



International Association of Black Dance, Cleveland, Playhouse Square, January 24, 2015. Photo by Randy Norfus.

Images courtesy of <http://mapleheights.cuyahogacounty.us>

## Maple Heights looking at big City Hall political makeover



**Jackie Albers**  
Council President



**Bill Brownlee**  
Council District 5



**Richard Trojanski**  
Council District 6

**By Richard Donald Jones**  
PRESS CORRESPONDENT

Maple Heights – Voters will likely need a scorecard to keep track of the changes coming to this city’s political landscape in 2015. At least half of the council seats are likely to have new occupants come January, and several council people are looking to challenge Mayor Jeffrey Lansky for his job.

While Lansky has not publicly announced his reelection plans, four city council have informed *The Real Deal Press* that they no intentions of running for reelection this year.

Council President Jackie Albers, District One Representative Alex Adams, District Five

Representative Bill Brownlee and District Six Councilman Richard Trojanski will all surrender their seats when their terms expire December 31.

According to sources Councilman Trojanski has informed several council colleagues he intends relinquish his seat in order to run for Council President. When asked about the possibility, however, Trojanski said only, “I have no comment to make.”

Of the remaining members only District Two representative Toni Jones said she intends to again in 2015. Councilmembers Anthony Cefaratti, Edwina Agee and Ron Jackson did not respond to Real Deal Press inquiries by press time.

Council President Albers

said that there was nothing in particular behind her decision other than other than a conviction that it was time to move on.

“It’s been 10 years and while there are some things that disappoint me, it’s time to wrap it up. I’ve had a good run,” said Albers.

Albers said that during her last year on council she wants to continue her focus on bringing educational programs to the city, alongside her work on the Planning and Zoning committees.

Albers declined to discuss her relationship with Mayor Lansky but did say that the city’s lack of department directors is a hindrance to economic

► **Continued on Page 2**

### EDITOR’S NOTEBOOK

## CWRU historian puts black power in new light

Rhonda Y. Williams, associate professor of history, and the founder and director of the Social Justice Institute at Case Western Reserve University, has just published *Concrete Demands: The Search for Black Power in the 20th Century*.

The book offers a fascinating look back to a movement that, though short-lived, had a long build up to a raging intensity. The phrase “black power,”

► **Continued on Page 3**



**Rhonda Y. Williams,**  
Associate professor of history at Case Western Reserve University.

INDEX



### 04 Local Newsmakers

Movers & Shakers in the northeast Ohio business community.

### 05 Student Spotlight

The 20 year-old junior, who hails from Indianapolis is delighted to be in Cleveland

### 11 Heels & Ties

A night of laughter, music, food, fun, empowerment and recognition

LOCAL

## NEWSMARKERS

Movers & Shakers in the northeast Ohio business community.

**Ken Dowell** is now VP, community outreach, Melamed Communications, Beachwood.

**Arlene Anderson** of Minority Business Solutions has been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the East Cleveland Public Library.

**Larry Macon Jr.** has been appointed a trustee at Central State University.



Dr. Cherie A. Richey

**Dr. Gregory L. Hall** of Mayfield Village (Cuyahoga Co.) has been reappointed to the Commission on Minority Health for a term beginning January 12, 2015 and ending September 2, 2016. **Dr. Cherie A. Richey** of Columbus (Franklin Co.) and **Dr. Timothy J. Barreiro** of Canfield (Mahoning Co.) and **Dr. William J. Hicks** of Columbus (Franklin Co.) have each been appointed to the Commission on Minority Health for a term beginning January 13, 2015 and ending September 2, 2016.



Dr. Timothy J. Barreiro



**M. Gabriella Celeste** of Shaker Heights (Cuyahoga Co.) has been reappointed to the Ohio Public Defender Commission for a term beginning January 15, 2015 and ending January 12, 2019.

**Angela Shuckahosee**, Executive Director of Cleveland Tenants Organization, has been elected to a two-year term as president of Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People.



**Duncan Tanner, Jr.** joined The Presidents' Council Foundation in November 2014 as Fund Development Director.



**Rick Jackson** of Ideastream was honored as University Hts. 2014 Citizen of the Year. Rick Jackson of Ideastream was presented with a proclamation as 2014 Citizen of the Year. His son was chosen Youth Citizen of the Year in 2008.



**Dr. Alfreda Brown**, Kent State University and Vivian Hairston, Huntington Bank are recipients of WOMEN OF POWER awards from Akron Urban League.

## Maple Heights

Continued from Page 1

growth and needs Lansky's attention.

"We have very little in the way of executive staffing", Albers said. "The mayor has allowed many cabinet level positions to go unfilled. How can we not have an economic director? When a business wants to do business in the city or has issues there is no one there to walk them through the process or follow through... so they go elsewhere."

*The Real Deal* reached out to Mayor Lansky about his interest in running for reelection and his response to Council President Albers. A clerk promised Lansky would call to address the matter but he had not called by press time.

The lack of follow-up did not surprise Lansky's most prominent critic, District Five Councilman Bill Brownlee.

"Nothing he does or doesn't do surprises me anymore and hasn't for some time," said Brownlee.

Brownlee and his wife Lynde run the online Maple Heights News, and Lansky's administration is a frequent target of the site. In the past four months Brownlee and Lansky have filed lawsuits against each other.

In October, Lansky sued Brownlee in county court for defamation. In the suit Lansky claims Brownlee made false statements about him on the website and continued to make such statements even after acknowledging publicly that he was mistaken.

In January Brownlee responded by filing a federal lawsuit that accuses the mayor of violating his civil rights. Among other claims Brownlee alleges Lansky interfered with his right to tape public portions of a council meeting.

Brownlee told the *Real Deal* that while he will make a formal announcement at the end of the month, he has had enough of the Mayor and his fellow council members.

"I'm done with these people and it's a shame but Maple Heights needs wholesale changes in both council and the Mayor's office. I have no hope or ex-

pectation that this council will ever get anything done. There are so many bad attitudes in this group. There are institutional bad attitudes ingrained among this group."

Brownlee said he was not in a position to talk about whether he might run for mayor this year.

District 1 councilman Alex Adams expressed similar dismay with the city's current political climate but said, considering his age and health, it was time to move on. Adams, 77, is a survivor of throat cancer.

"I have decided not to run again," he said. "I was elected eight years, and it's been quite an experience. It's not an easy decision, but my health is good and I'm going to enjoy the time I have left."

Adams said during his final months on Council he wants to work to improve city finances and address the "Fiscal Watch" designation imposed last year by state Auditor Dave Yost.

One councilor who is running for re-election is District 2 councilwoman Toni Jones. She said the stress of serving on council has taken a personal toll but there still is unfinished business.

"We have issues," she said. "And I understand the others' decisions but I have things I think need to get done. And I'm still running."

Jones said that regardless of who serves on the next council or is elected Mayor, turning around the city is going to be a daunting task.

"I heard that maybe two of the current Council members are considering running for Mayor and at least one of our current members want to run for council president," she said. "We have real economic and quality of life issues facing this city and we are going to need to work together."

The filing deadline to run for mayor or city council is June 10. Any race drawing three or more candidates will have a September 8 nonpartisan primary. The top two vote getters will proceed to the November 3 general election.

LOCAL **BUSINESS CALENDAR**

**Annual Meeting of Presidents' Council Foundation is February 26**

The Presidents' Council Foundation will hold its 2015 annual meeting at The Club at Key Center.

The meeting will give Foundation officials the chance to review publicly the prior year's work and the outlook for the new year. The program runs from 5-7:30 and offers ample opportunity for members and guests to network.

The Foundation works to better Northeast Ohio by raising money to support, develop, and advocate for the region's current and future generations of African American entrepreneurs and leaders.



**Lloyd Trotter keynotes March 4 CSU Speaker Series event**

Lloyd Trotter, founder and managing partner of GENX360 Capital Partners, will keynote the program, "From Laboratory to Wall Street: How Hopes and Dreams Enter the Marketplace" at Cleveland State University on March 4 from 9:30am - 11:30am.

Trotter is a former General Electric president and a native Clevelander.

**Construction Safety Day set for February 17**

The Cleveland Safety Forum has teamed up with the Cleveland Area OSHA office to provide northeast Ohio with the third annual Construction Safety Day. This Safety Day will host a series of interactive panel discussions, educational seminars designed to offer practical tips and strategies to help comply with today's regulations. Participants will include 250 individuals comprised of company executives, regulatory officials, project managers, superintendents, and trades people. This program should be attended by union construction trades, field personnel and project management.



The Safety Day will be held on February 17 from 8am - 4pm at the Corporate College East campus in Warrensville Hts. Lunch will be provided.

To register or get more info, call 216.398.9860, email [safety@ceacisp.org](mailto:safety@ceacisp.org) or visit <https://www.ceacisp.org/civcrm/event/info?reset=1&id=440>.

**BUSINESS DIGEST**



Longtime marketing maven, businesswoman, publisher, and community-arian **Alexandria "Alex" Boone** is launching Career and Lifestyle magazine. The digital publication will have a national focus. For more information, call 866.962.3411.

NOTES **City Government**

Local municipalities, regions and districts information and news from the northeast Ohio region.



**SOUTH EUCLID**

Things are getting funky in South Euclid where a fellow councilperson has drafted legislation that would force Ruth Gray to give up either her Ward 1 city council seat or her day job as Director of Community Life in Bedford Heights. Maybe that's the

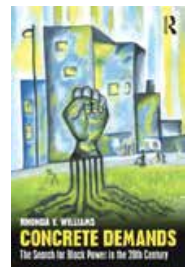
reason she has pulled mayoral petitions to take on incumbent Georgine Welo.

**OAKWOOD VILLAGE**

With a Feb. 4 filing deadline, Mayor Gary Gottschalk is the only incumbent to have publicly pulled petitions for re-election.

**CWRU historian**

Continued from Page 1



which as Williams shows, had been used before, fundamentally shaped the racial attitudes of millions of Americans of all colors.

Williams' research brings a useful fresh perspective to the tumultuous sixties and

seventies, when the struggle for many was literally life or death.

As we enter a month-long celebration of Black History Month, Williams' book will undoubtedly be a useful guide for those who

lived through the era, and those for whom the Sixties are ancient history. Moreover, a careful reading is sure to offer insights into the present state of race relations in America, and perhaps even Cleveland, Ohio.



**“I had no idea  
I was eligible  
for a lower rate.”**



The **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's** Homestead Program is available to our elderly and disabled customers. To see if you qualify for this reduced rate, contact us today.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE:**  
(216) 881-8247

**LEARN MORE:**  
[neorsd.org/save](http://neorsd.org/save)

*Your Sewer District...*  
**Keeping our Great Lake great.**

## REAL MONEY

# How long will low gasoline prices last?

**By J. Burner Crew**  
PRESS CORRESPONDENT



All must agree gasoline prices are at the lowest level in decades when adjusted for inflation. There are multiple reasons for the extreme decline in the price of a barrel of oil, but none greater than the Saudi decision to maintain production levels in spite of declining prices. In the past 30 years OPEC, led by the Saudi monarch, would reduce production to support or stabilize prices at higher levels. During periods of global recession, OPEC would reduce production until demand returned to a normal level. In the most recent decline much has changed. The United States no longer imports as much as a result of increased domestic production.

Prices should remain low for the balance of 2015 as the global economy begins to recover and demand for energy increases. The expectation is for gasoline prices to rise slightly to the \$2.50 per gallon range during the summer months, however at that level the U.S. economy will benefit from the realized cost savings.

Let's take a moment to understand what has changed in the past 10 years. The U.S. now produces enough oil within our own borders to meet 95% of all domestic demand. The prediction is by 2016 the U.S. will export oil on a net basis to the global market, a major change.

Alternate fuel sources are beginning to reduce our carbon footprint. Solar, wind and renewable fuels represent 10% of our fuel usage. Natural gas powers multiple municipal and corporate fleets. As the distribution system for natural gas improves, more fleets will increase the use of natural gas to power their fleets. UPS, Coke and Fed Ex are large users of natural gas. Our

*Let's take a moment to understand what has changed in the past 10 years. The U.S. now produces enough oil within our own borders to meet 95% of all domestic demand.*

own Regional Transit Authority in Cleveland has been a leader when converting to natural gas. The Blue Diamond on the back of the RTA buses means it is powered by natural gas.

The federal government got this one right. The energy strategy crafted during past administrations is paying dividends today. Our government mandated auto companies increase the average Miles Per Gallon (MPG) of their production vehicles. All of these factors have reduced natural demand while we have simultaneously increased supply.

Fracking, a controversial practice, is now commonly used to increase production in wells thought to be depleted when more traditional methods are applied. Some states are beginning to restrict the use of fracking but for now it has helped to stimulate increased production.

The major risk to low prices is a disruption because of armed conflict. The Middle East is relatively calm now, however tensions remain between Iran and Saudi Arabia that could affect global supply. OPEC remains a force but internal conflicts prevent the group from a coordinated strategy of reduced production.

So enjoy the lower prices for now and the near term.

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



By Chardé Hurst  
REAL DEAL CORRESPONDENT

*Breanna Davis attends Cleveland State University where she studies psychology and dance, though not necessarily in that order. The 20 year-old junior, who hails from Indianapolis, IN, is delighted to be in Cleveland, where she has fallen in love with Cleveland's theater district. We slowed her down long enough to ask about her experience as one of CSU's five inaugural Deckard Family Civic Fellow Scholarship recipients.*

**RDP:** Hi Breanna, Congratulations on being a Deckard Fellow! Tell us about the scholarship and what it means to you.

**BD:** Thank you, I feel very honored to have been chosen as a Deckard Fellow and to share my story. The Deckard Family Civic Fellow Scholarship is a scholarship offered at Cleveland State University for juniors and seniors who have shown involvement in community engagement. As a fellow I was granted \$2,500 towards tuition for each semester as well as an internship at City Hall.

**RDP:** Those are great rewards to have. What community engagement opportunities are you involved in?

**BD:** Well, during the summer, I participated in a Latino Adolescent Camp Summit. Studies showed that many adolescent Latinos in the Indianapolis area often felt alone due to the small Latino population. As a result, a camp was formed to focus on increasing resilience and decreasing anxiety and depression, while connecting participants together. I have also been a Girl Scout since I was a little girl, and have continued to remain very active throughout the years. I enjoy working with the girls on building their self-esteem and living a vibrant life, full of memorable experiences that aid them in becoming the young ladies that they want to be.

**RDP:** Very good. How do you like your internship at City Hall?

**BD:** I really enjoy being there. As part of the scholarship, I attend at least 10 hours a week and am currently working on re-developing

the Mayor's Youth Council, which caters to high school sophomores. The Mayor's Council is a great opportunity for high school students to become engaged with our community, to learn more about the government and how to have an effective impact on communities through implementing different policies. I would encourage anyone high school sophomore who is interested to in being a part of the Mayor's Council to contact me or visit the city's website for more information.

**RDP:** How do you feel being a Deckard Fellow will help you achieve your long-term goals?

**BD:** Firstly, by providing tuition assistance it is helping me to obtain my degree and move forward in my career field as a dancer and psychologist. Over the last 16 years, I have seen myself change and grow in many aspects of my life as a result of dance. My desire is to provide therapy to others, while giving them an opportunity to also express themselves artistically, through dance. Through my internship, I am able to use the work I am doing with the high school students to help me better address their age group within my own practice.

**RDP:** Will you share how other students can benefit from this scholarship as well?

**BD:** Sure! Students can learn more about this scholarship by going to [csuohio.edu](http://csuohio.edu) or going through the Office of Civic Engagement. The application is due the spring semester of every year. The next deadline is April 30.

*By providing tuition assistance it is helping me to obtain my degree and move forward in my career field as a dancer & psychologist.*



**Breanna Davis**  
Cleveland State University Student

What's happening on your Northeast Ohio college campus? Send news of campus people and events to us via email or fax: [rta@TheRealDealPress.com](mailto:rta@TheRealDealPress.com) / 216.672.4304.

**PRESIDENTS DAY** ★★★★★  
**CAMPUS VISITATION DAY**  
 Monday, Feb. 16, 2015

**Presidents Day Campus Visitation Day is a great opportunity to:**

- Explore your academic options and discuss the steps for enrollment and financial aid
- Visit any campus and tour our facilities

**Learn & tour**

**You can visit us at any of these locations from 10 - 11:30 a.m. or 2 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Eastern** | ESS Building, Room 1101 | 4250 Richmond Road, Highland Hills

**Metropolitan** | Student Services Building, Ground Floor  
2900 Community College Ave., Cleveland

**Western** | Student Services Building | 11000 Pleasant Valley Road, Parma

**Westshore** | WSHCS Building Atrium | 31001 Clemens Road, Westlake

**Brunswick University Center** | 3605 Center Road, Brunswick

Can't make it? Request an individual tour at [www.tri-c.edu/campusvisits](http://www.tri-c.edu/campusvisits)

**For more information or to register for Presidents Day Campus Visitation Day, go to:**  
[www.tri-c.edu/campusvisitation](http://www.tri-c.edu/campusvisitation)

## Black Power Now

# What are the community's concrete demands for a 21st Century Cleveland?

One of the key takeaways from historian Rhonda Williams' book, *Concrete Demands: The Search for Black Power in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, is how the concept black power developed organically over time from the bottom up and empowered movement leaders to agitate and negotiate successfully for the advancement of civil rights.

The harnessing of that community power was exercised of necessity through civil rights organizations, churches, and new entities formed specifically to fight the oppressive power and privilege that kept black people underfoot politically, economically and socially. Elected black officials couldn't do much in most instances because there weren't but a handful of them, scattered here and there.

In some ways it seems paradoxical that while there has been a huge uptick in the number of elected black officials, the actual wielding of political power by black communities has diminished. Organized political and social protests by black people regularly brought municipalities to their knees, as town fathers were forced to relinquish race-based privileges in city hall hiring, public contracting, and agenda-setting to accommodate the newly-empowered, and newly-registered, voters in their midst.

Fifty years after the heyday of the Civil Rights Movement, it seems that the comparative abundance of black elected officials has not resulted in a corresponding increase in the clout of the black community. This seems especially true

when we look locally at the operation of the Cleveland Police Department.

In early 1965 there probably weren't two percent of Clevelanders who thought Cleveland could have a black mayor in its short-term future; after all, no major city in the country had ever had one. And to advance the idea of a black police chief was to equivalent to requesting a commitment to Fairhill, the local psychiatric facility.

Cleveland is now on its third black mayor and its third black police chief, and the bad apples in the city police department seem as deeply entrenched as ever.

How can this be? What can be done about it?

Our mayor tells us the Ohio Attorney General was wrong when he cited "systemic failure" in the Cleveland Police Department, as evidenced by the total breakdown of authority and proper procedure in the 2011 high-speed chase that resulted in the deaths of two unarmed citizens. And he begs to differ with the findings of the U.S. Attorney General, whose investigation found unmistakable patterns and practices regarding the unjustified and excessive use of force by police, and the routine violation of departmental regulations requiring the reporting of all such instances.

The single most puzzling aspect of police misfeasance and malfeasance over the last fifteen years is not that police misconduct in and of itself. It is that the men who presided over the department during that time have been promoted and protected by this mayor. Public toler-



*International Association of Black Dance, Cleveland, Playhouse Square, January 24, 2015. Photo by Randy Norfus. [See page 10.]*

ance of Mayor Jackson's failure to explain adequately why the former and current directors of public safety, Martin Flask and Michael McGrath, are still highly paid public employees is itself evidence of a community that has lost its voice and forgotten its power.

Cleveland City Council members know that the public is outraged over police excess and police incompetence — the Tamir Rice case is evidence of both — but whether they can summon the will to correct the problems that produce that outrage remains to be seen.

The Cleveland Police Department needs a change in culture. A department full of officers like the current chief would be fantastic. At least four times he faced gunfire on the street but found ways to do his job without taking a life. But it will take imagination, deftness, and tenacity from the city's chief executive to empower the chief to lead the change.

So far the principal sign of the mayor's tenacity has been in his loyalty to the two safety directors who demonstrated little if any ability to challenge the prevailing departmental culture.

**Where is the Cleveland NAACP when we need it?**

Once upon a time — alas, too long ago — the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP had the ability to be an effective negotiator in civic crises that involved racial, political, and social concerns. Of course, that was often because it had apparent credibility and strength as a legitimate representative of the black community. That credibility and strength were seldom tested because, except for the special circumstances that led to the school desegregation case filed in 1973, the Cleveland NAACP seldom actually challenged the status quo.

Today, in 2015, the total disarray of the Branch is manifest for all to see. Its executive director, Sheila Wright — an exceptionally talented and committed leader — was handcuffed by the very people who hired her. They didn't support her, empower her, listen to her, or pay her. She nonetheless toughed out her two-year commitment and left the organization better than she found it.

The Cleveland NAACP needs a culture change at least as much as the Cleveland Police Department.

**THE REAL DEAL**  
PRESS

The Independent Source  
for Your Community News

**We welcome letters to the editor.** Please include your name, address, and your best phone number. We may edit for clarity and space.

**Send letters, press releases, notices, calendar items, and corrections** to *The Real Deal Press* via email at [rta@TheRealDealPress.com](mailto:rta@TheRealDealPress.com) or fax: 216.672.4304.

Published monthly at Warrensville Heights OH with a current circulation of 12,000 copies. Freely distributed at more than 250 Greater Cleveland locations. The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff. © 2015. The Real Deal Press Inc. All rights reserved. Any reproduction is forbidden without written permission.

**The mission of *The Real Deal Press* is to attract, articulate and amplify civic intelligence and community engagement.**

**Publisher & Editor:**  
R. T. Andrews

**Advertising Sales:**  
Paul K. Jones (216.338.7038)  
Marcus Epps (216.855.1384)

**Contributors:**  
Burner Crew;  
Derek Dixon;  
Kirby V. Freeman;  
Rachel Hill; Alan Howard;  
Chardé Hurst;  
Richard Donald Jones; Mary Jo Minarik

**Photography:**  
Randy Norfus

**Layout & Design:**  
Steve Aresman Thomas/  
Attvcks Media LLC

**The Real Deal Press**  
216.672.4301 v  
216.672.4304 f  
[rta@TheRealDealPress.com](mailto:rta@TheRealDealPress.com)  
[@RealDealPress](http://RealDealPress.com)



# Lifestyle change leads to better health, opportunities for entrepreneur

By **Derek K. Dixon**  
PRESS CORRESPONDENT

"Fifteen times more people would be able to eat worldwide if we would just change our dietary habits," says Rashid Mitcham, an executive chef who checks in at what is, for him, a svelte 275 pounds.

Mitcham began his personal health and entrepreneurial journey years ago when he found himself, at a round 450 lbs., in desperate need of better lifestyle habits. His mother, Linda, who is his biggest inspiration today, had raised him on home gardening principles. Renewed attention to those principles, along with regular exercise and the embrace of a strict vegan diet, have not only rejuvenated his health, but pointed him to a career.

Mitcham is now a businessman and an urban farmer. He and his mother started Mo Bite Products, a provider of organic vegan foods and baked goods, in the summer of 2010. He also farms a quarter acre of land

at Higbee Rd and East 83 St.

"We're supposed to be in harmony with the natural resources of the earth," Mitcham says. "Instead, we tend to take on the negative effects and even behaviors of animals because we eat animals."

Last month about 70 people attended his culinary demonstration at the Cleveland Heights Main Library got to see, touch, smell, and taste two primary examples of his cuisine. Any myths that a vegan menu leaves consumers with a bland, unfulfilled experience were quickly dispelled. Mitcham prepared vegetable-fried quinoa and vegan coconut curry (meatless) "chicken," each within thirty minutes. "People may think they want to taste actual meat, but they really want the flavor and texture brought out by the seasonings. Instead of chicken, we use wheat and soy proteins. They're better for you and preserve the lives of animals," he explained.

"Our society is nutrition-deprived. There are hun-

dreds of different healthy grains throughout the world, but even health-conscious people tend to buy the same 10-15 fruits and vegetables over and over again. The strength of one's immune system is directly related to the wide variety of nutrients he's able to consume."

Information from Peta.org, the website of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, seems to support Mitcham's view. The same amount of grain that's needed to produce a pound of animal flesh could feed ten people when consumed directly. Yet that pound of flesh provides only a third of one's person's recommended caloric intake. Of further benefit is the savings in water use: Eleven times more water is needed to produce one pound of beef than to produce a pound of grain. In turn, seventy percent of that very grain production in the United States is fed to animals rather than people—a grave disservice according to Mitcham. He states, "There's a myth that we need to con-

sume beef to get our proteins. Yet, large land animals (like cows) don't consume flesh. So where do they get their proteins? The same place we can—from grains. It's healthier and more economical to both produce and consume."

The six-foot one inch Mitcham wants to lose another 50 lbs. or so to achieve his optimal strength and mobility. In reference to his other job as a mentor to several sixth-grade boys, he jokes "I don't want to lose too much weight because I still want to look intimidating."

While Mitcham's Mo Bite Products is currently a delivery-only business, he wants to open a storefront as soon as possible. In the meantime, Mo Bites will continue its nutrition-focused education and outreach. Next month Mo Bite plans to offer cooking classes. Participants will receive hands-on opportunities to make main dishes, side dishes, and desserts for a \$50 fee.

Urban farmer, business owner, executive chef: Rashid Mitcham is thinking global and acting locally.

## Culinary Arts Training Available



Lutheran Metro Ministry's Culinary Arts Training Program has recently been recognized as a Quality Program through the American Culinary Federation.

LMM is now looking for program applicants, especially those who have been experiencing barriers to employment, including people who have been incarcerated, are homeless and are lacking marketable job skills.

The program offers three months of classroom instruction on a variety of topics related to the culinary arts. The last two months focus on hands-on experience in a commercial grade kitchen setting. Upon successful completion of the course, LMM staffers will assist the graduates in securing employment in places such as area restaurants, hotels, food markets and catering companies. Currently 90% of graduates secure employment in the culinary arts field.

To learn more about this free program, contact Bevin Bowersmith at 216.658.8421 or [bbowersmith@lutheranmetro.org](mailto:bbowersmith@lutheranmetro.org).



TAKE OUT ONLY

## BOOYAH

"House of the Taco"

ALL DAY Breakfast

Mondays 8a-4p

Tues.-Sat. 8a-8p

12104 Larchmere Road

Cleveland 44120

216.791.6732



### PREMIER MEDICAL SUPPLIES INC.

The Leader in Healthcare Products

"A Leader in Healthcare Products"

We have a complete selection of Home Medical Equipment. Everything from Canes to Hospital Beds

Sales • Rentals • Repairs

(216) 832-2777

Serving Cuyahoga, Summit, Geauga, Portage, Lake, Lorain & Medina Counties

FREE DELIVERY TO YOUR DOOR

Certified MBE • Family Owned Since 1983

WE WILL HANDLE YOUR INSURANCE PAPERWORK

## EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

### College Students sought for Social Justice, Nonprofit Fellowships DEADLINE IS FEB. 20

College students passionate about social justice should take a look at the Hilliard P. Jenkins Fellowship for emerging college leaders interested in the intersection of social justice, entrepreneurship, and consulting in the non-profit sector. The program is structured as an 8-week summer internship where Fellows are able to develop their professional skills and gain exposure to a variety of the core areas.

Applicants must submit an application, resume, and a writing sample (term paper, article, etc. no more than 6 pages) by February 20, 2015.

To learn more, visit [bit.ly/HPJ\\_app](http://bit.ly/HPJ_app). Students of color are encouraged to apply. All HPJ Fellows will receive a \$2400 stipend during the duration of the Fellowship. There is also a housing stipend available for individuals, based on need.

### CLEVELAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District is looking for citizens who are interested in serving on a voluntary not-for-profit Board, the Bond Accountability Commission (BAC). The BAC is a 15 member Board with the responsibility of oversight of the District's capital projects, including the resources just approved by voters when Issue 4 passed last November. Any person interested in learning more about the BAC or who is particularly interested in serving on the Board may contact Kevin Burtzloff, CMSD Board Liaison, by telephone at 216-838-0032 or by email at [Kevin.Burtzloff@ClevelandMetroSchools.org](mailto:Kevin.Burtzloff@ClevelandMetroSchools.org).

### LORAIN CCC INCREASES TUITION

ELYRIA - Lorain County Community College will increase tuition and fees by \$3.84 per credit hour, adding \$100 to the annual tab for a full-time student. The cost per credit hour will increase from \$118.34 to \$122.18 beginning with the summer session. The total annual cost for a full-time student will increase from \$3,077 to \$3,177 for two semesters. Full-time students who enrolled last fall and signed a completion pledge under the college's tuition guarantee program will not pay more. That plan allows them to pay the same tuition and fees for three years of study, as long as they take at least 12 credits per semester and meet requirements of their program. The plan also offers the MyUniversity Guarantee, which allows high school students to earn college credit for free. Twenty-five school districts participate in the program and more than 2,000 high school students earned 21,000 college credits last year. LCCC is among the least expensive of the state's 23 community colleges. Students can take up to 18 credit hours each semester for the price of 13 credit hours. The college has about 11,000 students.



## Health Chart

Email/fax Health Calendar items to [rta@TheRealDealPress.com](mailto:rta@TheRealDealPress.com)  
216.672.4304 six weeks in advance

### CSU to host Feb. 3 forum with heads of Clinic, UH and Metro

As part of the yearlong celebration its 50th Anniversary, Cleveland State University is sponsoring a series of panels featuring nationally renowned thought leaders who will explore the future of education, health care, business and leadership in Northeast Ohio and beyond.

CSU president Ronald Berkman will moderate a panel comprised of Akram Boutros, M.D., president and CEO, The MetroHealth System; Thomas F. Zenty, III, CEO of University Hospitals; and Delos M. "Toby" Cosgrove, M.D., President and CEO, Cleveland Clinic. The panel will discuss meeting the challenges of educating health care professionals in the 21st century.

The program is set for Tuesday, February 3 from 9:30am-11:30am. A continental breakfast and registration begin at 8:30am. will be held at the CSU Student Center, 2121 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, in the Glasscock Family Ballroom.

The program is free and open to the public. Registration is required; seating is limited. Visit <http://www.csuohio.edu/50/forums.html>.



**NOT SIGNED UP  
YET UNDER THE  
AFFORDABLE  
HEALTH CARE ACT?**  
February 15, 2015 is the last day this year for first timers to sign up for health insurance. You may 1. Visit [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov); call the 24/7 call center at 1.800.318.2596 and one of 14,000 call center representatives will answer your questions. If you prefer to speak to someone locally, visit [localhelp.healthcare.gov](http://localhelp.healthcare.gov)

## Looking for Internet Radio and Internet Shows, Stations

The Real Deal Press is looking to speak with owners or operators of internet radio and television shows oriented towards Northeast Ohio communities of color. If you fit that description, please contact us at 216.672.4301 or [rta@therealdealpress.com](mailto:rta@therealdealpress.com).





**FAIRFAX PLACE**  
Skilled Nursing &  
Rehabilitation Facility

**Comprehensive Rehabilitation:**

Physical Therapy  
Occupational Therapy  
Speech Therapy

9014 Cedar Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106  
p: 216.795.1363 f: 216.795.1573  
w: [www.fairfaxplace.com](http://www.fairfaxplace.com)



LOCAL **COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

**EAST CLEVELAND**

Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope [NOAH] is sponsoring a community dialogue to redevelop Pattison Park, a highly underutilized asset in the city. NOAH is partnering with the Kent State University School of Architecture and Landscape Design to re-imagine the park, located in the northwestern portion of the city, where it is bounded in part by Hayden Ave. and Eddy Rd.

The first three community sessions will be held at Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, 12701 Superior Ave. on Friday, Feb. 6 from 6:30pm-8:30pm; Saturday, Feb. 7 from 10am-1:30pm; and Saturday, March 4 from 10am-1:30pm. There will be a fourth session later at the park.

Call 216.202.4190 or email [reimaginepattison@noahorganizing.org](mailto:reimaginepattison@noahorganizing.org) for more information.

**Cleveland Hts. school district moving towards putting operating levy on May ballot**

The CH-UH Board of Education (BOE) is taking steps to place a 5.9 mill operating levy on the May ballot. The need for a new operating levy became apparent after the board reviewed the citizen-led LFC report at its December meeting. The board believes the district will need for increased operating support by the end of 2015 to avoid cuts to educational programming.

The board is eyeing a May 2015 special election to avoid what it considers a crowded November ballot.

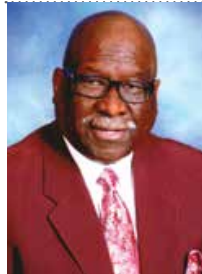
LOCAL **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**UL Guild theater party set for Feb. 7 at Karamu**

The Urban League of Greater Cleveland Guild is hosting a benefit to support the cost of taking area students on the League's annual spring tour of historically black colleges and universities. Tickets to see Karamu's production of the August Wilson play, "Joe Turner's Come and Gone" are \$35 for the 3p Saturday matinee. There will be a reception starting at 1p. For ticket information, call Beverly Tatum 1-866.855.5241 or the UL office 216.622.0999.

**Waki Wear Productions Silver Carpet 25th Anniversary Party**

W. Vaughn Glover has been producing fashion shows for a quarter of a century. He is celebrating that record this year with a Silver Carpet party, an evening of dancing, networking and plain old fun. The party will be Saturday, February 21 from 9p-2a at Café Sausalito, 1301 East Ninth St. Admission is \$15 advance, \$20 door. Tickets may be purchased through February 6 via PayPal to the account of [fashiontko@yahoo.com](mailto:fashiontko@yahoo.com). For more information contact the self-proclaimed Lord of Fashion at 216.544.7779.



Clarence Bozeman

**MLK Jr. colleague to keynote African American Genealogical Society's Silver Anniversary dinner**

The African-American Genealogical Society of Cleveland is holding its silver anniversary dinner on Sunday, March 8, from 3-6p at Holiday Inn Hotel-Cleveland South, 6001 Rockside Rd, Independence. Rickets are \$35 through Feb. 21.

Clarence Bozeman of Maple Heights is the featured speaker. An accomplished educator, Mr. Bozeman was a driver for Dr. King. For tickets or other information, contact Carrie Stokes at [heritage@aagsclev.org](mailto:heritage@aagsclev.org) or 216-921-2578.

LOCAL **BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

Local and regional business listings from around northeast Ohio region.

 (216) 231-1964  
**Argentina's**  
"Precision Hair Cutting"  
Facials and Waxing  
12617 Larchmere Blvd.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44120  
**ARGENTINA OUSLEY**

**MathGroove**  
Supporting families and communities in the drive for math mastery, by providing Models of math learning/teaching, and aligned Tools that are **SIMPLE, FUN and EFFECTIVE.**  
Dr. Phillip B. Howard  
[MathGroove@gmail.com](mailto:MathGroove@gmail.com)  
Phone: 781.608.8780

 **SRM AWARDS, LLC**  
Awards Screened & Embroidered Apparel Promotional  
**STANLEY MILLER**  
ASSOCIATE  
[STANMILLER@SRMAWARDS.COM](mailto:STANMILLER@SRMAWARDS.COM)  
  
216.571.1152  
216.707.8897 (fax)  
[www.srmawards.com](http://www.srmawards.com)

 **COVENTRY LEATHER & SHOE REPAIR**  
"YOU WEAR IT. WE REPAIR IT."  
2806 Mayfield Road  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118  
[lyndhurstluggageohio.com](http://lyndhurstluggageohio.com)  
Expert Cobbler & Owner  
216-932-1836  
**HEELS WHILE YOU WAIT!**

**HY SWIRSKY & ASSOCIATES**  
5151 Warrensville Center Road  
Maple Heights, Ohio 44137  
**LIFE INSURANCE SALES**  
No One Refused  
216.381.3100 or 216.581.1700

Maid in Shaker Heights  
*We Clean for You*  
Carmen Brown  
Operations Manager  
Shaker Heights, Ohio  
44120  
[See\\_brown@yahoo.com](mailto:See_brown@yahoo.com)  
216-640-7667  


# Cleveland hosts spectacular black dance fest

By **R. T. Andrews**  
EDITOR

Dance, like music, is an international language. One need not be an expert to appreciate the exquisite combinations of beauty in physique, in motion, in repose, in choreography that were so much on display as some of the country's best dancers gathered in Cleveland to celebrate their muse, their passion, their art, their creativity, and even life itself.

Because dance belongs primarily to the young, it is a celebration of life, of power, of movement. The mind remembers, or perhaps only imagines, what the body could once do, when it was light and lithe and daring and fearless.

There was grace in the audience as well, among former dancers, professional and otherwise, across all the generations in attendance.

The IABD conference was a coup for Cleveland. The annual event typically rotates among the Association's founding cities. But Cleveland members put together a winning case, to the delight of all who attended any of the many events during five full days of the conference.

The principal venues were at Playhouse Square but

the opening night performance, highlighting Cleveland's own dance companies, was held at The Cleveland Museum of Art. A more perfect spot could hardly be imagined. Gartner Auditorium seats 683 and virtually every seat was taken, mostly by young people from Dallas, Pittsburgh, Dayton, and of course, Cleveland. And every performance was exquisite, with a variety that cannot be captured in words, but had to be experienced: dancers in wheelchairs; African dancers, with incredible drummers; Cleveland School of the Art dancers; and much more. You couldn't tell the players without a program, and unfortunately, the free concert had no written program. But no one could have left without a sense of the vibrancy of Cleveland dance, and a wondrous anticipation that if our amateur dancers were that good, what excellence must await us the rest of the week!

Answers to that question abounded in the many excellent and entrancing performances that followed over the next few days. Randy Norfus, our intrepid photographer took hundreds of shots, capturing the elegance, the power, the emotions of the dancers and the dance. A few samples are on this page or elsewhere in this issue. One, on the editorial



*International Association of Black Dance, Cleveland, Playhouse Square, January 24, 2015. Photo by Randy Norfus.*

page, is a lasting reminder of the connections between art and life, as several choreographers found poignant and powerful ways to remind us of Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, and Tamir Rice.

Indeed, as we marveled at the power, the grace, and the beauty and the brilliance of the Cleveland School of the Arts dancers, we found ourselves thinking that this should be required attendance

for Cleveland police officers, to enhance their awareness of who they are sworn to protect, and the human dignity and value in every life.

We could say much more about the fantabulous five days, and we wish we had the means to identify the dance companies, but then we would have to cut out some of these images, themselves representing just a fraction of our memories.

*The mind remembers, or perhaps only imagines, what the body could once do, when it was light and lithe and daring and fearless.*





The Duffy Liturgical Dance Ensemble celebrated its 30th anniversary this past November with a Sunday afternoon concert in the newly refurbished sanctuary of University Circle United Methodist Church. (Photo by Randy Norfus)

### License Plate of the Month




**Lucky's Charms & Supplies**  
 Race Track •  
 Bingo • Casino  
 • Lottery Books  
 and more!

Candle Dressing Classes Available  
**CALL FOR INFO!**

6408 St. Clair Ave. (near  
 downtown) or Call 216.924.8834

**See Mr. Lucky**

[www.luckyscharmsandsupplies.com](http://www.luckyscharmsandsupplies.com)

## Heels & Ties

Three Cleveland friends, Cassandra Shepherd, Chardé Hurst, and Hosea Harris, Jr. have partnered along with the Micah Leadership Council of the African American Ministries Leadership Council (AAMLC), for a night of laughter, music, food, fun, empowerment and recognition on February 14 at 7:00 pm, in the guest hall of the Southeast Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 16602 Tarkington Ave, 44128.



The Micah Leadership Council aims to engage progressive African American youth and young adults from across the nation and equip them to become emerging leaders and active agents in creating the social changes that they want to see.

The Valentine's Day event, targeted to individuals ages 21-45, is the first of what organizers hope will be a series of local events that provide young adults in the city of Cleveland with opportunities to interact in a fun and wholesome way, while being inspired to impact their local communities in positive ways. Various individuals will also be recognized for the service that they are already doing within their communities.

Shepherd and her colleagues are inviting nominations of anyone who deemed worthy of wider recognition for their community involvement and beneficial impact on the lives of others. Names and a short description of their good deeds should be submitted to [TheHeartFeeders@yahoo.com](mailto:TheHeartFeeders@yahoo.com). Discounted tickets are now available with the code "RealDeal". For more information and to purchase tickets for the event, visit [www.heelsandties.eventbrite.com](http://www.heelsandties.eventbrite.com) or email [TheHeartFeeders@yahoo.com](mailto:TheHeartFeeders@yahoo.com).

**DANCE Cleveland**  
 2014-15 PERFORMANCE SERIES

**Compagnie Käfig**  
 March 7, 2015 at 8pm  
 Ohio Theatre, Playhouse Square  
 Brazilian acrobatics & hip-hop unite  
 with a creative, modern twist

**Wendy Whelan**  
 Restless Creature  
 April 25, 2015 at 8pm  
 Ohio Theatre, Playhouse Square  
 Lyrical beauty of a ballet icon

FOR INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE TICKETS, VISIT [DANCECLEVELAND.ORG](http://DANCECLEVELAND.ORG) OR CALL 216.241.6000. INTERESTED IN SEEING BOTH REMAINING SHOWS? CALL 216.991.9000 TO PURCHASE DISCOUNTED PACKAGE TICKETS!

PRESENTED BY  
 CLEVELAND FOUNDATION  
 OHIO THEATRE  
 PLAYHOUSE SQUARE



# DREAM TEAM REALTY

440.498.0033 · WWW.DTR-EMERYWOODS.COM



We are pleased to offer you a tour of the Chateaux of Emery Woods. Here is a welcoming community whose residents enjoy the quiet and privacy of a deep suburban enclave, yet are within minutes of everything Greater Cleveland has to offer.

#### WHAT LONG TIME RESIDENTS ARE SAYING:

- "Great Neighbors"
- "Wonderful Homeowners Association"
- "Functional, Interesting Floor Plans And Designs"
- "We Were Going To Build But The House We Saw Already Had What We Wanted"

**Don't believe them?** Visit [www.DTR-EmeryWoods.com](http://www.DTR-EmeryWoods.com) to see photos of your next home, then call us to schedule a House Showing: Model Number 234.738.1277.

**Open House Hours, Saturdays & Sundays, 1-5 PM.**



**BLOSSOM HOMES**  
"WE BUILD WITH YOU IN MIND"  
PRICED RIGHT

## GROWING STRONGER COMMUNITIES.



We're putting down deep roots and giving back to the communities we serve.



We think it's only natural to cultivate meaningful relationships in the communities where we live and work. And at Dominion, that means we do more than write checks. So while we're very proud to invest more than \$19 million in our communities annually, we're even prouder of Dominion's employees for

volunteering 100,000 hours of their time. From refurbishing homeless shelters to replenishing local food banks to cleaning up parks to helping soldiers and their families, we're donating the most precious resource of all: our energy. Learn more by visiting [dom.com/foundation](http://dom.com/foundation).



[dom.com](http://dom.com)  