according to a new book by Kurt Andersen (“Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire, Random House 2017, 480 pp.). In fact, America has had a unique susceptibility to untruths and has been shaped by delusional people divorced from reality since colonial times 500 years ago. The author explores numerous hucksters & wackos, follies & fallacies throughout history, culminating in his attempt to explain how Trump became president.

[10/2/17]