



THE BLACK CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

# Black Churches wrestle with need to change while preserving values, beloved traditions

By Afi-Odelia E. Scruggs | SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

When Rev. Dr. Stephen Rowan began to lead Bethany Baptist Church 15 years ago, he knew he'd have to make substantial changes if he wanted it to flourish.

He didn't waste any time.

He added monitors, so worshippers could read scriptures from the screens instead of from their Bibles. He changed the name of church committees and auxiliaries; they all became ministries. And he relaxed the dress code.

"I told women, 'You can wear pants.' I said come as you are, just try to come in a way that would be dignified and representative of the Lord.

"Same with men, come in jeans, tennis shoes. I didn't have any problem with that," Rowan said.

But many congregants did.

"If I hadn't grown up this church I think they would have run me out, to be honest with you," Rowan said.

When Rowan succeeded his father in 1999, the church was at the crossroads. Membership had fallen, and the edifice needed major renovations.



Bethany Baptist Church, left, and St. Paul Missionary Baptist in Kinsman among churches looking to adapt in the new millenium. [Real Deal Press photo file]

Now, Rowan says, about 1500 people are listed on the church roll. He counts on 400 to 500 people on a good Sunday.

In order to grow, the church had to find a way to balance traditions that comforted the older stalwarts while attracting a younger generation.

That challenge wasn't and isn't unique to the 86-year-old church on

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## Bedford schools get new superintendent amidst board tension

By Richard Donald Jones Sr.  
Press Correspondent

During a June meeting that can be politely described as contentious, the Bedford City School District announced that Andrea Celico has been selected as the district's new superintendent.

Celico has been assis-

tant superintendent in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights School District for the last two years.

The Bedford school board approved the hiring of Celico during a heated meeting as the Board's three Caucasian members voted in a bloc to remove African American board president Barbara Patterson from the president's traditional role in leading contract negotiations



Andrea Celico

with new Superintendent hires.

During a shouting match among Board members, Tim Tench questioned if Patterson was biased against the selection

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## Euclid: A city looking back amidst uncertainty how to go forward

By Anthony Houston  
Special to the Real Deal Press

EUCLID — How to spend \$1 million in county demolition funds, the rationale to the city's decision first to purchase of St. Roberts Church for more than six hundred thousand dollars and then to let it languish and finally, to demolish

it, and crime and safety were just the surface topics for discussion at the Euclid City Council meeting on June 15.

The real issue on the table was a clash of visions around the city's future. For some, that meant returning to a time best epitomized by the halcyon days of Euclid Beach Park, when everything seemed wonderfully simple and safe. A

**Continued on Page 2**

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## BEDFORD SCHOOLS GET NEW SUPERINTENDENT

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of a white candidate while questioning Patterson's lack of cooperation.

"I would hope you would display a little bit of teamwork here," explained Tench.

Board Vice President Phil Stevens, who is also African American, shouted back at Tench, "Well I wish there was teamwork here and you would have discussed your intentions with all of us here."

Several parents in attendance at the meeting then began shouting for a recall of Tench.

"You're a racist. ...You're a racist and you need to be recalled right now," screamed one parent.

Celico, 41, of Eastlake, was an assistant superintendent of the Euclid School District prior to assuming a similar position with CH-UH Schools.

Celico's career began as an elementary teacher and includes doctoral work in urban administration.

Despite the rancor, Celico says she ready to hit the ground running.

"I would like to humbly thank you for selecting me as your new superintendent. I have learned the Bearcat tradition of excellence is due to wonderful people

of the communities and the hard work of the students and members of the faculty."

"As superintendent I will work tirelessly on our path of excellence. It is my intention to provide a safe and warm learning environment. It is important to me that we provide every student with the skills necessary to be college and career ready. I look forward to meeting all of you in the near future."

Celico earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from John Carroll University, and a master's degree in school administration and a doctorate in philosophy in urban administration from Cleveland State University.

Outgoing Bedford superintendent Sherman Micsak announced his retirement earlier this year with the intent to be rehired by the district and also collect his state retirement benefits. This practice is known as double dipping. When the Board refused to rehire him, Micsak then determined his resignation would be effective July 31, 2015. In 2014, Micsak received \$157,336 in annual salary, among the highest paid superintendents in the state.

## A CITY LOOKING BACK AMIDST UNCERTAINTY

Continued from Page 1

fifty-year city resident attending his first-ever council meeting said this was his first time attending a council meeting and that he represents a group of people who are proud to live in Euclid and that the City's goals should be to 'Make Euclid What it Was'.

Another resident reminisced about how Euclid Beach Park was a perfect image of the past that should be part of the recollections of how current city events should be planned. Black people have a different recollection of that time: their families were excluded from Euclid Beach solely because of their race.

A presentation from the citizens group Euclid Crime Watch and its "sister" organization, Making Euclid a Better City, helped to make clear that for many citizens black youth are the city's principal problem. Councilwoman Madeleine Scarniensch seemed to agree with these groups when she suggested that the solution might be to "end all this feel-good police stuff and put some boots on the ground."

These comments followed a disquieting week in the city after news stories of the assault and battery of a 12 year-old boy by a group of five boys and girls at a local playground.

One African American resident of-

fered a different perspective. He said it was disappointing to see the Euclid Crime page on Facebook and to read divisive comments, and he decried the lack of inclusiveness in many parts of the city.

Mac Stephens, the city's recreation director, offered a hopeful summation of the aspirations of many Euclidians when he said "we need to positively engage Euclid's teenagers" as opposed to relying principally upon authoritative police procedures but offer meaningful and positive activities. Still it was clear all members of council did not share Stephens' views.

Euclid is not alone in experiencing crime, development, disinvestment, racial and neighborhood fragmentation, real and imagined fear, job loss, and the challenge of creating opportunities for shared economic development.

The June 15 council meeting perhaps offered a snapshot of what Euclid residents and city leaders surely talk about in private conversations. That these conversations are now taking place in public settings is perhaps both a sign of how critical the state of the city has become, as well as a precondition for addressing the city's issues effectively.

## THE WORD ON SMALL BUSINESS

# For Entrepreneurs Cash Flow is King

By Kirby Freeman  
Press Correspondent



Any business owner who has been in operation for any significant amount of time will tell anyone who will listen that the basis of their survival lies not in how much they sell, but in how much cash they generate from their operations.

Cash-flow is the mother's milk of business. A company can be wildly successful in selling their product. There could be strong demand for whatever good or service they can process to the point that products fly off the shelves. But if the owner does not have actual cash in his or her pocket, in the bank, or even have credit to pay employees or suppliers, the business will have to close its doors – no matter how popular the product or service is in the market.

Indeed, the toughest enemy of all

businesses – large or small – is not that they are not profitable. The simple lack of cash is probably the number one killer of all businesses. History is littered with examples of businesses that – while on the surface were wildly popular with consumers – had to close down because they did not have the cash to continue daily operations.

Most of the conditions that lead to the lack of cash flow for any business can essentially be boiled down to several causes:

1. **Business owners often underestimate the amount of time it takes for businesses to collect cash from customers for products or services they have already provided.**

This is probably the biggest and saddest surprise for businesses that traditionally do not (and cannot) collect all of their payment before the service or product has been delivered. This is especially a problem for professional

service businesses – like construction contractors, attorneys, and mechanics.

2. **Entrepreneurs make mistakes in calculating, monitoring, and controlling operating costs.**

Most business owners have a passion for the service and/or product that they make. Most of them are not all that fired up about bean-counting and bookkeeping. But if you want to keep your doors open, you better have a feel for the numbers – How much does it cost you to produce one sale? How much raw material do you need to fill the order? How much do you have to pay your employees? How many employees do you need for one shift? How much do you have to pay for rent? How much do you have to pay for utilities? Can you find discounts?

3. **Business owners often fail to proactively secure various forms of credit**

**to pay operating costs while collecting on accounts.**

While building their businesses, many entrepreneurs do not take the time to engage existing relationships with the banks where they deposit their funds, nor do they work to enhance and expand their existing credit arrangements – including their credit card accounts, supplier and/or delivery terms, as well as personal and equity lines of credit. Business owners should take time out to ask bankers and credit providers about various options long before they need to use these funds. Very often they will come beg for funds precisely when they are most vulnerable – just as they are cash strapped. Entrepreneurs should have these resources available to keep the lights on until cash from receivables is collected.

4. **Even when entrepreneurs are successful in obtaining loans from banks and**

**other lenders, they often underestimate the amount of cash needed to purchase equipment or inventory, or fund working capital (operating costs) for their businesses.**

The U.S. Small Business Administration – as well as many business advisors – recommends that ideally, entrepreneurs should have cash on hand – or be able to quickly convert inventory or short-term assets into cash – equal to fund three to six months of operating costs.

At the very least, business owners need to often list operating and non-operating costs on either QuickBooks, Excel spreadsheet, or a sheet of paper, and familiarize themselves intimately with those costs.

Due to the importance of this subject to all business owners, we will re-examine the impact of cash flow in future columns, as well as highlight strategies to bolster financial performance for small businesses.

## New "Boss" at Call & Post newspaper

CLEVELAND OHIO – Call & Post Publisher Don King has hired veteran journalist Kenneth D. Miller to run the 99-year-old Call & Post newspaper. PIC

Miller worked in a variety of positions with the weekly Los Angeles Sentinel for about 35 years. He also worked for a time on the staff of former Los Angeles congresswoman

The Call & Post announced Miller's hiring in its June 10th issue, using words like "oversee", "assume authority" and "boss" to describe Miller's new role. Publisher King was quoted in the article as saying, "In any language, Kenny is the boss. When you speak to Kenny, you will be speaking to me..."

Miller has a longstanding relationship with King that appears to center on the intersection of boxing



Kenneth D. Miller

and the media. He arrives at a time of transition for the paper, following the death in November of executive editor Constance Harper, who had been a King's lifelong associate.

The Call & Post will celebrate its 100-year anniversary next year. The paper filed for bankruptcy in 1995 and King bought the paper out of those proceedings in 1998.

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## BUSINESS DIGEST



## Cleveland on tap to get its first African American Fortune 500 CEO

Eaton Corporation announced last month that Craig Arnold will become its new Chief Executive Officer when Alexander "Sandy" Cutler retires next May 31. In the meantime, Arnold will serve as the company's president and chief operating officer. Arnold has served as vice chairman, president and chief operating officer of Eaton's Industrial Sector since 2009. He joined Eaton in 200 from General Electric Company, where he started his professional career in 1983.

Arnold received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from California State University in San Bernardino and a Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University.

## Shaker Library now offering meeting space for businesses

The Shaker Library Board voted at its May meeting to allow meeting room use by for-profit, as well as nonprofit organizations.

A shared kitchenette, LCD Projector and 46-inch flat panel TV with a DVD

player are part of the rental regimen. Depending on the size of the rooms selected, up to 100 person meetings can be held for fees that start at \$20/hour. The rooms are at the Main Library and the Bertram W

Rooms can be reserved from the library's homepage at [shakerlibrary.org](http://shakerlibrary.org). For more information or help in making your reservation, call Rosemary Nugent at 216.991.2030, ext. 3003.

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

### Evening Vacation Bible School in Maple Heights, July 13-17

New Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church will be offering Vacation Bible School every night during the week of July 13-17. Sessions will start at 6:30pm and run until 8:30pm. All are welcome from age 2 to 102, said a church spokesman. New Cornerstone is located at 18900 Libby Rd. Call 216.663.6870 for more information.

### Area Dentist authors spiritual guide

Beachwood dentist Dr. André Mickel has written a book he believes can help people through the challenges of life we all endure. The formula for a life of joy and peace, he says, rests in an acronym that forms part of the title of his new book, *It's PROOF*



*TIME: There is Hope!*

In Mickel's lexicon, PROOF-TIME stands for Praise, Remember, Obedient (twice), Focus, Trust, Inspire, Meditate, and Energized, and is a guide to how readers can receive peace in the midst of adversity.

"No matter what calamity you are faced with, there is always hope," Dr.

Mickel says. "Anyone facing troubles and pain can ... turn their lives around to live an abundantly joyful and peace-filled life... no matter the circumstances!"

Mickel directs the Post Doctorate Endodontic Residency program at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, where he also chairs the Department of Endodontics. He returned to school to attend seminary after nearly 18 years of teaching and private practice.

A video trailer of Mickel's book can be seen at [youtube.com/watch?v=x28MXwprLaE&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://youtube.com/watch?v=x28MXwprLaE&feature=youtube_gdata_player). The book sells for \$23.99 [\$9.99 ebook].

Mickel and his wife Estomarys attend New Community Bible Fellowship Church in Cleveland Hts.

## Honors, Promotions, Milestones



Glen Shumate was inducted last month into the Hall of Fame of the American Advertising Federation of Cleveland. Check the video here: [aafcleveland.com/aaf-cle/aafcle-inducts-three-into-advertising-hall-of-fame/](http://aafcleveland.com/aaf-cle/aafcle-inducts-three-into-advertising-hall-of-fame/).



Melvin Smith has been elevated to full professor at Case's Weatherhead School of Management.

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REAL MONEY

# College Is Not for Everyone

By **J. Burner Crew**  
Press Correspondent



Traditionally, when a student heard that phrase from the high school guidance counselor a discussion about trade school followed. It meant through grades and academic performance the counselor surmised the student was best suited for a job that did not require a college degree. Much has changed in recent years and more high school graduates will have an opportunity to go from the final year in high school into the new high tech corporate environment without a college degree. The starting salary is typically \$100,000 per year plus an attractive benefits package.

The demand for qualified

code writers has become so great companies like Google, Facebook, and Yahoo have begun recruiting aggressively at the high school level. As these tech giants design and build their new corporate headquarters a college campus feel trumps the more traditional urban office environment. Chessboards, ping pong tables and even video game rooms are common place in this new corporate office space, obviously appealing to a younger workforce.

Our K-12 education curriculum is trying to meet the needs of a rapidly changing corporate culture with mixed results. At the state level there is an increasing awareness of where jobs will be created in the years ahead, but the system has only begun to provide the resources to support the demand. The term is STEM, (Science, Technology, En-

gineering, and Math), the skill set desired as a foundation for high tech jobs. The implications for workforce development, national security and immigration policy are far reaching. As a nation we prefer Apple, Google and others to create high paying jobs within our borders because the tax dollars provide long-term stability for the population. However, they need a greater pool of qualified students than currently exists.

Our national security is under siege from hackers sponsored by hostile governments attempting to gain an edge against our military and economic partners. The United States openly blamed North Korea for the most recent theft from Sony Corp, a critical Japanese trading partner; however, the true unidentified source was China. Hackers target data that

costs millions to develop and provide a cost effective way to close the gap between military forces within the NATO Alliance. The stakes remain high and the future dictates a major shift in resources if the United States is to maintain the lead it currently holds in technology.

The upcoming presidential race will focus on immigration more than ever because policy must be shaped to respond to an ever-increasing need for a STEM related workforce. Republicans and Democrats alike will be forced to articulate positions that protect our borders while providing entry for qualified and much needed personnel to fill high tech jobs. Each party will need to balance the need to protect their voter base and the associated interest while allowing growth and a competitive workforce.

Republicans traditionally view immigration as a very selective process that allows needed applicants to enter while racial diversification is closely monitored. Democrats must balance the protection of the current domestic labor force without constricting our ability to compete by adding qualified workers from other countries. The complexity of this single issue will be debated at length and will undoubtedly be a major factor in the shaping of America in the 2020s and beyond.

When our students choose not to enter college and confront the debt many struggle to pay after graduation, don't be surprised: they may only see a different path to employment not available in past decades. Technology is not just changing how we live, it is changing how we educate, immigrate and engage the rest of the world.



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# COUNTY FORUM: Dads make a difference

By **Russell Walker**  
Press Correspondent

Fatherhood matters. And the more a father is a part of his child's life, the better off that child is in the long run.

That was the message Cuyahoga County wanted to

get across to those who attended their annual Fatherhood Conference, which was held June 19 at the Wyndham Playhouse Square Hotel in downtown Cleveland.

Now in its 11th year, the conference was sponsored by the County's Fatherhood Initiative, whose stated mis-

sion is to "promote healthy father-child relationships, address the social problems that result from 'father absence' and strategize as a community to ensure that every child has a dad in his or her life."

According to Al Grimes, Executive Director of the Fatherhood Initiative, these are

issues that especially resonate with Cuyahoga County, which leads the entire state in the number of single-parent households.

"Right now, 44 percent of families in Cuyahoga County... are growing up in single households," said Grimes. "And in the city of Cleveland,

that jumps up to 69 percent."

"When it comes to single parent household we're the highest which makes sense since we are the largest county in the state," he continued. "But what we know is that the Fatherhood Initiative that we have in the county is one of

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## LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Local and regional business listings from around northeast Ohio region.

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## JUNE MANOR WEDDING COUPLE

### Chris & Tashara Williams

An original song, a message in pictures, and a kept promise were all the evidence Tashara needed to realize Chris was different.

The couple became Mr. and Mrs. Williams on May 30th under the elegant services of the Manor of Euclid Banquet and Conference Center. As promised by Manor manager Angela Slocum-Newby, the journey was as orable as the special day.

Chris wrote and sang his desire to be committed to Tashara as a 2012 Valentine's Day gift. On July 4, 2014, with a background of fireworks, he presented her with a chronology of her life in pictures, the latter of which contained a box—exactly like the real life one he gave with “the ring” inside.

So they wanted their wedding preparation experience to match how special they are to each other. “I grew up in Euclid, so the Manor was on my radar,” he explained. “It was a good decision.” Their wedding day marked the first time the couple

shared a kiss—a promise made on their day of their commitment.

“The consultation with the wedding coordinator and the chef was a really good experience,” Tashara agreed. “Even though we had our own coordinator, theirs and ours worked really well together.”

“They were flexible enough to really customize what food we wanted. We could stretch our dollar a lot more. I initially wanted individual service to tables; but it was served in a timely manner even with the buffet. I was very satisfied.”

Staying within budget was doubly important because the couple had honeymoon sights set on beautiful Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic, which they enjoyed free of financial stress.

“Our coordinator was very flexible, but the Manor offered to facilitate the event even if we didn't have a coordinator,” Chris reflected, smiling. “I liked the fact that they were never pushy. They were truly there to serve us.”

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# CHECKING IN

Last month we encountered some kind folk from Akron who, perusing our June issue, asked what our angle was at *The Real Deal Press*. We asked them to read through the issue and then repeat the question if the answer was not clear.

We think that if you read us, where we are coming from will be clear. We want to help build a better-informed, more engaged community. Or as our mission statement boldly says in our masthead in every issue [on the right of this page]: our mission is to “**attract, articulate and amplify civic intelligence and community engagement for a healthier, stronger community.**”

But you know as well as we that in a relationship it's just not sufficient to just talk about your intentions. As the saying goes, you have to not just talk about it; you have to “be about it.” For us, we try to be about it in every article and in every issue. And we expect to be judged on that.

Being about it doesn't mean that talking about it is unimportant. We've learned through the ups and downs of

life that even people close to us can't read our minds solely by watching what we do, even when we think our actions align perfectly with our intent. So we have to talk regularly about our intentions, what it is that we wanted to do. Not only does that help our partners understand us better, it also makes it easier to evaluate the results. How well did our acts comport with our stated intentions? Did we fall short, and if so, where and why? What could we have done better so that we could have realized our intentions?

We like to think we are developing a relationship with you, our readers, where you can count on us to bring you important, useful and interesting stories about the communities and neighborhoods where we live and move. We want always to be accurate and fair. We want to be open to challenge and differing opinions. We don't focus on being objective. But we strive to make clear when we are reporting and when we are expressing our opinions. And if we manage to adhere to those standards of accuracy, fairness,

and openness, then we don't have to so much to fear from allegations of bias or lack of objectivity.

Our primary focus is right here in Cuyahoga County and Northeast Ohio, though we have kind and devoted readers who weigh in from Tuscarawas and Chicago [Chiraq?] and Seattle and Hong Kong.

There are reasons why we are hyper focused on home even though we keep up as best we can on what's happening in Cincinnati, Charleston, DC, Texas, Cuba, Nigeria and Yemen. Foremost among them are their distance from us: we're not on the ground in any of those places, and we have to work just as hard as you do to understand what's going on there and why. Furthermore, in this day and age, there are lots of folk out there better positioned than we to tell what's happening in those places. Our beat is here where we live alongside you.

Are we reporting on what you want to know? What can we do better? Drop us a line or give us a call, especially if you have a constructive comment or critique. We accept com-

pliments as well, but they can best be delivered by telling our advertisers that you saw their message in our pages or telling your favorite vendors [retail or professional, you know like dentists, lawyers, insurance agents, etc.] that they should check out our rates because we are onto something. Or send a letter to the editor that we can share with fifteen or twenty thousand of our favorite people, i.e. our readers.

These comments would be incomplete if we didn't seize this opportunity to thank our wonderful contributors, the writers and photographers who work to bring you that accurate and interesting information you find here every month. Thank you Burner, Derek, Kirby, Lisa, Anthony, Alan, Chardé, Richard, Mary Jo, Afi, and Russell. We couldn't do this without you. And that goes for our designer, our printer, our distributor, and our volunteers. Thank you Steve, Bob, Kim, Jason, Tim, Taryn, and Darrielle. And last but certainly not least, our advertisers. May your coffers and your ranks swell!

**Thank you one and all.**

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

**Advertising Sales:**  
Paul K. Jones  
(216.338.7038)

**Contributors:**  
Burner Crew; Derek K. Dixon; Kirby V. Freeman; Lisa Hammond; Anthony Houston; Alan Howard; Chardé Hurst; Richard Donald Jones; Mary Jo Minarik; Afi-Odelia E. Scruggs; Russell Walker.

**Photography:**  
Randy O. Norfus;  
Eric Benson; Jeff Ivey

**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)  
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IN MY OPINION

# Who is to blame for Charleston? We all are.

By James Hardiman  
Press Correspondent

Nine lives were just snuffed out in Charleston, South Carolina by the terrorist acts of a white supremacist who apparently was intent on starting a race war. We're now left to wonder: Who's to blame for the shooting in Charleston and, more importantly, when will the madness end?

The madness seems to continue unabated by the passage of time or the elevation of human morality. It's been sixty years since 14 year-old Emmitt Till was killed in rural Mississippi by white supremacists. His offense? Making inappropriate comments to a white woman. Many believe Emmitt Till's death actually started the modern Civil Rights Movement although this was just one of many such unresolved injustices. Some fifty years ago in 1963, Medgar Evers was shot and killed by members of the KKK because he wanted to register African American voters in the State of Mississippi. That same year, Alabama segregationists bombed the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, killing four young innocent black girls whose only transgression was being black. More recently, Timothy McVeigh bombed the Oklahoma City Federal Building, killing some 168 people because he had a gripe against the federal government.

Now we're forced to deal with Dylan Roof and the killing of nine innocent worshippers because, as a demented bigot he believed that African Americans are "taking over the country."

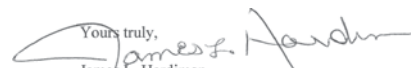
So who is to blame? We all are. We have not yet learned to live together in this supposedly post-racial society. As a nation we get upset because

**"We must demand a meaningful dialogue on race and racism in America."**

a Caucasian woman had the audacity to want to identify as black. We can't understand why a woman with all the privileges that whiteness provides would want to be black. Meanwhile, as we scratch our head in wonderment over a nonissue, nine black lives are lost because we refuse to come to grips with racism, racial attitudes and real solutions to an American tragedy.

Maybe the madness will eventually end although it can never be too soon since, no matter what eventually happens, we'll never bring back the Emmitt Tills, the Medgar Everses or the nine black people that were just murdered in Charleston. In the wake of this latest senseless killing, the people who have a sincere interest in change cannot permit the racist elements of our society to prevail. If we are to eventually overcome, then we must demand that a meaningful dialogue on race and racism in America be commenced at the earliest possible time. Otherwise we are destined to have history repeat itself and, at some future date, lament the loss of more lives because we have not yet accepted the fact that "Black Lives Matter", that black people are here to stay, and unless we all stand together, we're destined to perish.

*James Hardiman is a Cleveland attorney and longtime Cleveland NAACP official.*

Yours truly,  
  
James L. Hardiman  
NAACP Criminal Justice Chairman

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## NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

# Case Western Reserve University Providing Opportunities for Today's Youth

Special to The Real Deal Press

Andrew Cotton, 12, of Maple Heights, in his fifth year at the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) at Case Western Reserve University, most enjoys the camp's art, swimming, track and soccer activities.

First-year camper Daerou Cobbins, 12, of Cleveland, is excited about football — even the drills and exercises the campers participate in before playing.

And if not for the program, said Deshawn Laster, 12, of Garfield Heights, who learned to swim at the camp last year, "I'd probably be at home watching TV or playing a video game."

Launched in 1970, the NYSP provides an enriching five-week summer camp experience that offers sports activities, education, nutrition and health services to more than 500 economically disadvantaged Greater Cleveland youth age 10 to 16 each year. Originally supported by federal funding, Case has continued to underwrite the program as part of its commitment to improving the quality of life for others in the community.

Since its inception, the program, which began June 8 and runs through July 10 this year, has served more

than 15,000 local children. For many, it's their first exposure to a college campus and instills educational goals for them to work toward, resulting in much more than just a "sports camp."

NYSP at Case Western Reserve "provides a structured environment with established expectations of positive behavior and mutual respect during a critical developmental stage in children's lives" said Dennis "Coach" Harris, the program's director.

Once enrolled in NYSP, children can participate in a variety of sports, including badminton, volleyball, football, tennis, soccer, softball, golf, dance, kickball, track and field and basketball. Campers rotate between activities for maximum exposure to at least four sports, although participation in swimming is mandatory for all campers as an important safety skill.

A special emphasis is placed on teaching to encourage participants to continue the sport beyond their time at the camp. In addition, all campers receive free physicals and free meals, reinforcing critical concepts of good health for life.

Young people face many obstacles today, compounded by the environment in which they live. According to 2013 estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, Cleveland's pov-

erty rate of 36.9 percent ranks among the nation's highest.

Urban centers such as Cleveland present particular challenges often caused or complicated by the preponderance of poverty in the area, including those related to education, crime, nutrition, health and youth obesity, which correlates strongly with such conditions as Type 2 diabetes.

In Cuyahoga County, a 2012 survey of more than 12,000 middle-school students prepared by Case Western Reserve's Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods showed 29 percent of students as overweight or obese; 60 percent did not eat breakfast daily; and 71 percent ate fast food at least once a week.

NYSP seeks to provide the skills to help combat these trends by instilling lifelong positive habits, from nutrition to exercise, that may support participants' well-being and empower them to lead a healthy, productive life.

## MULTIFACETED APPROACH

The program's teaching approach doesn't end on the athletic field. It extends to their minds as well.

NYSP campers also participate in educational programming to enhance academic skills and social awareness. Sessions include personal health, nutrition, drug and alcohol



*Photos of NYSP activities provided by Case Western Reserve University*

prevention, disease prevention, personal hygiene, grooming, career opportunities, computer skills, math, and science.

The math and science component provides exposure to environmental science as well as other math and science disciplines. It incorporates hands-on activities to cultivate positive attitudes toward math and science education and career opportunities.

By incorporating disparately taught life skills — including

nutrition, exercise, sports activities, leadership and teamwork — all within a collegiate environment, NYSP can be life-changing in that the experience encourages students to conceptualize a future that includes higher education.

"It's been a joy," said Mandel Childs, a member of the NYSP education staff who teaches three African-American history classes daily. "It's always a joy to watch young people excited about learning."

## Djapo's African Dance and Drum Festival a spiritual and cultural immersion



Photos by Randy O. Norfus

Intermission is typically the part of the show where the audience members stretch their legs, get refreshments, check their cell phones, or heed nature's call. But a request to the audience at intermission of the June 20 concert to donate \$1000 in support of the Djapo Cultural Arts Institute festival and concert program produced perhaps the most poignant moments of what was a most exciting African Dance and Drum Festival.

The audience was asked to donate \$1,000 and at first it seemed like a large request. But one generous lady named Danielle Morris walked down to the front of the stage and donated the \$1,000. When asked what her motivation was to donate that amount, she said she was a Cleveland School of the Arts alumna just like Djapo's artistic director Talise Campbell. The next donation came in the amount of \$500 from a woman named Darlene. These were followed by two \$100 donations. The donations brought the concert to another level and created a "family feel" for all the attendees.

"Cultural Connections" was the take-away message conveyed at the concert on Saturday. Connecting cultures from many different parts of the world as well as embracing our own African American culture was the theme. Artistic Director Talise Campbell developed the Djapo Institute to preserve traditional music, dance and history through community dance and drum outreach programs.

The weekend was filled with events including African dance and drum workshops during the day on Saturday and Sunday with the concert high pointing the festival Saturday night. There were twelve

classes over the two days teaching participants various African drum rhythms and dances such as Sabar, a high-energy dance deriving from Senegal. Workshops were taught at the Phillis Wheatley Association on Cedar Ave. by professional, world-renowned masters who traveled from as far as London to be a part of the weekend festival. The workshops were about an hour and a half in length and filled with participants. Organizers estimated that about 1200 people attended one or more of the festival events.

Saturday night's concert, held at St. Ignatius High School's Breen Center, was two hours full of excitement. There were nine dances performed solely to drum rhythms. Dancers ranged in ages and were highly skilled. A small choir of ladies sang African songs to the rhythm of the drums and movements of the dancers. Each dance represented an important part of African culture. For example, The Gumbo Dance developed originally as a way for slaves to communicate with one another before its subsequent transformation into an expressive art.

The second half commenced with a children's choir performing their version of "Glory" from the movie Selma. A young boy playing the piano and three girls playing violin accompanied the choir. The beauty of the performance brought tears to my eyes.

The finale was amazing and full of energy. It was a huge dance including all of the dancers, workshop teachers, drummers and choir members. There even was a stilt walker. Audience members clapped and danced along as the drum rhythms moved the room.

Djapo Cultural Arts Institute put on a great show celebrating African American culture.



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# Maple Heights guaranteed new leadership at City Hall in 2016

By R. T. Andrews  
Editor

The future of Maple Heights will be in fresh hands come January 1, as the five candidates who met the June 10 filing deadline did not include either Mayor Jeff Lansky or City Council President Jackie Albers. Albers had previously announced that she would be retiring from elected office after about a decade as council leader. But Lansky, who appears non-communicative on his good days, made no public statements either leading up or after the deadline.

Still, Lansky's decision not to run again was not exactly a surprise. With the city in fiscal emergency since February, as declared by the state auditor, City Hall has been on life support for months, with citizens unsure even when the building is open. A skeletal staff is seemingly being asked to perform multiple jobs even as it faces the prospect of further cutbacks. The city's Senior Center, a vital social and health resource for the community, remains open by virtue of donations and may shut down by August 31 when revenues are expected to run out.

Later this year, city residents will vote whether to raise their taxes to keep the center open. Even if such a measure passes, the piecemeal approach of such an approach will do nothing to address the chronic fiscal problems the city is facing. Given these challenges, which rest atop a host of other problems, it seemed apparent that Lansky had lost his appetite for the job.



(l) Stafford Shenett, Maple Heights District 1 Candidate in District 1 (r) Jeff Lansky, Maple Heights Mayor

Still, there are five candidates who will be trying over the next 75 days to convince their fellow citizens that they are capable of leading the city to brighter days.

The five: commercial property tax analyst Annette M. Blackwell, District 5 Councilman Bill Brownlee, Maple Hts. Police Sgt. Donald M. Grossmyer, former city councilwoman Neomia Mitchell and retired military serviceman Frank Rives.

Voters will decide at a September 8 primary election which two of the five will advance to the general election on November 3.

We will profile each candidate in our August issue, just before early voting begins. The Maple Heights Democratic Club will sponsor a mayoral candidate forum for these five candidates on Tuesday, July 14, from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm at the Maple Heights Library.

## DISTRICT 7 ALSO TO HAVE PRIMARY

Only one council district drew as many as

three candidates. First term Councilwoman Edwina Agee has drawn two challengers, Colleen Scott and Celestine Wilburn. Two of these three will advance out of the September primary to a November face-off.

Other Council seats

Maple Heights City Council will also elect a new leader this fall. District 5 councilman Richard Trojanski is giving up his seat to run for the top council post. He will be challenged by political newcomer Aaron E. Mitchell.

Two newcomers — Stafford Shenett in District 1 and Tangyln Madden in District 5 — were the only candidates to file in their respective races and can be expected to take office in January. Shenett had become a protégé of retiring councilman Alex Adams while Madden was a leader in the fight to rid the city of the red-light cameras last year.

Districts 3 and 6 are also guaranteed new representation. Ebony Miller and Christian Ostenson will vie in District 3 to succeed Anthony Cefaratti, who declined to run again. And Richard L. Clark II and Sharri Thomas will compete to see which will succeed Trojanski in District 6.

The remaining council races will see incumbents square off against a single challenger. District 2's Toni Jones will battle Thomas J. Coyle Jr., while District 4's Ron Jackson will defend his record against Dolly Lewis.

Depending on their appetite for change, Maple Heights voters thus have the opportunity this year to elect a new governing coalition from top to bottom.

## CAPITAL BEAT

### Kasich makes initial appointments to Community-Police Advisory Board

Several Northeast Ohioans are among Gov. Kasich's initial appointments to the recently established Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board. The Board was established pursuant to a task force established by Kasich at the behest of Cleveland area legislators, then-Sens. Nina Turner and Shirley Smith, and current Sen. Sandra Williams. The legislators persuaded Kasich, in the aftermath of the deaths of Tamir Rice and Tanisha Ander-

son at the hands of police, that a crisis existed requiring state government action.

The task force, co-chaired by Turner, issued its report to Kasich at the end of April and Kasich has promised to implement its recommendations quickly and to make Ohio a model for the reformation of police recruitment, training, and behavior.

Northeast Ohioans named to the board last month were former Sen. Nina Turner; Officer Brian S. Armstead of Akron (Summit Co.), Akron Police Department and member of the Fraternal Order of Police; Dr. Ronnie Dunn

of Cleveland (Cuyahoga Co.), Cleveland State University associate professor, member of the NAACP Criminal Justice Committee; The Most Rev. George Murry of Youngstown (Mahoning Co.), Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown; Sheriff Tom Miller of Brunswick (Medina Co.), member of the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association.

Area citizens named as ex officio board members are former Congressman Louis Stokes, former U.S. Senator, Ohio Governor and Cleveland mayor, George Voinovich, and Sen. Sandra Williams of Cleveland.

# Urban Farmer Turns Land into Classroom for Summer Youth

By **Derek K. Dixon**  
Press Correspondent

East side resident Fred Hardman is proving you don't need acres of pristine soil and the latest technology to help today's school-agers become tomorrow's profitable urban farmers.

"I'd say forty to fifty percent of the kids are very interested," said Hardman, 70, said "I showed them what the cost of buying vegetables would be in the store, and

then compared it to what they were doing here."

"Here" is Hardman's North Coast Urban Farms and Gardens on East 144th Street where about six dozen fourth through eighth graders began their summer vacations with weekly visits over a two-month period. Most attend nearby Robert H. Jamison School, but a few live in outlying areas. "I liked using the tools, like the garden trow," said Chanivah H, a fifth-grader from Twinsburg. "I liked to plant the red radishes," added Jamison fifth-grader Le'shona S., adding "even though my goal is to be a singer, I want to learn planting at the same time." Her classmate, Davian M., the lone boy in his group, said "I liked using the drill to make the raised-bed box for planting" while demonstrating the proper hand position to complete the task.

When Hardman opened the community garden across from the school in 2010, the response from most neighbors was immediately positive. Fifteen-year resident Toni Crawford often keeps a watchful eye on it from her home next door. "Kids need to learn about it so they can one day become farmers themselves," she said. "It also teaches them healthy eating habits." Having peaked at forty plots last year, the garden currently has thirty-two in active use with others still available for leasing. One is an ADA-compliant in structure because its lessee is wheelchair-bound.

At a rate of \$40 for the entire growing season, Hardman leases four-by-eight foot plots to some of his neighbors. Pauline Robinson, for example, has been a dedicated co-laborer from the outset. "Some days I get here as early as 5:30 in the morning and work at least four or five hours before the kids arrive," she said. "I get some of the kids to help me with the soil and start planting."

The students, who arrive just before noon on week-

days, participate in a wide spectrum of gardening tasks. Several used an electric drill, a hammer, nails and wood boards to build rectangular raised-bed vegetable plots. Hardman teaches them the difference between planting and weeding, irrigation through water-gathering and conservation, distinguishing between twenty and thirty different fruits and vegetables, and proper harvesting techniques.

"It's easier and more profitable to do raised-bed gardening instead of linear gardening," he explained to group. "In the same space our ancestors used to only yield single plant from a linear plot we can now use to get about five from a raised-bed plot. So you can sell more (using the latter)."

The two-month project is sponsored by the Cleveland Playhouse. Students arrive almost every weekday just before noon led by a Jamison school teacher. They get a lunch break after about an hour of work and finish up in the mid-afternoon. Student group leader Amy Gray stated, "What's great is that they actually see and participate in the process because normally they're not exposed to this in their neighborhoods." One of her students, seventh-grader Tex C. said, "I want to be a doctor, but I see how gardening is connected because they're both about health." Seventh-grader Derek H. got an unexpected lesson construction during his experience. "As I was drilling (to build the raised-bed plot), I thought the nail was going to break," he mused, "but I found out it was stronger than I thought." Several other students found value in their unique learning experiences.

"Not every one of them is going to be a farmer. But they're getting an education they otherwise wouldn't get; and they're realizing that good gardening and farming takes work," Hardman concluded.



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## Local Farm Serves Residents with Special Needs *Old Brooklyn Farm Creates Win-Win-Win*

By **Derek K. Dixon**  
Press Correspondent

The re-emergence of Local Food Mondays, the Ohio City incubator for Cleveland's urban farmers and their supporters, has fostered a wellspring of customized services to outlying residents. In fact, Rising Harvest Farms in Old Brooklyn has opened access of wholesome foods to a traditionally underserved market.

"It's sometimes challenging to work with people

**Continued on Page 14**



## LOCAL FARM SERVES RESIDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Continued from Page 13

who have different developmental disabilities,” confesses RHF Farm Manager Michael Bartunek. “But it’s also very rewarding. We want to work directly with our customers rather than just restaurants (that are willing to provide wholesome foods).”

Launched in 2012 as a subsidiary of the non-profit disabled community advocate Koinonia Homes, RHF uses “community-supported agriculture” (CSA) during the warm weather season as an opportunity to grow food, relationships, and occasionally, grassroots economic uplift. “The reason the CSA is attractive is that the food is grown on our farm, and is then given directly to the customers.” Customers are signing up to receive food via the 2015 Summer Farm Share program during preset time intervals that begin June 4 and run through October. They get to choose from dozens of site-grown vegetables, fruits and herbs at the rate of \$570 (half

share) or \$1140 (full share).

“Most of the folks come from the neighborhood or the nearest surrounding neighborhoods. This year we’ll be serving three hundred families with our summer program,” Bartunek said, six times more than are served during the winter. To help the cause, RHF keeps a pipeline of volunteers who do a variety of jobs on site.

Food quality is guaranteed through RHF’s adherence to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) standards. Established by the FDA and USDA, the standards allow practitioners not only to provide sustainability in the food quality, but also to do so as economically as possible. The Rising Harvest website states “this means being able to track our products from seed, field, harvest, wash/packing house transport and onto our customer.”

In addition to good nutrition, the farm offers educational and vocational training. “As for internships for adults with developmental disabili-

ties, our model is simple: It is education by experience. Interns spend one day a week in a vocational training classroom with a community instructor learning soft skills that will help them become employed in the community and have success in their placement,” Bartunek said.

He also described how all levels of students use the destination for field trips. “We have hosted numerous groups from preschoolers all the way through universities. Sometimes those groups volunteer, sometimes they come to participate because the sustainability of the farm lends itself to being a practical first-hand experience where classroom disciplines can be realized.” At the university level, one student used data that was collected from the muscles of a locally grown zebra to complete a master’s thesis.

Bartunek realizes there ought never to be a ceiling on the range of benefits to citizens in the share program. “I



“Fifth and sixth graders work with urban farmer Fred Hardman

would like to see even more meaningful relationships built with community members and organizations. By this I mean finding creative ways to broaden the custom-

er base that we serve to cross over economic and geographic barriers. I have a vision of many local urban farms working together to serve one common purpose.”

## COUNTY FORUM: DADS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Continued from Page 6

the best in the country.”

“There is no other county in Ohio, and very few counties in the state, that are doing what we are doing to address these issues.”

In all, more than 500 people attended the daylong event, which consisted of a number of educational workshops and information sessions geared towards fathers,

single or otherwise, and the issues they deal with regarding their roles as a parent.

Some workshops focused on more practical matters, such as how an unemployed father can find a job to support his family or what social services are available to help.

Other sessions focused on less immediate, but no less important, issues such

as custody and visitation rights, what fathers need to know about child support, how those fathers just coming from prison can successfully re-integrate back into society and even how to contend with the often negative portrayal of single fathers in the media.

Anyone with additional questions following the fo-

rum had the opportunity to address a panel of experts on hand to tie everything together.

While the event was primarily for the benefit of fathers, what they took away from the forum was also meant to benefit their children.

Ultimately, fathers armed with the proper information and provided the right guid-

ance are typically more engaged with their children. As a result, studies have shown that these children tend to do better in school, are less likely to do drugs, get arrested or become teen parents, and more likely to lead productive lives.

“When both parents are involved, it makes for a much better outcome,” said Grimes.

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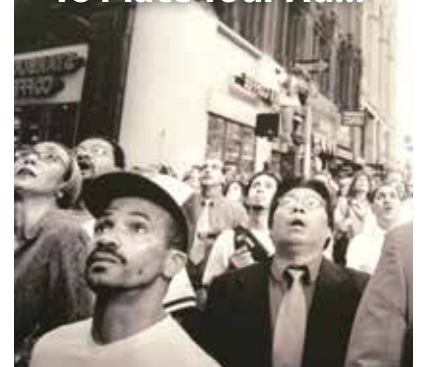
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## BLACK CHURCHES WRESTLE WITH NEED TO CHANGE WHILE PRESERVING TRADITION

Continued from Page 1

East 105th St., between Olivet and Hampden avenues. It's one shared by another, smaller church at the corner of East 79th and Kinsman Ave.

At 89 years old, St Paul Missionary Baptist Church risks being a relic from the 20th century. The church has only 70 members, says pastor Rev. Norman D. Hunter. Its survival is uncertain unless younger folks sit besides the elders who have been coming for 50 or more years. Hunter says that's why he's working on convincing worshippers to abandon outmoded ideas and attitudes.

"We hold value to some things and make them idols," he said. "For instance, your communion table. I believe it's special, but we shouldn't chop people's heads off because they accidentally touched the table."

### Continued on Page 16

The situation these pastors are managing was addressed 25 years ago, in the groundbreaking book, "The Black Church in the African-American Experience." C. Eric Lincoln and Lawrence Mamiya saw the conflict between tradition and innovation as the outgrowth of another issue: young African Americans are forsaking the church. The scholars gave several reasons for that disinterest: the rise of an un-churched generation of African Americans; churches that

emphasized preaching and programs for adults over those for younger members; and the secularization of African American life.

Lincoln and Mamiya did 10 years of fieldwork before publishing their book in 1990. They asked pastors whether young people were leaving their churches and why. Almost half of the respondents – 46 percent – answered that young people were bored, or they weren't given a chance to participate in a meaningful way. Back then, the scholars' sources were confident those youth would return to church when they became parents or grandparents. Twenty-five years later, that confidence seems misplaced.

When Hunter looks into his pews, he sees the very young and the very old. He doesn't have the folks from 18 to 39 that he needs to ensure a healthy organization.

"We have lost three generations that have not been socialized in churches. They really don't know what the norm is, or what tradition is," said Hunter, who is 49. "Even though we were brought to church, a lot of people in my generation haven't brought their children to church. The grandkids don't come to church."

He blames slavish devotion to traditions for turning younger, new members away from an institution

that Lincoln and Mamiya called "the cultural womb of the Black community."

"You have younger parishioners, now and some of them like to express themselves in different forms, and they're Biblical," Hunter said. "For instance, praise dancing. David praise-danced. But some of the elders don't like it because they think it's too worldly."

Traditions help give a church its identity. The hymns sung during communion, the all-night prayer services, or the nurses dressed in white caps, white dresses and white shoes, all make church a special place that's in the world but certainly not of it. Even the smallest modification can make the church seem like less of a rock in a weary land.

Take the video monitors that Rowan installed at Bethany. They're found in many congregations, so worshippers can follow the service without relying on books, hymnals or brochures. Rowan said the monitors sent a signal to prospective members that the old Bethany was open to new practices, ideas and new people. Bethany Baptist was in a situation that was similar to the one St. Paul's faces now. The pews were emptying and the congregation was greying. Installing the monitors wasn't simply about con-



Rev. Dr. Stephen Rowan, Senior Pastor, Bethany Baptist Church.  
[Photo courtesy of Facebook.com]

venience; it was about the church's survival.

"I put them in because I know we live in a technological society, and I wanted to attract younger people," Rowan said. "Based on what I had observed in my research, these were the kinds of things that were working."

"You could read the words (on the screen). You didn't have to carry songbooks and sing a lot of the traditional hymns. You could get into programs that would offer a lot of the newer music."

Still, the video monitors hanging in sanctuaries are smaller versions of the gigantic screens installed at the Quicken Loans Arena. The sound system that spreads the soloist's voice throughout a sanctuary is probably the same one used by a hip-hop or R&B group. As the world's equipment and practices seep into the church, the lines between sacred and secular loosen and become more blurred.

That's the burden that weighs on Hunter as he ponders how to entice souls to walk across the church threshold. He said he was "tempted" to attract young people – especially males – by hosting a game night featuring Grand Theft Auto and other similar games. In between the gaming, he'd planned to include a Bible study.

"But I was led away from it," Hunter said. "The Bible says 'Be ye not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.'"

"This is something the contemporary church has to wrestle with. If I don't use that, how I am going to attract them?" Hunter said, "I'm going to stick with the unadulterated gospel and I'm going to count on (God's) anointing. I'm going to pray that God gives me the people around me that believe in the mission."

"When we go out fishing, we'll be able to better deal with the ones we bring in."