

Community Matters

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

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

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CALENDAR OF LOCAL EVENTS

First Friday Pet Walk (9/1)

First Friday in Sept. will feature a "Pet Walk" as well as a hands-on display of Public Works equipment. Registration for the dog walk is \$10 and limited to 100 participants. In addition, there is a celebration of Ohio Living Sarah Moore (47 E. William St.), founded 125 years ago.

Gallery 22: The Equine World (9/1 - 10/21)

"Equine & the Natural World" is a Gallery 22 art exhibit held in conjunction with the Delaware County Fair and the Little Brown Jug. Susie Gordon is the featured Ohio artist. The dates are Sept. 1 through Oct. 21. A reception is scheduled at 22 W. Winter St. for Fri., Sept. 1 (6-8:30 pm), which is First Friday night. The regular hours of Gallery 22 are Fri. & Sat. 6-8:30 pm. Visit www.gallery22.net for more info.

Fundamentals Welcomes Jennifer Maschari (9/1)

On First Friday in Sept. (9/1, 6:30-8 pm), Fundamentals will welcome the author of children's books Jennifer Maschari. Her novel "Things That Surprise You" was just released. Another title is "The Remarkable Journey of Charlie Price." A third book is coming out in 2018. Maschari was born in Cincinnati and works in Ohio as a classroom teacher. Visit jen.maschari.com to learn more.



2017 Parade of Homes (9/2-17) – \$

The 2017 Parade of Homes by the Building Industry Association (BIA) of Central Ohio will take place Sept. 2-17. Chesire Woods, a new neighborhood in Berkshire Township near Sunbury, is

the chosen location this year. The housing development on Somerford Dr. is located between I-71 and Rome Corners Rd., south of Chesire Rd. The 9 homes are near Alum Creek and close to water sports. Featured are homes between \$587,000 and \$669,000 that are suitable for multi-generational families. Some houses include furniture made of reclaimed wood from demolished barns; reclaimed steel is also used. Parade hours are Mon. – Sat., 11 am – 7 pm, and Sun. from 11 am – 5 pm. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Children age 12 & under are free. Pets are not permitted. There is also a parking cost of \$5 per car. Visit www.biaparade.com for more info.

Little Brown Jog 5K (9/3)

The 2017 Little Brown Jog 5K is scheduled for Sun., Sept. 3, at the race track of the Delaware County Fairgrounds. A Kids Fun Run will take place at 9 am, followed by an Adult 5K Race at 9:30 am. Preregistration is \$25 and \$40 on the day of the race. All proceeds benefit People in Need (PIN) of Delaware County.

Fred Carlisle Book Reading (9/5+6)

Fred Carlisle '56, an OWU alumnus and native of Delaware, has published a new book – "Hollow and Home: A History of Self and Place" (West Virginia Univ. Press, 2017). The 228-page book was released on Aug. 1. The list price for the softcover ed. is \$26.99. Carlisle will read from & sign copies on Tues., Sept. 5 (4:15 pm), in the Bayley Room of Beeghly Library on the OWU campus as well as on Wed., Sept. 6 (5:30-7:30 pm), at Delaware's Willis Education Center, 74 W. William St. – After a long and distinguished academic career, both as an administrator and scholar, Carlisle decided to return to his roots. In searching for his father, Ervin Carlisle, he also rediscovered his birthplace. He also explores Clover Hollow in Appalachian Virginia, where he lived for ten years. The book is not intended as a historical study. It focuses on the relationship between place and identity everywhere and transcends specific localities. However, the memoir describes in rich detail the ways Delaware shaped the author.

Citizen Police Academy (9/5 – 11/14)

The next Citizen Police Academy will run from Sept. 5 through Nov. 14. Classes will be held Tues. nights from 6:30 -9 pm at the Delaware Police Dept. at 70 N. Union St. Participants must be at least 16 years old, pass a background check, and be able to attend at least 9 of the 11 meetings. Persons with "a criminal history" may be denied acceptance, according to the brochure. There will be one Sat. morning session on Oct. 7 (9-11:30 am). Participation is free. To register, contact Robert Hatcher at the Delaware Police Dept.

Genealogical Society: Talk on DNA Testing (9/5)

The Delaware County Genealogical Society continues its speaker series with talk by Kelli Bergheimer on "Explaining the Ins & Outs of DNA Testing for the Beginner" on Tues., Sept. 5 (7:30 pm) in the Community Room of the Delaware County District Library (84 E. Winter St.). Bergheimer will give a multi-media presentation on the topic that also addresses questions such as: Which test to choose? What are the costs? What can DNA testing tell? The presentation is free & open to the public.

Retired Teachers Association (9/8) – \$

The Delaware County Retired Teachers Association (DCRTA) meets four times a year on the second Friday of March, June, Sept., and Dec. at 12 pm in the Willow Brook Christian Village (Terrace Room) on State Rt. 23 S. The next meeting is Fri., Sept. 8. All retired educators, incl. administrators & school nurses, are welcome as are spouses & guests. A presentation by representatives from the Stratford Ecological Center about container gardening is the featured event on 9/8. Reservations for lunch (\$15) should be made by Aug. 30 by contacting Carolyne Tarantine at 614-895-9861 or jatone1045@aol.com. For more info, visit www.delawarecountyretiredteachersassociation.com or search for DCRTA. – DCRTA is the local chapter of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA), a group that protects the interests of retired teachers. Annual dues are \$15.

11th Annual Lithopolis Honeyfest (9/8-9)

The 11th Annual Lithopolis Honeyfest will take place Fri., Sept. 8 (3-7 pm), and Sat., Sept. 9 (10 am – 7 pm). The bee-and-

honey festival includes food & live entertainment, arts & crafts, a photo contest, and everything that has to do with beekeeping and using honey in foods & drinks. Parking, shuttle & admission are free. For more info, visit www.lithopolishoneyfest.com.

Scioto River Sweep (9/9)

The 2017 Scioto River Sweep will take place Sat., Sept. 9 (9 am – 12 pm). Volunteers meet at 9 am at the shelter house of Gallant Woods Preserve, 2151 Buttermilk Hill Rd., and then proceed to the river in Radnor Township. Volunteers under the age of 18 must have an adult present. To avoid injuries, sturdy shoes are required (no flip-flops or bare feet). All equipment and a noon lunch are provided. Several canoes are available, but you are free to bring your own paddle boat. Please register with Jenifer Way-Young from DGHD's Keep Delaware Beautiful program at jway-young@delawarehealth.org or call 740-203-2076.

SDO Monthly Meeting (9/9)

Sustainable Delaware Ohio (SDO) holds its meetings on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30-11 am at the Public Library. The meetings are open to the public, but only paid members are eligible to vote. SDO is always open for fresh ideas and new initiatives.

SWCI Community Unity Festival (9/9)

The 11th annual fall festival of the Second Ward Community Initiative (SWCI) will be held Sat., Sept. 9 (10 am – 6 pm), at the SWCI Center on Ross St. The event is free & open to the public. There will be live music, food, games, multiple information booths, and more. Come and have a look at the SWCI center, their beautiful community garden, and celebrate "peace, love, and unity"!

Citizens' Climate Lobby (9/9)

Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a national grassroots organization of non-partisan volunteers working with Congress to act on global warming. Local meetings are the 2nd Saturday of each month (11:45 am – 2 pm) at the First Presbyterian Church (73 W. Winter St.). Use the back door to enter. Meetings include a ½ hour national hook-up to listen to information from noted scientists. Newcomers are welcome. Visit www.citizensclimatelobby.org for more info.

Float with a Naturalist (9/10)

Bring your own canoe or kayak to Preservation Parks' River Run Park (168 Main Rd.) below the Delaware Dam for a naturalist-led journey down the Olentangy River on Sun., Sept. 10 (1 pm). The program is only for people age 18+. Please register by Sept. 3. (We are not sure about the logistics, but our understanding is that help will be available to transport the people and/or boats back to Main Rd.)

All-Horse Parade (9/10)

The 2017 All-Horse Parade will be held Sun., Sept. 10 (3 pm). It starts and ends at the Delaware County Fairgrounds. The parade has over 140 units and includes 450 horses, mules & donkeys. – Members of the Northwest Neighborhood Association (NNA) are invited to attend the NNA Social at the home of Jan Fleischman & Roger Koch at their home at 125 N. Liberty St., watch the Horse Parade, and stay for a cookout.

"Global Health" Lecture #1 (9/12)

To kick off OWU's 2017 Sagan National Colloquium OWU Lecture, healthcare expert Anton Gunn will speak on "Global Health Challenges" on Tues., Sept. 12 (7 pm), in the Benes Rooms of HWCC. To access the full program, visit www.owu.edu/snc. All events are free & open to the public.

Environmental Talk by William Cronon (9/14)

Noted environmental historian Dr. William Cronon from the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison will speak and be awarded an honorary degree from OWU in Gray Chapel inside University Hall (61 S. Sandusky St.) on Thurs., Sept. 14 (time to be announced). Cronon, a former president of both the Am. Historical Assoc. and the Am. Society for Environmental History, focuses his research on better understanding the history of human interactions with the natural world. He will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, the university's highest honor. The event is free & open to the public.

Delaware County Fair (9/16-23) – \$

The 2017 Delaware County Fair will be held from Sept. 16-23. Little Brown Jug Day is Thurs., Sept. 23.



Doberfest at Dog Park (9/17)

Companion Club Dog Park at 6360 Home Rd. celebrates its second anniversary on Sun., Sept. 17 (12-3 pm), with a "Doberfest" that includes games, gift baskets, a raffle, a costume contest, and more. Companion Club Dog Park is a private off-leash dog park in a unique setting on 11 acres of mature trees, trails, and a 2-acre swimming pond. It also features an agility course as well as a self-serve dog wash area. Dogs attending must be over 6 months old, weigh over 40 lbs., and be spayed & neutered. They must also be up to date on shots, incl. bordetella (kennel cough). Eventbrite says the Doberfest is "free." For more info, visit www.columbusdogpark.com.

"Global Health" Lecture #2 (9/18)

Veterinarian Heather Lane & Environmental Health expert Adam Howard from the Delaware General Health District (DGHD) will discuss "How Animals Impact Our Health" on Mon., Sept. 18 (7 pm) in the Benes Rooms of HWCC.

"Global Health" Lecture #3 (9/19)

Mike Abrams, President & CEO of the Ohio Hospital Association, will speak on "The Evolving Role of Hospitals" on Tues., Sept. 19 (7 pm) in the Benes Rooms of HWCC.

MTSO Presents "The Defamation Experience" (9/21) – \$

"The Defamation Experience," an acclaimed interactive court drama by Todd Logan, is coming to MTSO on Thurs., Sept. 21. The play, in which the audience is the jury, will be performed at 7 pm at the Alford Centrum. Register online (www.mtso.edu/defamation) for \$20 & \$15 for students. The event is free for MTSO students.

Fall Begins (9/22)

Fall begins Sept. 22 at around 4 pm when days and nights are of equal length (autumnal equinox). The astronomical season and the meteorological season are not necessarily the same, however. In Ohio, the months of September and October are typically sunny and warm. – Daylight Savings Time does not end until Sun., Nov. 5.

Stratford 5K Run/Walk & Harvest Fair (10/23) – \$

Stratford Ecological Center (at 3083 Liberty Rd.) has organized another 5K Run/Walk for Sat., Sept. 23 (9 am). This is not your typical 5K. The free-range run/walk will wind through field and forest and offer vistas of pasture, prairie meadows, pond, streams, farm animals, woodland trails and cropland. The price is \$30/adult and \$15/children 12 & under. The price includes admission to the Harvest Fair directly after the race. Proceeds help children of low & moderate-income families afford Stratford programs. Register at <https://runsignup.com/freerangerun>.

Registration is **not** needed for the annual Harvest Fair of the Stratford Ecological Center (Sat., 9/23, 10 am – 4 pm) following the 5K Run/Walk. The family-friendly event includes rides, tours, food, entertainment, information booths, and more. Admission is \$5 per person or \$15 for families, whichever is cheaper.

Earthdance 2017 (9/23)

The annual Earthdance event to celebrate peace and justice around the world will once again be held at OWU's HWCC Campus Center (Sat., 9/23, 5-9 pm). There is no charge, but donations are accepted. This year's beneficiary is SWCI. – Earthdance is aligned with International Peace Day on Sept. 21.

Delaware County Bird Club (9/25)

The Delaware County Bird Club will meet Mon., Sept. 25 (6:30 pm) at Deer Haven Park (4183 Liberty Rd.) to discuss bats with

Marne Tichenell. Bats are not birds, of course, but they share many features with their avian cousins. On Mon., Oct. 23, Matthew Shumar will talk about "Bird Conservation in Ohio," and on Mon., Nov. 13, Richard Bradley will give a presentation entitled "California Road Trip."

Andrews House Offers Workshop on Fatherhood

Andrews House (39 W. Winter St.) is once again offering a program entitled "Father Factor." Funded by the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood, it offers advice for current and prospective dads about raising their children. Meetings take place Tuesday nights from 7-9 pm at the Andrews House. The dates are 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, and 11/14. The workshop series is free, but registration is required.

"Global Health" Lecture #4 (9/26)

Daniel Derksen, Director of the Arizona Center for Rural Health, will speak on "Global Health Challenges" on Tues., Sept. 26 (7 pm) in the Benes Rooms of HWCC.

Green Drinks (9/27)

The Delaware chapter of the national and international organization movement "Green Drinks" meets on the last Wed. of each month at the Old Bag of Nails (66 N. Sandusky St.) at 7 pm. There is no formal agenda. The idea is to meet casually and to discuss "green" topics of local interest such as bike trails, solar panels, recycling, parks, or environmental health. Anyone is welcome to join the conversation. The next meetings are 9/27, 10/25, and 11/29.

"Global Health" Lecture #5 (9/28)

Katherina von Stackelberg from the Harvard Center for Global Health and the Environment will explore "Environmental Health and Human Well-Being" on Thurs., Sept. 28 (7 pm) in Merrick Hall 301. – OWU's Sagan National Colloquium series continues in October and November.

Civil War Lecture at OWU (9/28)

Award-winning Civil War expert Dr. Joan Waugh will speak in Benes Rooms A + B of HWCC (40 Rowland Ave.) on Thurs., Sept. 28 (7:30 pm). She is the author or editor of books such as "The American War: A History of the Civil War Era," "The Memory of the Civil War in American Culture," "Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant: A History of the Union Cause," and "Unsentimental Reformer: The Life of Josephine Shaw Lowell." Her presentation represents OWU's 2017 Richard W. Smith Lecture in Civil War History, sponsored by the Dept. of History. The talk is free & open to the public.

Turtle Trot & Fall Festival (9/30)

Join OWU's Delta Zeta sorority for a fun run / walk on Sat., Sept. 30 (10 am – 2 pm), with fall festivities at the finish line to benefit their partner, the Starkey Hearing Foundation. The event will be a friendly, non-competitive race around the residential side of the OWU campus, starting & ending at Fraternity Hill. At the finish, there will be a fall-themed festival with games, food & music. Tickets are \$20 for people participating in the race. The event is all-inclusive, so bring your children, family & friends to come out for an amazing cause. The Starkey Hearing Foundation has traveled to over 100 countries across the world to spread the gift of hearing, with 1.1 millions hearing aids given. Register at <https://dzturtletrout.eventbrite.com>. Visit www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org to learn about the foundation. For additional questions, please contact OWU student Katie Kuckelheim (kakuckel@owu.edu).

Scioto Heritage Fest in Ostrander (9/30)

Take a step back in time with the Delaware County District Library (DCDL) on Sat., Sept. 30. From 11 am to 3 pm the Ostrander Branch Library is hosting the Scioto Heritage Fest to celebrate the local history of Scioto Township. The festival focuses on the late 19th century and the trains of the era. 1850s engine "The Jerk" will be making an appearance as well as a model train display from the Toy Train Operating Society (Buckeye Division). Spend the day indoors and out by the bonfire or inside the library with great pioneer demonstrations. Local author Karen Meyer (who will be profiled here soon) will be presenting on the pioneer lifestyle, and local musicians will be playing 19th century songs. Several 19th century trades, such as

quilting and weaving, will be on display. Families will find food, crafts & games for all ages. Attendees can also enjoy a self-guided tour of Ostrander churches. The festival is free & open to the public.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



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

Here's your chance to support green energy in Ohio. 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. In 2016, three homes were located in the City of Delaware and several more in Delaware County. The sites include homes, businesses, public buildings, parks & churches. On average, 2,000 people witnessed a range of technologies, including solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and energy efficiency systems. The 2017 tour will take place the weekend of Oct. 1- 2 and is presented in partnership with the American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour. Details and a list of participating sites will be available soon.

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 another one of its quarterly open houses where the public is invited to tour the beautiful facility for free, meet the associate members, and enjoy classes and demos. The address is 5700 Columbus Pike (US 23 S) and/or 123 Hyatts Rd.



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.

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

OWU's Dept. of Theatre & Dance has an exciting 2017-18 season coming up. 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 Chappel 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."

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.

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.

CITY OF DELAWARE

United Against Hate & Bigotry

On Aug. 12, a Nazi sympathizer plowed his car into a group of people in Charlottesville, Virginia, killing one woman and injuring 19 others. After the tragic event, many rallies were hastily organized around the country to demonstrate solidarity with the victims and to protest the violence perpetrated by the alt-right, neo-Confederates, white supremacists, anti-Semites, KKK members, fascists, and neo-Nazis. Some 500 people participated in a Columbus rally.

In Delaware, too, there was an improvised sidewalk march from the OWU campus to the Courthouse, held Sun., 8/13, at 7 pm. Well over 100 people were in attendance, among them OWU faculty and staff, students, families with children, townsmen, retired people, and faith leaders. Among the demonstrators was OWU President Rock Jones with his wife and dog. Many protesters carried signs and inspirational messages such as "Stand against hate," "Silence enables racism," "Say no to hate & bigotry," "Love is all you need," "America belongs to all people," "Remaining neutral is not an option," "Immigrants are welcome here," and so on. The occasion was grim, but the weather was favorable and the mood among the chatting and well-behaved walkers relaxed. No hecklers were in sight, and there were no tense moments. Many drivers honked their horn in support. The walk concluded with pictures and a round of applause. – It is certainly true that Delaware has many supporters of various right-wing causes, but it is also true that the majority of the population are decent people who refuse to be intimidated by white racists, supremacists, and neo-Nazis eager to do away with democracy and build a fascist regime.

Another Rally in Solidarity with Charlottesville

A second rally in solidarity with Charlottesville was held on Fri., Aug. 25 (5-7 pm), on OWU's JAYwalk in front of Beeghly Library. The peaceful demonstration was organized by OWU student Emily Shpiece and others, but many OWU faculty, staff, and administrators as well as some folks from the Delaware community were also in attendance. Speakers included people from a wide spectrum of national, racial, religious, and sexual identities. They all stated that this country has a deep-seated problem – hatred and bigotry rooted in racism, which is the fallacious belief that certain groups are superior or inferior to others. Silence is not an option in the face of hate speeches delivered and hate crimes committed by Klansmen, Anti-Semites, neo-Nazis, and white supremacists. We must all do our part, which is to show up and speak up against that which is evil and threatens to destroy love and hope, decency and humanity. Many signs said loud and clear, "Hate has no home here" ("El odio no tiene hogar aquí") in several languages.

Delaware Celebrates "Day of Kindness"

Mayor Carolyn Kay Riggle recently proclaimed Wed., Aug. 30, to be a "Day of Kindness" for Delaware. She encouraged residents to be kind to each other and to perform random acts of kindness throughout the day. The Foot & Ankle Wellness Center at 1871 W. William St. (corner of W. William and S. Houk) sponsored a kindness event from 5-7 pm with free food, a live band, and entertainment, and an aerial photo of community members forming a giant heart was taken. – The celebration was planned before the events in Charlottesville unfolded, but it came at an important time in the nation's history. There is a fork in the road, and communities have to choose whether to walk the path of kindness, love, and peace or the

path of anger, hatred, and violence. Let's hope Delaware chooses the former and not the latter. "Community Matters" is quite familiar with Adolf Hitler, Nazi history, and fascist ideology, and we can assure everyone who is listening that the dark turn Germany took in 1933 is the road to war and ruin, atrocities and shame.

City Meetings in September

Here are the September meetings of City Council and its affiliated commissions, committees, and boards. All meetings are at 7 pm in City Hall (1 S. Sandusky St.) unless otherwise noted. City Council – Mon., Sept. 11 and 25; Civil Service Commission – Wed., Sept. 6 (3 pm); Planning Commission – Wed., Sept. 6; Board of Zonings Appeals – Wed., Sept. 13; Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – Tues., Sept. 19; Shade Tree Commission – Tues., Sept. 26; Historic Preservation Commission – Tues., Sept. 27. In August, several meetings were cancelled due to a lack of agenda. Cancellations are not always reported in the press or reflected on the city's website. Email Elaine McCloskey (emccloskey@delawareohio.net) when in doubt.

Proposed CIP Budget 2018-22

City Manager Tom Homan has submitted the budget for the next 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), 2018-22. City Council readings are scheduled for 8/28 and 9/11. At least one work session is planned for 10/2, with adoption occurring on Oct. 9. All meetings are open to the public. The 61-page document can be accessed on the City's website (www.delawareohio.net) under "Residents," then "City Hall." As always, it includes fascinating details.

Residents may be particularly interested in traffic infrastructure and road surfacing. "The Point" is progressing nicely, but as a result of the failed levy in 2016 the proposed CIP reflects even less annual funding for local street resurfacing than in the past – only \$150,000. The CIP document admits that this is "far short of what the annual investment should be." The CIP also notes a growing "strain" between the city's rapid expansion on the one hand and its ability to adequately maintain its existing roadway network on the other. The current trajectory is not sustainable. Has the City expanded too rapidly and should it attempt to slow down what the document suggests is unsustainable growth? Disappointment over the failed road levy is understandable, but the City still has a responsibility to serve residents in a way that moves Delaware forward and does not hold it back. For example, the City seems willing to pay up to \$300,000 for a records-management system (RMS) to modernize police records, but unwilling to pay more than \$150,000 for roadway maintenance. These kind of "tough choices" deserve vigorous debate before implementation.

The time to learn about the City's plans for the future and to provide input is NOW, not when the projects are underway or after they are finished. Too often, residents say they are or were clueless about this or that. The information is available; you just have to pay attention. Whatever it is you are interested in (airport, fire, parks, police, refuse, sewer, sidewalks, technology, trails, water, etc.), find out what the CIP envisions and let the City know what's on your mind.

City Council Members Up for Reelection

Several City Council members are up for reelection on Nov. 7. Incumbent members George Hellinger, Carolyn Kay Riggle, and Kent Shafer submitted the necessary paperwork by the Aug. 9 deadline to fill the three at-large seats. Recently appointed councilman Jim Browning has also filed to seek his first elected term as Third Ward representative. This will be a contested election as Ben Kelly, George Mantzoros, and George McNab are also running for the Third Ward seat. As of 8/13, candidates' petitions have not yet been certified.

Debate over Parking Hours

The current enforcement hours for downtown parking in Delaware are Mon. – Fri., 9 am – 6 pm. At its last meeting, the Parking & Safety Committee discussed the possibility of extended enforcement hours Mon. – Fri., 8 am to 8 pm, as well as Sat., 10 am – 8 pm. No rationale was provided. This would indeed be a huge shift, as Council member Chris Jones pointed out, and will not be universally liked. Chances are that it might discourage and inhibit people from visiting downtown Delaware in the evenings and for weekend events such as Farmers Market and festivals. (On the other hand, it might encourage more people to walk or bike.) No action was taken on 8/21 as it was

clear that more input from downtown businesses and Main Street Delaware was needed.

Traffic Woes at W. Hull Drive

Also at the 8/21 meeting of the Parking & Safety Committee several residents of W. Hull Dr. brought up the issue of disproportionately high traffic volume on their street. W. Hull Dr., which connects Liberty Rd. with US 23 S, has become a collector street with about 3,000 vehicles per day (or 125 per hour) although there are only 62 residential homes. Even trucks and buses use it as a shortcut. The residents requested that traffic-calming and/or traffic-reducing measures be considered to mitigate the problem. They fear that with Coughlin's Crossing, now under development, the problem will only get worse in the future. Among their suggestions were speed tables (speed bumps or humps), but they may not be the answer. As Delaware expands, more traffic woes will be the new norm.

Anti-Tethering Ordinance Proposed

Following the model of Ohio House Bill 94 ("Animal Protection Initiative"), which has gone nowhere, the City of Delaware is now considering a local anti-tethering law. It was first introduced on Aug. 28 by City Council member Chris Jones. The proposed ordinance includes components such as shelter, food & drink, and veterinary care. The focus, however, is on tethering companion animals (as opposed to livestock) by means of short ropes, chains, chords, or similar constraints for long periods of time. The ordinance reads, "Tethers of unattended companion animals must be of a sufficient length to allow reasonable freedom of movement." However, the terms "sufficient" and "reasonable" are not defined, which leaves much room for interpretation. Ohio HB 94 prohibits tethers "less than twenty feet in length." It also prohibits outdoor tethering for excessive periods of time, at night, and in severe weather. – "Community Matters" welcomes the bill, but would like to see some specific definitions added in terms of tethering lengths and times so that the ordinance can be enforced equitably and meaningfully. Tethering is currently restricted or banned in 21 U.S. states and 14 Ohio communities.

Prairie Plantings in the City

At its 8/15 meeting, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board discussed a proposal for more prairie plantings within the City of Delaware. The four selected locations are: the U.S. 23 N. & Pennsylvania Ave. ramp; Firestation #2 near the intersection of Pittsburgh Dr. & London Rd.; the US 23 S. & State Rt. 42 S. ramp; and the Wetland Park on Mill Run Xing. Prairie plantings offer benefits such as cost savings through reduced mowing; reduced storm-water runoff; habitat for pollinators; and improved aesthetics.

"Community Matters" applauds the City's approach. However, we have one major concern. Have a look at the microscopic details of the proposal. In all four locations, the text states, "the existing weedy herbaceous cover, remaining turf grass, or other undesirable ground cover that is present shall be sprayed with an appropriate glyphosate-based herbicide (Rodeo and Roundup or approved equivalent) prior to seed installation." Anyone who has been paying attention to Monsanto, Roundup, and glyphosate these past years knows that glyphosate-based herbicides are extremely controversial and banned in many countries because they are considered "likely carcinogenic" substances by the World Health Organization. Glyphosate has also been linked to neurological diseases such as Parkinson's and male infertility. California recently required that warning labels to this effect be affixed to the product. While the jury might still be out on the toxicity of Roundup and Rodeo, the City of Delaware should err on the side of caution and not apply a potentially harmful substance in such large quantities in areas that are close to housing units or used for recreation. Also, any time it rains the glyphosate will contaminate Delaware's surface and groundwater resources.

Prescribed burns are also effective, but are probably not an option within city limits. However, there are alternatives such as disking & tilling the ground. The City should consult experts before proceeding, including the DGHD. There are great risks involved here, including possible litigation and a class-action suit down the road once the danger of glyphosate is firmly established, and the City should tread carefully and deliberately before it acts.

Delaware May Test a Synthetic Ice Rink

At the 8/15 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, director Ted Miller announced a nice surprise: Delaware has plans to introduce a synthetic ice rink made of silicon plastic ice to the community. You may have an opportunity to see and test the "glice" rink on the First Friday weekend in December at Willis Education Center. It will be a rental from a company near Cleveland. Swiss-engineered, "glice" surfaces meet professional standards for ice hockey and ice-skating. The main advantage is that it can be used at all times in all climates, indoors and outdoors.

Drug Awareness Program

A "Delaware Community Awareness" presentation took place on Aug. 12 at the Second Baptist Church (near SWCI) at 55 Ross Street. Maryhaven Delaware partnered with the DGHD and the Delaware Police Dept. to discuss youth risk behavior, drug awareness, and how to administer Narcan. The opioid epidemic is a national emergency, and it makes sense to address the crisis within the City and County of Delaware as well. It's good to see it handled not merely as a law-and-order issue, but also as a psychological and medical problem. A comprehensive approach is needed for prevention and treatment to be effective. Unfortunately, the program would have benefited from better publicity. There was little advance notification.

OWU Among the Best Colleges

The "Princeton Review" is ranking Ohio Wesleyan University among the "best" colleges nationwide and in the Midwest. According to the just released 2018 edition of the guidebook, "students are happy, lab facilities are great, internships are widely available, (there's) great financial aid, everyone loves the Battling Bishops, (and) frats and sororities are popular." In addition, students gave their professors an "interesting" rating of 93 and an "accessible" rating of 92. One student noted, "A major benefit of going to a smaller school is that I am on a first-name basis with multiple professors, and even text them if I need help with something." For the 2018 edition of "The Best 382 Colleges," the editors of the Princeton Review surveyed 137,000 college students nationwide – approximately 358 per school – about their school's academics, administration, campus life, student body, and themselves. "We picked the 382 'best' colleges for our book primarily for their outstanding academics," said Robert Franek, the guidebook's lead author. To learn more, visit www.princetonreview.com/best382.

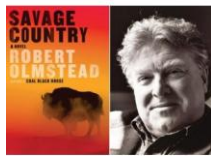
Rock Jones Makes the Case for the Liberal Arts

OWU celebrated its 175th Opening Convocation of the academic year on Aug. 20. In his convocation speech to students and also in a message to employees, President Rock Jones reiterated OWU's core values. A liberal-arts education, he explained, requires an open mind, includes diversity and inclusion, promotes critical and creative thinking, leads to empathy and compassion, and cultivates the ability to recognize the human dignity of every person. "These are our founding values, and they could not stand in more stark contrast to the values espoused by white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and Ku Klux Klan members," he wrote. Jones also pledged "to ensure the safety and well-being of every person on our campus" in the face of widespread prejudice, hate, and violence. "Deep divisions" plague society today, Jones said, and it is therefore imperative to study history and to develop "a moral vision" that has as its goal the common good. The darkness that surrounds us must be faced and named; in the face of evil silence is not an option. He added that it is also important to learn more about the forgotten and suppressed legacies of "those who resisted and fought back and still fight back" ("The Blood of Emmett Till" by Timothy B. Tyson). Here, too, OWU could play a leadership role.

OWU Offers Arabic

For the first time in its 175-year history, OWU is offering classroom Arabic. Visiting professor Abeer Abdel Hafez from Cairo University (Egypt) will teach Beginning Arabic as well as Spanish language courses throughout the 2017-18 academic year. A dozen or so OWU students have signed up for the Arabic 110. Arabic is a culturally, politically, and economically important world language and is widely spoken as a primary language or secondary lingua franca throughout the Near and Middle East and North Africa. Other languages that OWU currently offers are Chinese, French, German,

Italian, Japanese, Spanish, and Swahili as well as the classical languages of Latin and Greek. Sanskrit and Hebrew are offered through the Religion Dept. on an as-needed basis. Russian is still on the books, but the demand for the Slavic language has plummeted nationwide and it has not been taught at OWU for a number of years.



Bob Olmstead Publishes "Savage Country"

Bob Olmstead, OWU's Director of Creative Writing, will publish "Savage Country: A Novel" on Sept. 26 (Algonquin Books, 304 pp.). Set in 1873, it is the story of a buffalo hunt in Kansas and of human survival in an inhospitable landscape full of wild animals, diseases, wildfires, lightning strikes, blue northers, flash floods, and human killers. The frontier novel is deeply immersed in history, but at the same time the unfolding drama tries to make sense of life in the present. Olmstead's previous war trilogy was dark and violent, but it appears this American story may be an even more brutal masterpiece.

Marty Kalb Retrospective Continues

Retired OWU art professor Marty Kalb has had a distinguished 50-year career as an accomplished artist and teacher. From Aug. 18 through Oct. 8, visitors have the opportunity to see a comprehensive retrospective of his oeuvre (some 65 pieces) in OWU's Ross Art Museum at 60 S. Sandusky St. The exhibit is free & open to the public, but the catalog is \$30. Much of Kalb's early work is abstract. His later work includes powerful images inspired by the Holocaust. His recent work focuses on water. To learn more, visit www.owu.edu/ross and/or www.martykalb.com.

OWU Launches "Career Closet"

OWU's Office of Career Services, located on the third floor of the Hamilton-Williams Campus Center (HWCC 324), has started a praiseworthy new initiative. Leslie Melton and her team have created a "career closet" for students in need of professional attire for job interviews, career fairs, internships, networking events, and the like. Students will be able to check out men's and women's suits, shirts & blouses, pants & khakis, shoes & belts in various sizes as well as accessories. The career closet is open & free for all OWU students with a valid ID. – The Center accepts new or gently worn items that are in good & clean condition and in current fashion as well as hangers.

Delaware School Board

The Delaware School Board will have 3 open seats. Running on Nov. 7 are incumbent board members Jayna McDaniel-Browning and Frances O'Flaherty, along with newcomers Mark Butler, Deborah Kruse-Guebert, Corie Dunfee Thompson, and Michael Wiener.

Hayes High School Has New "Rowland Wing"

Delaware City Schools is done with construction and renovation projects for now. A ribbon-cutting event took place on 8/26. The last project was a new 22-classroom wing at Hayes H.S. dedicated to teaching the STEM sciences. It is, appropriately, named after 2005 Nobel Prize winner F. Sherwood Rowland (1927-2012), a native of Delaware and an OWU graduate. He discovered that man-made chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) posed a grave threat to the ozone layer. Products that contained the substance were eventually banned by the EPA. Rowland was a devoted son of Delaware and of OWU and very much dedicated to fostering the love of sciences among young people. Rowland Ave. on the OWU campus is also named after him.

"Buddy Benches" at Schultz Now Painted

Prompted in 2015 by two third-graders (Addison Reed & Chloe Stewart), Schultz Elementary School installed two wooden buddy benches at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, but they remained unpainted. They have now been painted in bright and welcoming colors (orange & black and blue & purple) in time for the 2017-18 school year. – "Buddy benches" are park benches at a

school's playground. If a student doesn't have someone to play or interact with, they sit on the bench and a designated "buddy" will come over to talk, play, or find them a friend. Buddy benches are intended to eliminate loneliness, foster friendship on the playground, and build community. They also help reduce or eliminate bullying. Schultz' benches are also used after school and on weekends by parents while their kids are on the playground or play ball. To learn more about buddy benches and to view images, visit www.buddybench.org. Google also has an impressive gallery of images. It's good to see that kids are encouraged to practice the values of communication, inclusion, compassion, understanding, and friendship. – Alum Creek Elementary (Olentangy School System) reportedly also has a buddy bench in use that was donated by the Girl Scouts.

Arts Castle Releases Fall Program

The Delaware County Cultural Arts Center, aka the "Arts Castle," has issued its 2017 fall & holiday program. The 36-page brochure lists dozens of courses for children and teens / adults. Among them are: ceramics, dance & yoga, painting & drawing, performing arts, floral arts, glass arts, fiber arts, jewelry & metal work, music, and more. There is even wine tasting (for those 21 and older) and tours through Oak Grove Cemetery guided by local historian Brent Carson. Copies of the program are available at the Arts Castle, the Public Library, and other places.

Boardman Art Garden

The Northwest Neighborhood Association (NNA) and Creative Foundations at 57 N. Sandusky St. have partnered to create the Boardman Art Garden between W. William and W. Winter St. The first pieces of artwork were installed in August. A quarter of the 2.2-acre property is being converted into a temporary outdoor gallery while the rest remains unchanged for now. OWU and other entities will continue to use the field for band and sports practice, and the existing basketball and volleyball poles on the north side will be incorporated into the park. At the moment, there is not much to see – only two canvasses are up. But many great things had humble beginnings.

OWU Chamber Orchestra Has Openings

The Ohio Wesleyan University Chamber Orchestra is open to OWU students and staff as well as to the Delaware community. The orchestra has currently openings for violin, viola, cello, French horn, low brass, and clarinet. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings 7-9:30 pm in Presser Hall (inside Sanborn Hall on Elizabeth St.). The fall concert is Tues., Nov. 7 in Gray Chapel (inside University Hall). The program is Grieg's "Holberg Suite," Johann Strauss' aria "Mein Herr," and Stravinsky's "Pulcinella Suite." For more info, email Dr. Lucy Ginther at lfginthe@owu.edu or call/text [513-571-1766](tel:513-571-1766).



Delaware Music Academy

There is a lot of creative talent within the city, and the Delaware Music Academy (DMA) at 27 W. Williams St., Suite B exists to support it and help it flourish. It is a for-profit business, but Warren Hyer, Executive Director of the Central Ohio Symphony, adds that "the DMA is important to arts education in the community. The young students, through learning and the practice of music, develop skills that are fundamental to learning in school and careers as well as the satisfaction of playing an instrument." DMA has been at its current site in the alley between Breakaway Cycling and Sherwin-Williams paint store since 2013, but its roots are decades old. According to owner Adam Furay, its core business is one-on-one music lessons to K-12 children (about 80%) as well as working and retired adults (20%). Instruments include the banjo, cello, clarinet, double bass, drums & percussion, flute, French horn, acoustic & electric guitar, mandolin, piano, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, tuba, ukulele, viola, violin as well as the human voice. The lessons rarely follow a one-size-fits-all prescribed curriculum. Instead, they are customized to best address the strengths and weaknesses of each individual student. Teachers

have advanced degrees and are consummate professionals, many with their own website. The normal rate is \$28 per 30 minutes. Typically, the half dozen practice rooms on site see about 800 appointments on average each month, according to Furay. There are also occasional student recitals and clinics by touring musicians. In addition to music lessons, the store also handles customer requests to buy, rent, and repair new and used instruments and accessories. Speakers & amplifiers can also be brought in for repair. Anything not available in the store can be ordered. To learn more, visit www.delawaremusicacademic.com and DMA's Facebook page.

The 2017 Great American Eclipse from Douglas, Wyoming by Cindy Brooman

It was several years ago when I first learned there would be a total eclipse of the sun on August 21, 2017. Knowing that all it took was one cloud to spoil an eclipse, I excluded the too-humid eastern half of the U.S. from consideration. I researched typical August rainfall along the remaining path of totality, and chose the state of Wyoming as having the lowest probability of inclement weather. I wasn't keen on viewing the eclipse with crowds of city revelers. Instead, I preferred a quiet, park-like setting. I wanted to see an encore of an effect I'd witnessed during the annular eclipse of 1994, and this required nearby trees. Through airbnb, I found a tiny house on a quiet residential street in Douglas, Wyoming. It was vacant because it was for sale. The host would provide air beds; we would need to bring sleeping bags. A quick study showed that Douglas was close to the center line of the 70-mile-wide umbral path, with a respectable 2 minutes and 15 seconds of totality. I snapped it up. We flew into Denver a day ahead, landing at 8:45 am MDT, then sailed up I-25 in a rental car at the legal speed limit of 80 mph. We stopped for a chili dog at a soda shop in Chugwater – home of the famous "Chugwater Chili" – where a staff of high school girls struggled to serve hundreds of hungry tourists. Traffic was light, and we arrived in Douglas nearly two hours early. This would change drastically by the following day, with heavy traffic forecasts proving largely true, and unlucky motorists, running low on gas, being forced to turn back. I thanked my lucky stars we arrived a day ahead. The town of Douglas reminded me of Delaware about 40 years ago, with most businesses locally owned, and no big box stores. I loved it!

20% to 30% cloud cover was predicted, but when I opened the curtains on the morning of August 21 there wasn't a single cloud in the entire sky, which soon turned deep blue. The Wyoming sun was bright and hot, burning my skin. The eclipse began with a small nibble ("first contact") at about 10:25 am. I alternated between deluxe plastic eclipse glasses and a pair of 8 x 32 solar binoculars. When the solar disc was about 75 percent eclipsed, the landscape took on an eerie pallor. It was the color of late afternoon sunlight on a winter day. The chill of a cool breeze replaced the burning sensation on my skin. As the solar crescent became ever smaller, roosting birds chattered in the trees along the street. In a "pinhole camera effect," holes and gaps in the tree leaves began to project hundreds of images of eclipsed suns onto the pavement below. Totality was nearly upon us! The eclipse glasses came off. I looked to the northwest and watched as the umbra descended on us like a curtain of darkness. We were now standing in the center of the moon's shadow. Outside this circle the landscape was still bathed in sunlight, producing a 360-degree sunset. Breathtakingly beautiful! The sky overhead took on the blue-gray hue of twilight, and the brightest stars and planets were now visible. I spotted motion in my peripheral vision, and turned to see a passing nighthawk. The moon was surrounded by a white glow, and the sun's corona streamed from behind to form long white tails in several places. After 2 minutes and 15 seconds, sunlight began streaming through the mountain passes on the edge ("limb") of the moon, causing a line of about seven round red balls ("Baily's beads") to appear. These are harbingers of the solar disc's imminent return, and for safety I dropped my German-made Frederick Ehrlich 7 x 50 binoculars in favor of naked-eye viewing. The returning sun produced the famous "diamond ring effect" – blindingly bright for eyes that had now become accustomed to semi-darkness. I stared for the allowed count of one second, then donned my eclipse glasses once again. I enjoyed the "pinhole camera effect" from the tree leaves for at least another ten minutes. The few neighbors around us lost interest at this point, but I soaked it in as long as I could. I knew that the next eclipse wouldn't occur until April

8, 2024, and that there was no guarantee of a front-row seat with perfect viewing conditions. Just ask the unfortunate souls in Carbondale, Illinois.

Exhibit on Local Swimming Holes (8/13-11/19)

Forrest Meeker Homestead Museum at 2690 Stratford Rd. is collecting materials for a special exhibit on local swimming locations such as pools, lakes, rivers, and other swimming holes. Some old photographs are now on exhibit through Nov. 19, but Benny Shoultz is still looking for more information. The local-history museum is open Sundays from 2-5 pm. Admission is free, but a donation of \$5 is suggested. For more info on the Delaware County Historical Society, visit www.delawareohiohistory.org.

COUNTY & CENTRAL OHIO

WIC Helps Women, Infants & Children

Infant mortality in Ohio is above the national average. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is one of the programs designed to combat the problem. It is a fundamental part of Ohio's public-health system and intended to reach income-eligible pregnant, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and their infants up to the age of 12 months as well as children up to the age of 5 years with a medical nutrition risk. WIC services include nutrition & breastfeeding education and support; referral to health-care providers & community programs; health testing (height, weight, blood); and supplemental foods supplying key nutrients if necessary. WIC promotes and supports breastfeeding as the optimal method to feed infants. The program provides prescribed amounts of healthy formula and foods only – no soda, cigarettes, alcohol, etc. WIC serves eligible families at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. Those currently receiving assistance from Ohio Works First (OWF), Food Assistance (formerly Food Stamps), and Medicaid are automatically WIC-eligible. Recipients of services must be residents of Ohio and be able to provide proof of identity. For more info and to watch an informational 7-minute video in English or Spanish, visit the website of the local Delaware General Health District (www.delawarehealth.org) or stop by in person at 1-3 W. Winter St. in downtown Delaware. Tracy Jennings (tjennings@delawarehealth.org) is the program manager. For additional questions, call 740-203-2050. After the completion of an assessment and if meeting federal guidelines, your WIC card will be issued by the DGH staff. You will also receive a list of authorized foods and retailers.

Delaware County Dept. of Job & Family Services

The Delaware County Dept. of Job & Family Services (JFS) offers programs and resources to help people attain self-sufficiency, enhance employment opportunities, and live in safe, stable families. In June, the director of the agency, David Dombrovsky, gave a presentation to the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's July newsletter provided a summary of the talk, along with a link to the 25 slides used for the presentation. – Dombrovsky started out by dispelling some of the myths surrounding public assistance. He dismissed the notion that people on welfare are unmotivated and lazy. In fact, 75% of them are members of working families. And he stressed that job training and placement is one of the most important tasks of JFS. He also dismissed the stereotype that welfare recipients are people of color. The fact is that 40.2% of them are white. In addition, it is not possible to live on welfare for years on end. There are clearly defined time frames and dollar limitations in place designed to prevent abuse of taxpayer money. Among the specific programs Dombrovsky mentioned are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps), Child's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), housing assistance, and others. Dombrovsky also spent considerable time explaining Adult Protective Services (APS), a program intended to reduce one of the most underreported crimes – elder abuse. However, that is a topic for another time. To sum up, the JFS offers vital employment and training services as well as assistance and protective services to the community, and it allocates the limited resources it has in a responsible manner. To find out more about the agency, visit its

offices at 140 N. Sandusky St., call 740-833-2300, or go to www.delawaredfjs.org.



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Delaware & Union Counties has an orientation session for volunteers on Tues., Sept. 19 (6-7 pm) at its office at 305 Curtis St. in Delaware. – Habitat will also hold an application meeting on Thurs., Sept. 21 (6-6:45 pm) at Delaware Township Hall, 2590 Liberty Rd. For more info, visit habitatdelawareunion.org.

Delaware County Now "Alternative Energy Zone"

Many companies are interested in alternative energies to save money and to improve their public image. To respond to their needs and to remain competitive, Ohio Senate Bill 232 was enacted to make investments in renewable and advanced energies tax-exempt. The Delaware County Commissioners on 7/27/17 have now joined a number of other Ohio counties that have established so-called "Alternative Energy Zones" (AEZs). Economic Development Director Bob Lamb explained that investments in solar, wind, and other forms of clean energy would henceforth be exempt from personal and property taxes. There is, however, a capacity minimum of 5 megawatts in order to be eligible for the program. Companies that produce more power than needed can sell it back to the grid. Lamb also said that he didn't expect the installation of controversial new wind and solar farms in Delaware County because of high land values. However, high-capacity roof-top installation of solar-panel arrays (e.g., Ikea or Chase) is definitely something that the county will see more of in the future. There are some problems with Ohio's AEZs. For example, "clean coal" and "clean gas" are not alternative (i.e., renewable and fossil-free) energies, but they are included in the program because they are considered an "advanced" form of energy generation. Nuclear energy is also included. There are also some hefty financial eligibility requirements, which exclude smaller businesses. However, the program does reaffirm the value of clean energy; sounds like a reasonable political compromise in this day and age; and opens the door for future investments in green energy. It signals the county's openness to clean and advanced energy projects.

Ohio Is Not Doing Enough to Fight Tobacco

22% of Ohioans smoked tobacco in 2015, 7% more than the national average of 15%, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). Tobacco use is deadlier than any other disease in Ohio. It is linked to 30% of the state's deaths. However, Ohio allocates just 10.3% of the CDC-recommended funding level for tobacco-control programs. Also, the state's tobacco excise tax of \$1.60 is less than the national average of \$1.69. Essentially, Ohio has dropped the ball on anti-tobacco measures in recent years. Campaign donations from Big Tobacco might have something to do with it. – The Cancer Action Network of the American Cancer Society has now severely criticized Ohio for not doing more to promote tobacco-cessation programs. Their report also notes that health outcomes are poor in Ohio overall, as evidenced by the opioid crisis and the high infant-mortality rate. More investment in preventive medicine would save taxpayers and the state a lot of money in the long run. – A similar study, published last month in "Health Affairs," documents a shorter life expectancy for adults and a higher infant mortality in the 13-state region of Appalachia, incl. Ohio. The authors found that one of the biggest culprits was the prevalence of tobacco use. Nearly 20% of Appalachian women smoke during pregnancy, compared to 8% in the rest of the country.

Tobacco Use – What Is Happening in Delaware County?

In the last adult-health assessment completed in 2013, 15% of Delaware County adults were current smokers and 54% of those adults had tried to quit in the past year. According to the Delaware

County Youth Risk Behavior Survey completed during the 2016-17 school year, only 5% of high school youth are current smokers, while 15% of high-school youth use electronic vapor products.

While the smoking rates are considerably lower for both adults and youth in Delaware County (15% of Ohio high-school students are smokers, according to the 2013 Ohio Youth Risk Behavior Survey), we need to continue to support tobacco prevention programming in our county to keep those rates low. We are fortunate to have resources in Delaware County doing just that. The Tobacco-Free Delaware County Coalition, active since 1996, educates our community, promotes prevention best practices, shares cessation services, and supports effective policy change. If interested in the Tobacco-Free Delaware County Coalition, please contact Len Fisher, Coalition Chair, at lfisher9@insight.rr.com. Another resource is the Creating Healthy Communities Program that focuses on three health risk factors of which one is tobacco use. Through this program, grant funds are available to support tobacco-free property signage, enhance tobacco-free school campus policy, promote policy change, and focus on communities that are at higher risk. For more information on this program, contact Abbey Trimble at atrimble@delawarehealth.org. For those wanting to quit, cessation resources are available. You can call the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW, or contact Douglas Clark at OhioHealth Grady Memorial Hospital if interested in attending tobacco cessation classes free of charge at (740-) 615-2518 or douglas.clark@ohiohealth.com.

The above information was provided by the Delaware General Health District (DGHD). Additional health-assessment data can be found on their website at www.delawarehealth.org.

Siren System Testing Now on Wednesdays

Effective Aug. 2017, Delaware County began testing its outdoor warning siren system on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:01 pm. This replaces the previous testing time on the first Saturday of each month at noon. The change from Sat. to Wed. is aligned with national and international jurisdictions. The Delaware County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's main goal is to save lives, prevent injuries, and protect property & the environment from all hazards – natural or man-made, incl. terrorism. Their website states, "In the event of a disaster, we coordinate the county's resources and agencies to reduce the impact it has on the county. We strive to expedite the restoration of public services, the rehabilitation and recovery of individuals and businesses, and to return the community back to normal. We achieve our goals through the four phases of emergency management (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery), conducting training and training exercises, and through education." To learn more, visit www.delcoema.org.

IKEA Supports Sustainability

The 328-page IKEA catalog that Delaware residents received in the mail last month addresses the issue of food waste, among other things. The company says it has "a commitment to reduce food waste in all stores by 50 percent by 2020" (p. 112). Consumers are encouraged not to waste food either. Suggestions include proper storage to keep things fresh longer and thinking "leaf to root" when preparing meals. IKEA wants to be environmentally progressive in other areas, too. The same catalog has articles on "upcycling" PET water bottles and leftover IKEA fabric into new products. And, of course, the new Columbus store features (or will soon feature) Central Ohio's largest roof-top solar-panel array. – It is sometimes hard to tell what is greenwashing for PR purposes or a genuine concern for and commitment to being environmentally "woke." Sometimes both factors may play a role. Clearly, IKEA is a for-profit retailer that sells a lot of materialistic "stuff." Still, we applaud the company's sustainability efforts and its attempts to increase environmental awareness in Central Ohio.

Many Homicides Remain Unsolved

In the 1960s, the clearance rate for homicides used to be over 90%, but the number has since come way down. In 2015, only 61.5% of homicides nationwide were solved and cleared, according to the FBI. In Columbus, the situation is even worse. The current number of homicides in Columbus stands at 83 (as of 8/21), but only 34% to

41% have so far been cleared, depending on definitions and calculations. Statistics indicate that the clearance rate in Columbus was above 60% only three times during the 9 years from 2008-16. What are the reasons for this development? There are many factors at play, but one of them is lack of funding and resources in an age of budget cuts. Cities that struggle financially have higher rates of cold cases. Another major reason is the lack of cooperation from witnesses and communities, according to a lengthy article in the Columbus Dispatch (8/16). There is "a growing disconnect between police and the community they serve," according to the report. As a result of Ferguson and similar incidences before and after, "tensions with minority communities have worsened as controversial videos surface[d] showing officers using excessive force." The lack of trust and cooperation has worsened in the past few years instead of getting better, making homicide clearances rarer.

Ashley Starts Farmer's Market

Ashley started a downtown farmer's market on High St. last month, hoping to attract more people to the village. It will be held every Sat. from 9 am – 12 pm until Oct. The market is free to vendors, but they are responsible for bringing their own tables and chairs. For sale are fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods as well as arts & crafts, but no used yard-sale items of any kind. A farmers market is particularly important because Ashley does not have a grocery store where people can purchase fresh produce.

Culling Geese at the Scioto River

The City of Columbus has attempted to get rid of Canada geese at the Scioto River in the downtown area in multiple ways: by asking visitors not to feed them, through dogs; by displaying a plastic coyote; by using noise and fireworks; by employing laser beams; through egg-shaking; and by hiring SCRAM that offers "100% non-lethal solutions" for invasive wildlife. Nothing seemed to work. Finally, as a last resort, it employed the Wildlife Control Company that promised to "humanely euthanize" the birds by using carbon dioxide. They rounded up some 250 geese, took them off-site (to avoid negative publicity), and "put the birds to sleep." Unfortunately for the adult birds, they were mostly flightless in late June because of the molting process, and they were defenseless. The bill to the city was \$10,750, or about \$43 per goose, according to the Columbus Dispatch. Culling nuisance animals by the dozens, hundreds, and even thousands is a widespread practice within cities, around airports, along beaches, and so on. Depending on the state, targeted are badgers, bears, beavers, bison, wild boars, coyotes, deer, foxes, moose, muskrats, pigeons, raccoons, rats, swans, wolves, and many smaller animals. Even when protected under federal law (as Canada geese are), they can be killed with impunity in the name of laws that elevate human interests over wildlife interests.

To cull or not to cull, that is the question. Sue Hagan from Preservation Parks wrote in 2014 that culling deer is "a grim but necessary task," or they would denude the forest and decimate the parks. Many environmentalists, however, believe that culling wildlife is inhumane and not the way to go. They say alternatives exist, among them trapping and releasing animals elsewhere. It is also possible to disrupt their birthrates through chemical contraceptives. It does seem cruel and barbaric to trap defenseless animals and to massacre them every time they interfere with humans. Many published letters to the editor of the Columbus Dispatch indicate that this is a widely held public conviction. The problem is not going away. In fact, it is becoming more urgent as the population of humans continues to grow. Also, climate change has made it possible for Canada geese to overwinter in Ohio now, something they did not do a few decades ago. So, this is an important area of research that requires increased attention and permanent solutions. "Culling" is at best a temporary band-aid; any void is quickly filled with new coyotes, deer, and geese.

Radicalization and Deradicalization

A federal judge in Columbus, James L. Graham, has unexpectedly postponed the sentencing of a young terrorist who pleaded guilty to providing material support to an organization designated as terrorist. Abdurahman Sheik Mohamud, a Somali native now 25 years old, had come to the U.S. as a child and was raised to respect the values of this country. However, he and his brother became radicalized and were prepared to do something big. However, it seems that Mohamud had completely abandoned any plans to

engage in terrorism by November 2014. – How do you arrive at a fair judgment in such a case? Most judges, without delay, would have gone along with the prosecutor's mindless request for a 23-year prison term. However, Judge Graham was not comfortable with that and voiced his concerns. He is known to ask questions that others don't think of. Was Mohamud pressured into terrorism by his older brother? Why had a psychiatric evaluation not been done? And he wanted to know if prisons provided "deradicalization programs" to give young terrorists a second chance. If radicalization is possible, why not deradicalization? The last question is an especially intriguing one. Retribution is an understandable reaction when crimes are committed, but in a civilized society rehabilitation is an equally important goal. Religions have a long tradition of forgiveness and reintegration in cases of sincere contrition and penitence, but as a rule the secular justice system harbors no such sentiments.

The Case of Cheryl Brooks Sullivan

In 2016, Cheryl Brooks Sullivan won the Democratic primary when she ran for Franklin County Treasurer. She then defeated her Republican rival with 53% to 47% in the general election. Her 4-year-term was supposed to start with the new fiscal year on Sept. 4. However, there is now a road block. Her distant past includes a felony conviction for buying cocaine and jail time. In addition, she and her former husband filed for bankruptcy protection three times, twice in Florida and once in Ohio. With that kind of a record, attempts by the county to provide Sullivan with a bond (insurance against officeholder or employee dishonesty) failed. In other words, she was uninsurable. Since Ohio law states that a county treasurer must be bonded to be sworn in, the office is likely to remain vacant until someone else is appointed. – The case raises interesting questions. Everyone who knows Sullivan says she is not the same person she once was. She is widely trusted. Rehabilitation and redemption seem to have worked in this instance, and she has been a successful real-estate agent for decades. So the question is: How long should someone's negative financial and criminal record be held against them? Should youthful digressions result in a life sentence? Is it ethical to exclude someone from public office forever even when there is clear evidence that the person has changed for the better? The case is complicated by the fact that Sullivan is African-American. Is this perhaps a racist ploy to relegate minorities to the fringes? It is well-documented that Blacks have higher prosecution and conviction rates than Whites when committing the same crimes. Also, plenty of white officeholders have criminal records and don't seem to suffer ill consequences. – We do not know the specifics of Sullivan's life. Denying bond may or may not be a justifiable and correct decision. But clearly, the case raises troubling questions about race and fairness and the systematic exclusion of entire population groups from active and meaningful participation in public life and the democratic process.

8/31 Update: Sullivan says she has been offered bond coverage, at a very steep price, through Marsh & McLennan, a 146-year-old international company with annual revenues of \$13 billion.

YMCA Opens Welcome Center for Immigrants

In June 2018, the North YMCA on the northeast side of Columbus (1640 Sandalwood Place) opened a New American Welcome Center. The NAWC is one of currently 12 such centers opened in YMCA organizations nationwide and the only one in Ohio. The center helps newcomers with case management and understanding how to navigate the byzantine system of local agencies. It also builds bridges between immigrants and the community and assists with assimilation efforts such as housing, language courses, and employment. The center also provides space for new Americans to hold meetings and events. Clients do not have to be YMCA members. – Many people may not realize that the YMCA organization, founded in 1880, has an established mission that goes well beyond sports and health. It also includes social responsibility, civic engagement, and community development. For more info, visit www.ymcacolumbus.org/nawc.

OHIO

The Race for Ohio Governor Is On

The four Democratic candidates running for the office of Ohio Governor in 2018 will have their first debate on Thurs., Sept. 12

(6:30 pm) at Martins Ferry High School (5000 Ayers Limestone Rd.) in Belmont County on the Ohio River in eastern Ohio. They are Connie Pillich, Joe Schiavoni, Betty Sutton, and Nan Whaley. There is room for a 5th person on the panel should Richard Cordray decide to jump in. Five more debates are expected to follow this and next year before the May primary. The debates will be streamed live on Facebook and questions will be taken from the audience via Facebook and Twitter. To learn more, visit www.ohiodems.org. – On the Republican side, Mike DeWine, Jon Husted, Jim Renacci, and Mary Taylor are running for governor. Their first forum is scheduled for Oct. 8 (7-9 pm) at Genoa Baptist Church north of Westerville. It will be broadcast live on radio through Salem Media (98.9 FM and 104.5 FM). – The Green Party's candidate is Constance Gadell-Newton, a Columbus attorney.

Yes on Issue #1

If passed, state issue #1, known as "Marsy's Law," would "require that the rights of (crime) victims be protected as vigorously as the rights of the accused." The law is named after Marsy Nicholas who was killed in Los Angeles in 1983. Members of her family were stunned to learn that her murderer had been released on bail without their knowledge. While there are some conservative politics behind the proposed law, it is reasonable to protect the rights of crime victims, including their rights to privacy, protection, updates, and assistance, among other things. Under the constitutional amendment, victims would get the right to be consulted on plea deals for offenders and to receive notice of hearings that can impact their safety. To prevent stalking, the bill would also shield the BMW and voter registrations of eligible victims from public scrutiny. – Dozens of states already have similar laws on their books.

Yes on Issue #2

The drug monopolies are doing everything they can through million-dollar TV ads to muddy the waters and to confuse the voters. However, state issue #2, "The Drug Relief Act," is a simple concept. The approved ballot wording reads, the bill would "require the State of Ohio, including its state departments, agencies, and entities, to not pay more for prescription drugs than the price paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs." Proponents of the measure project savings of 20-40 percent annually, helping up to 4 million Ohioans. Drug prices are way too high, in some instances costing thousands of dollars. Studies have shown that drug companies invest more in marketing than in research while ordinary people have to choose between cutting their meals or their meds in half. The average person pays over \$1,000 for drugs annually. It's time to rein in Big Pharmacy.

What Is WIC?

Infant mortality in Ohio is above the national average. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is one of the programs designed to combat the problem. It is a fundamental part of Ohio's public-health system and intended to reach income-eligible pregnant, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and their infants up to the age of 12 months as well as children up to the age of 5 years with a medical nutrition risk. WIC services include nutrition & breastfeeding education and support; referral to health-care providers & community programs; health testing (height, weight, blood); and supplemental foods supplying key nutrients if necessary. WIC promotes and supports breastfeeding as the optimal method to feed infants. The program provides prescribed amounts of healthy formula and foods only – no soda, cigarettes, alcohol, etc. WIC serves eligible families at or below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines. Those currently receiving assistance from Ohio Works First (OWF), Food Assistance (formerly Food Stamps), and Medicaid are automatically WIC-eligible. Recipients of services must be residents of Ohio and be able to provide proof of identity. For more info and to watch an informational 7-minute video in English or Spanish, visit the local Delaware General Health District (www.delawarehealth.org). You will receive your WIC card and a list of authorized foods and retailers from the local DGHD at 1-3 W. Winter St. in downtown Delaware.

Should Dogs Be Allowed on Patios?

State Sen. Bill Coley from West Chester has introduced a new bill that would prohibit state, county, and local officials from barring dogs from outdoor patios. Restaurant, brewery, and coffee

shop owners and managers would instead decide whether or not to allow pooches on their premises. The Ohio Restaurant Association supports the measure. Health authorities also seem to have no objections provided certain conditions are met: 1. Posted signs must inform customers that dogs are permitted; 2. Dogs are allowed to enter patio areas only from the outside; 3. Dogs must stay on the ground and cannot be on chairs and tables; and 4. Restaurants must keep dog-waste kits on site. – "Community Matters" has seen plenty of dogs on local patios, and we have never witnessed or heard about problems. Of course, it goes without saying that dogs must be well-socialized and not be aggressive toward people or other animals.

NATION



MSNBC's Rachel Maddow

According to Nielsen, the most popular personality on prime-time television is now Rachel Maddow who works for MSNBC. Since Donald Trump's meteoric ascent, the station has surged in popularity, surpassing Fox Channel News and CNN. Every night, MSNBC's Chris Hayes, Rachel Maddow, Lawrence O'Donnell, and Brian Williams cover the presidency. While the program is based on solid reporting, it is probably fair to state that MSNBC, similar to Fox, is not always impartial and unbiased. MSNBC is known for its critical and dissecting views and has become the intellectual home for many Trump opponents, with Rachel Maddow being their champion.

What Do We Know about James Alex Fields?

James Alex Fields, 20, was born in Kenton (Kenton County), northern Kentucky. His father died before he was born. He grew up in Florence (Boone County), just south of Cincinnati. Both counties continue to have strong Appalachian "Hillbilly" roots, to quote D. J. Vance's bestseller. Northern Kentucky is a known hotbed of right-wing extremism. It might not be a coincidence that the Creation Museum (in Petersburg) is also located there. Fields' former history teacher at Cooper High School in the Boone County School District said in an interview that Fields "had this fascination with Nazism and a big idolatry of Adolf Hitler" and openly espoused "white supremacist views." It is also said that Fields is a member of Vanguard America, an openly fascist group, although the organization denies any affiliation. It has also been reported in the press that at one point of his life Fields was diagnosed with schizophrenia and prescribed anti-psychotic medication. His possible mental illness will certainly play a role in the upcoming trial. He graduated from high school in 2015 and pursued a brief career in the Army, but was released four months later due to "a failure to meet training standards." About a year ago, his mother and Fields moved to Maumee, Ohio, which is in the Toledo area. That is the reason why news reports have referred to him as "an Ohio man." Not long ago he told his mother he would travel to Charlottesville, Virginia, to join the biggest rally of right-wing nationalists, white supremacists, neo-Nazis, KKK members, and anti-Semites in a decade. Speakers at the rally included David Duke (the former KKK imperial wizard), Michael Hill (League of the South), and Richard Spencer who is dreaming of a white ethno-state in America. The rally was stopped by authorities before it officially began at noon, and perhaps it was the same outrage expressed by Spencer that propelled Fields to plow his Dodge Challenger through a crowd of counter-demonstrators, killing a woman and wounding several other people. He was arrested a short time later and is being held in prison without bail.

Democrats and Republicans correctly condemned the attack as an act of domestic terror perpetrated by right-wing extremists. Even Donald Trump had no choice but to condemn the senseless violence, although he assigned blame to "many sides" and was careful not to single out white supremacists, a core support group for him. Many of the demonstrators wore Trump hats that read, "Make America great again" and stated in interviews that he inspired them. It remains to be seen if this is a defining moment or perhaps even a watershed moment in history. Dylann Roof's 2015 massacre of nine African-

American churchgoers did not seem to move the needle much, but this white-on-white violence may have touched a deeper nerve. Also, within the GOP there is some disillusionment with Trump and growing estrangement. It is probably a premature hope, but some day historians may point their finger at Fields' violent act and say that this was the beginning of a turnaround. – As for Fields, it is another sad case of an empty life wasted and squandered in negative pursuits because of bad personal choices and lack of communal guidance. Society should offer impressive and vulnerable young men and women better options than opioids and crime, extremism and terrorism.

Holocaust Denier Ernst Zündel Dies

Holocaust denier Ernst Zündel (1939-2017) has died at the age of 78. Although he was born and died in Bad Wildbad in southwestern Germany, he spent decades of his life in Canada (1958-2005) and several years in the U.S. In North America, he found fertile ground and a receptive audience for his extremist ideology and propaganda. He produced and disseminated tons of revisionist material that influenced numerous other genocide deniers, Anti-Semites, Neo-Nazis, and white supremacists, among them David Irving and Fred A. Leuchter. Ironically, a trial in 1988 offered him a platform from which to elaborate on his views further and to bring science and truth into disrepute. At times, it seemed the Holocaust itself was on trial. Zündel was thus a forerunner of the modern age of falsehoods, fake news, and alternative facts. Climate-change deniers and Holocaust deniers use much of the same rhetoric, devices, and strategies. After another legal battle, he was deported to Germany in 2005. Laws against hate speech and hate crimes are strictly enforced there, and Zündel was sentenced to 5 years in prison for inciting hatred and violating the memory of the dead. He was released in 2010. – Zündel is an interesting case study because he was a living bridge from one demagogue to another. Historians will some day find value in studying his life and writings.

Bannon Back at Breitbart

Steve Bannon, the controversial chief strategist of Donald Trump, left the White House on 8/18 and is back at Breitbart News to lead their website. His departure is significant because of his year-long affiliation with Donald Trump and because he was seen by many as the face of the so-called alt-right and the keeper of the flame. Without Bannon, the president's agenda is now in the hands of more moderate advisers, diminishing the odds of getting his campaign promises accomplished. On the other hand, Bannon's involuntary departure may have saved Trump's presidency for now because after Charlottesville the nation seems to have lost some of its appetite for far-right bravura. – "Bannon the Barbarian," as he calls himself, has vouched to continue the "war" from outside the White House.

A New Book on Bannon

There is a new, deeply researched book by reporter Joshua Green on White House Chief Strategist Stephen K. Bannon (b. 1953), the former documentary maker and Breitbart executive. Entitled "Devil's Bargain: Steve Bannon, Donald Trump, and the Storming of the Presidency" (Penguin Press, 2017). The word "storming" is not a coincidence. It evokes "The Daily Stormer," the website for white racists and supremacists as well as Nazi ideology ("Der Stürmer"). Some people have compared him to NSDAP Minister Joseph Goebbels who also used media as an effective propaganda tool. Others have called him "the shadow president." While Green tells the story of Bannon from the beginning and has much to say about his alternate and dystopian worldview, he is also consistently interested in Trump's role. The book describes the president as an empty vessel into which Bannon poured his hard-right ideology, aggressively self-promoting his own dark brand in the process. However, the portrayal of Bannon as a brilliant Svengeli, with the president as his puppet, is an exaggeration. Trump is perfectly capable of making his own mistakes.

Trump's Councils Disbanded

After the events in Charlottesville on 8/12 and Trump's inadequate comments about them, elite business leaders started to defect en masse from the president's Manufacturing Jobs Initiative and Strategic and Policy Forum. More and more executives were coming to the conclusion that it was bad for business to be associated with

someone who was celebrated by white male supremacists as their inspiration. To save face and to spare himself from further humiliation, Mr. Trump announced on Twitter that he was ending both. Plans for a third council on infrastructure were likewise scrapped. – These councils are largely ceremonial, but they did signal and symbolize a supposedly close and productive relationship between Trump and the business community. But it now seems that executives have turned their backs on the president and his views that are frequently at odds with business values. It is another sign of the continued erosion and disintegration of the Trump administration. Many people in the know predict that #45 will not serve his full term.

Trump Pardons Former Sheriff Joe Arpaio

President Donald Trump has granted a full criminal pardon to Joe Arpaio, former sheriff of Maricopa County in Arizona that includes the city of Phoenix. The sheriff was convicted of violating the Constitution. For decades, Arpaio, now 85, hunted and rounded up, brutalized and jailed Hispanics for their crime of having darker skin. Many were forced to live in "concentration camps" (his own word) with substandard food and conditions for months. Trump supporters say he was an American hero and patriot whose admirable service kept Arizona safe. Critics call him an unrepentant racist and white supremacist who had nothing but contempt for the rule of law. There are more than 50 million Spanish & "Spanglish" speakers and people of Hispanic descent living in the U.S., and the majority of them are outraged by the pardon. Trump's step reenforces the prevailing view among Hispanics and Blacks that the GOP is not their friend and stands on the side of racism. Legal experts are also alarmed by the fact that a president can effectively immunize his allies and agents from prosecution even in the case of gross criminal misconduct and when convicted in a federal court. They fear that granting Arpaio clemency is only a beginning. Trump likes to talk of "law and order," but he puts himself and his friends above the law. The "bromance" between Trump and Arpaio goes back many years. Both men promoted the false notion that President Obama was born outside the U.S. and thus not a legitimate president. The pardon was expected.

Police Militarization Resumes

After the events in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2015 the Obama administration restricted the kinds of military surplus gear that could be transferred under the "1033 program" to police departments across the nation. Banned were tracked armored vehicles, large-caliber weapons & ammunition, grenade launchers, bayonets, and so on. There were also restrictions on explosives, battering rams, riot helmets, and shields. The fear was that too much military equipment would make the police look like an "occupying force" rather than peace officers. The limits were created to make sure police departments had a guardian, not a warrior, mentality. The Trump administration, on the other hand, has no such scruples and trepidations. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced on 8/28 that the 1033 program would be fully restored and that law enforcement was once again free to acquire armored vehicles of any kind, grenade launchers, bayonets, high-caliber weapons & ammunition, and so on. Sessions said that the president was determined to do "all he can to restore law and order" and to provide police all the tools available to do their job. Civil-liberty advocates of course know that "restoring law and order" is racist dog-whistle code for suppressing the voice and vote of people of color. – Let's hope that the police chief of the City of Delaware and the sheriff of Delaware County remain level-headed and don't acquire battlefield equipment that is unsuitable for a peaceful community.

"My Absolute Darling" by Gabriel Tallent

A debut novel by Gabriel Tallent, "My Absolute Darling," has caused quite a stir and has been widely praised as a masterpiece. The protagonist, 14-year-old Turtle Alveston, lives with her father Martin, a paranoid survivalist and dispicable gun nut in northern California. He is a sadistic monster and control freak, and Turtle suffers much physical, psychological, and sexual abuse from him. However, she is gritty and resilient. She has become an expert shooter and hunter, knows how to skin and roast rabbits, and can identify edible plants and mushrooms in the woods. She is at home in nature, but estranged from school, society, and culture. In many ways, she is a quintessential American type. – It is easy to see how the just-released novel mirrors and echoes the zeitgeist. Civility is lost. America has

become a dark and dangerous place, full of paranoia and brutality, where militarized racists and cruel sociopaths roam and reign with impunity and terrorize vulnerable victims. Like "American Psycho" (1991), "My Absolute Darling" is another disturbing allegory of America's apocalyptic descent into warfare, atrocities, and sufferings.

Are Women Less Capable?

The tech industry is heavily dominated by white men, especially in leadership positions and the engineering sector. Why is that? A Google employee, James Damore, offered this explanation in a 10-page memo entitled "Google's Ideological Echo Chamber": men are biologically better suited for tech jobs than women. He also criticized his company's policies of diversity and inclusion and accused Google of silencing conservative opinions. The memo quickly became a rallying cry for conservatives and the alt-right. Google, a subsidiary of Alphabet Inc., has now fired Damore for violating the company's code of conduct and for perpetuating harmful gender stereotypes in the workplace. In a statement, Google said, "We are unequivocal in our belief that diversity and inclusion are critical to our success as a company."

No one denies that there are anatomical differences between men and women. However, in political, economic, social, and cultural life men and women are equal. While it is statistically true that the STEM sciences are male-dominated, the reason for that is nurture, not nature. Men and women have the same brains, and given adequate encouragement and support women can reach the same intellectual heights as men and be writers and composers, scientists and engineers, business leaders and politicians. There was a time when racists believed that blacks were inferior to whites, which is rubbish. Sexist and misogynist attitudes such as Damore's are similarly fallacious and pernicious, but it seems that racism, misogyny, and jingoism are resurgent at the moment. Damore's phallogocentric manifesto perpetuates the myth of male superiority and supremacy and could easily lead to the marginalization and segregation of women in the professional world. Next thing we know is that there will be calls to purge women from the voting lists and to prohibit them from driving. Was it a coincidence that Saudi Arabia was the first foreign country that Donald Trump visited as president?

Rocks of Kindness Spread Joy

We live in an age full of unkind language and behavior, but a pro-kindness movement has started in the U.S. and has quickly been adopted around the world. People paint pebbles and rocks with bright colors, images such as flowers or animals, and brief inspirational messages. Some have printed stickers on one side. Then they randomly place them in public places for others to find and enjoy them. These "kindness rocks," as they are known, have already pleased thousands of children and adults. Among the inspirational messages are "Be kind," "You can do it," "You are loved," or "Relax." The rocks, a form of alternative capital and currency, have already enriched many communities and in some instances positively impacted lives by offering joy, inspiration, or consolation. – The "Kindness Rock Project" was started by a Megan Murphy in Cape Cod, Mass., who was inspired by the many smooth pebbles on the beaches there. In Ohio, there are "Columbus Ohio Rocks," "Northeast Ohio Rocks," and the "Gahanna Rocket" group with hundreds of Facebook friends. We have also found a number of painted stones in Delaware. Some of the groups also meet in person to conduct rock-painting parties, and park systems have begun to offer workshops. This is a great activity for families and communities to connect. Anyone can paint and disseminate a rock, even small children. – What do you do if you find a "kindness rock"? Look at it and enjoy it. Some have codes that allow you to track their origins and itineraries on the Internet, similar to traveling teddy bears and money bills. But once you had them for a few days, consider passing them on to other people. Rocks of kindness are supposed to be shared, not hoarded. The idea is to make the world a better place by spreading kindness and joy one rock at a time.

"All Saints" (2017 Movie)

"All Saints" is a just released movie written by Steve Armour and directed by Steve Gomer. It tells the true story of a dying Tennessee church that is resurrected by an unlikely cast of characters. The church is slated to become a big-box store. However, a group of refugees from Burma (Myanmar) arrives who just fled a brutal and

bloody civil war, and Pastor Michael Spurlock (played by John Corbett) has an epiphany – to build a working farm to feed the refugees and pay for the church's mortgage. Despite their racial, cultural, religious, linguistic, and national differences, locals and newcomers come together in service of one another. Scripture and faith do play an integral role, but the film is primarily about building community. The film was shot on location at the real All Saints Church in Smyrna, Tenn., and many church members play themselves on screen. While the well-crafted movie does not seem to be a cinematic masterpiece, according to press reports, it is a sweet story and an inspiring tale about what a people united can accomplish. – The movie is currently showing at various locations in Columbus and suburbs, incl. Polaris.

"Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman" (2017 Film)

The new documentary "Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman" (2017) tells the inspiring story of heartland conservation heroes who are feeding the world while stewarding the land and water. The film is a tribute to people like Justin Knopf, a 5th-generation Kansas farmer revolutionizing industrial-scale agriculture to rebuild the fertility, biodiversity, and resilience of his soil; Dusty Cray, a 4th-generation Montana rancher who forged alliances between cattlemen, federal agencies, hunters & environmental groups to protect the Rocky Mountain Front; and Louisiana fisherman Wayne Werner who struggles to find a solution to the problem of overfishing in the Gulf of Mexico. Based on a book by best-selling author Miriam Horn of the Environmental Defense Fund, "Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman" was directed by Oscar nominee and Emmy winner Susan Froemke and Emmy winner John Hoffman. It is narrated by award-winning journalist Tom Brokaw. The film premiered at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival and was broadcast on the Discovery Channel on August 31. (Thanks, David Soliday, for this information.)



Heather Heyer Foundation Created

Susan Bro has started the nonprofit Heather Heyer Foundation in honor of her 32-year-old daughter who was killed on Aug. 12 by a neo-Nazi and white supremacist in Charlottesville, Virginia. Heather Heyer was demonstrating against hatred and died for what she believed in. The foundation will provide scholarships for students interested in civil rights & social justice and in pursuing careers in paralegal studies (Heather Heyer's field), law, education, and social work.

"Peace in the Heart" Lao Tse (Chinese philosopher)

If there is to be peace in the world,
There must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,
There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
There must be peace between neighbors.

If there is to be peace between neighbors,
There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,
There must be peace in the heart.

OWU Chaplain Jon Powers read these ancient words of sacred thought from the Chinese philosopher Lao Tse or Lao Tzu (6th century BC) at the 8/14 meeting of the Delaware City Council.