



The Dayton Weekly NEWS

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daytonweeklyonline.com



Can One Legislate a Different POV?

By: Imari Burton
Staff Writer

The Next Phase of DEI Can you oppose DEI whilst creating your own version of it?

Before asking whether the next phase of DEI is truly a rejection of DEI itself, it helps to define the term and its origins. DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Refers to policies

intended to increase participation of underrepresented groups and address barriers to equal opportunity.

These policies can affect hiring, college admissions, workplace training, curriculum, and campus programs. DEI grew out of civil-rights efforts to address discrimination and unequal representation,

and over time institutions then expanded their focus from preventing discrimination, to addressing representation and outcomes amongst other demographic groups.

For years, conservatives have criticized DEI programs on the grounds that hiring, admissions, and other institutional decisions should be based on

merit and individual qualifications — not on whether someone belongs to a particular racial, gender, or any other demographic group. At the same time, conservatives have also raised concerns about whether some universities have moved beyond teaching competing ideas, and into promoting certain

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DCDC's New Artistic Directress Makes Her Victoria Theatre Debut With Spectra



Qarrienne Blayr
By Dayton Weekly News
Editorial Staff

Dayton Contemporary Dance Company opens its mainstage season on Halloween weekend, and the program marks a turning point for one of the city's most treasured Black institutions.

"Spectra" takes the Victoria Theatre stage at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. It is the first Victoria Theatre program led by Qarrienne Blayr since she became DCDC's artistic directress.

A new chapter Blayr, previously the

Continued on Page 7

Black-Owned Businesses in Dayton Average \$35,000 a Year. Here is Where Growth Help Lives



By Dayton Weekly News
Editorial Staff

The Miami Valley Urban League's State of Black Dayton report delivers a number every Black entrepreneur in the region should sit with. The average Black-owned business in Dayton brings in about \$35,000 a year. The average white-owned business brings in about \$650,000.

The report also estimates that roughly 90 percent of Black-owned businesses locally are sole proprietorships, where the owner is the only employee. The challenge those numbers point to is growth, by moving from one person doing everything to a business with staff, systems and steady con-

tracts.

The wider economy has improved. The report notes a 4.9 percent increase in jobs and a 19.7 percent rise in median household income across the region over the past decade. The open question is whether Black business owners share in that momentum.

One resource sits in the heart of Wright-Dunbar. The Greater West Dayton Incubator, a University of Dayton initiative, opened its permanent home this summer at 1169 W. Third St. in the Cornerstone development. The 4,000-square-foot space nearly triples the incubator's room for co-working, classes and catering and brings its programs under one roof. Two private offices are available for

Continued on Page 8

Black Girl Vitamins Brings Homecoming of Health Tour to Central State University



The national wellness brand opens its 2026 HBCU tour at CSU, with a focus on helping Black women build healthy habits in college and beyond.

Homecoming at Central State University has always been about tradition, school pride and the bonds that tie generations of Marauders together. This year, students and alumni will also find a reason to think about their health.

Black Girl Vitamins,

a wellness company built around the needs of Black women, will open its 2026 Homecoming of Health Tour on the Central State campus Oct. 9 and 10. The visit lands in the middle of the university's homecoming week, which runs Oct. 7 through 11.

College makes healthy routines hard to keep. Between classes, jobs, friends and planning for life after graduation, sleep and stress management are often the first things to go.

Continued on Page 6

Housing Resource Connection Fair – Connecting the Dots From Renting to Homeownership



The City of Dayton Human Relations Council, in partnership with the Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, will host the Housing Resource Connection Fair: Connecting the Dots from Renting to Homeownership on Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army Dayton Kroc Center, 1000 N. Keowee St.

The free community event will bring housing organizations, legal resources, financial institutions, lenders, housing counselors and other service providers together in one location to help residents address housing needs at every stage, from maintaining stable rental housing to preparing for and achieving homeownership.

This year's fair places an increased emphasis on the path to homeownership. In addition to meeting one-on-one with

housing professionals and community organizations, attendees can participate in two homebuyer breakout sessions featuring credit counseling and mortgage lending professionals. The sessions will give residents an opportunity to ask questions, better understand credit and financing, and learn practical steps they can take to prepare for homeownership.

Attendees will have access to a wide range of housing resources, including help with tenant rights and fair housing concerns, free legal assistance, eviction sealing, mediation, affordable housing, utility and energy assistance, credit counseling and financial literacy, homebuyer education, down payment and homeownership programs, mortgage and lending options, real estate resources, veterans services, and other community-based assistance.

Continued on Page 4

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Local

Miami Valley Weather

5 day Forecast

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Cloudy High 73 Low 59	Rain High 69 Low 56	Partly Cloudy High 82 Low 64	Sunny High 86 Low 65	Rain High 66 Low 56

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE
COMMISSION

VA Eligibility Assistance

- Claims, pension, and benefits submission

Transportation Services

- Transportation is provided at no cost for medical appointments in Montgomery County including those requiring assistance with mobility devices

Legal Services

- No-cost legal consultations and estate planning for Veterans with our staff attorney

Emergency Financial Assistance

- Rent, utility, and food assistance are available for eligible Veterans in need

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All services are provided to Veterans at no cost.

DML’s Halloween Programs

From pumpkin decorating to spooky story-times, Dayton Metro Library is offering a variety of Halloween programs for children, teens, and families this October:

- **Teen Art: Halloween Paint-Along**, Tuesday, October 13, 4-5:15 pm, Kettering-Moraine Branch: The Branch’s teen librarian will guide participants step by step in painting a ghost with acrylics. Registration required. Teens
- **Haunted Halloween**, Thursday, October 15, 6-7 pm, Brookville Branch: Join the Branch for a Halloween celebration featuring stories, songs, rhymes, crafts, and games. Costumes are optional. Families
- **Pumpkin-palooza!**, Friday, October 16, 4:30-5:30 pm, Northmont Branch: Decorate pumpkins using a variety of supplies. Registration required. Families
- **Punkin’ Chunkin’ for Kids**, Monday, October 19, 4:30-5:30 pm, Wilmington-Stroop Branch: Build a tabletop catapult to launch mini pumpkins. Registration required. Grades 2-6
- **Homeschool Craft Club**, Tuesday, October 20, 2-2:30 pm, Northmont Branch: Create Halloween Perler bead designs to take home. Registration required. Grades 1-4
- **Preschool Storytime: Halloween Edition**, Monday, October 26, 11 am-12 pm, and Tuesday, October 27, 10-11 am, Vandalia Branch: Costumes are encouraged for trick-or-treating around the Library following storytime on Monday. PreK-K
- **Teen Movie Night: Hansel & Gretel Witch Hunters**, Monday, October 26, 5-6:30 pm, West Branch: Watch a classic fairy tale with a Halloween twist and play bingo for a chance to win a prize. Teens

For more information and to register if required, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library’s Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.



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NEWS

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DML Hosts The Black Child Book Fair Tour

Dayton Metro Library will host The Black Child Book Fair Saturday, October 17, 10 am-2 pm, at the Northwest Branch. Discover books written by Black authors that depict Black children in a positive light, helping to close the opportunity gap by promoting literacy in the Dayton area.

The Black Child Book

One Year After the Hospital Vote,
West Dayton Asks the City to
Move



By Dayton Weekly News
Editorial Staff

Nearly a year after Dayton voters approved a property tax for a public hospital in West Dayton, the people who fought for it are asking City Hall what happens next?

At the Oct. 7 Dayton City Commission meeting, members of the Clergy Community Coalition urged Mayor Shenise Turner-Sloss to appoint the board that will guide the hospital effort. The coalition spent years collecting signatures to get the measure on the ballot. In November 2025, the 1-mill, 10-year levy passed with 58 percent of the vote.

The levy is expected to raise about \$19 million over its life. City officials have said that is not enough to open a hospital. Coalition members agree and say that was never the plan. They see the money as seed funding the city can use to attract larger state, federal and private dollars.

In January, the city's law department gave

commissioners two paths. One would hand the project to a nonprofit operator, which could require another vote of the people. The other would create a public hospital board led by the mayor. Several speakers on Oct. 7 said the nonprofit route would go against what voters approved.

That ordinance calls for an 11-member board chaired by the mayor. Seats include representatives of community organizations, health care labor, architects, the Human Relations Council, Planning and Neighborhood Development, the city finance department, and one resident who has never worked in health care administration.

A separate item stalled the same night. Commissioners pulled a request asking the Montgomery County auditor to send levy collections to the city starting in 2027. Commissioner Darryl Fairchild, who works as a chaplain at Dayton Children's Hospital, recused himself after the Ohio Ethics Com-

mission found a conflict of interest, leaving the commission without enough votes. Commissioners are expected to take it up again before the end of October.

Why it matters

When Premier Health closed Good Samaritan Hospital in 2018, northwest Dayton lost an emergency room, a maternity ward and a major employer. The Miami Valley Urban League's 2026 State of Black Dayton report found the hospital had been the closest medical facility for more than 38,000 people, three out of four of them Black.

The coalition's longtime president, Bishop Richard E. Cox, died in May at 77 without seeing the board seated. Members say the mission has not changed.

Residents who want a voice in what comes next can follow commission agendas at daytonohio.gov and attend meetings at City Hall, 101 W. Third St.

Nominations Still Open for
DML’s Fathers Event

Dayton Metro Library is still seeking nominations for its third annual Flowers for Fathers: Honoring Our Heroes ceremony through Wednesday, October 14.

Community members are invited to nominate fathers and father figures who defy stereotypes and embody love, courage, and commitment to their families and communities. Nominees must reside in Montgomery County and may be of any race or ethnicity.

Nominations can be made by visiting <https://bit.ly/4jfcyTh> and clicking on the form link.

Selected individuals will receive DML’s 2026 Flowers for Fathers award on Saturday, November 14, 1-3 pm in the Bassani Theater Off Third, 3rd Floor at the Main Library. The event will also include an exclusive

afternoon candlelight performance headlined by Vibe 5 and Charles Oliver.

Flowers for Fathers: Honoring Our Heroes is supported by DML’s The Center for Community Impact & Inclusion.

For more information, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org. Questions may also be directed to the Library’s Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Vote with Pride Guide at DML



Dayton Metro Library will hold a Vote with Pride Guide program Monday, October 19, 5:30-6:30 pm in The Center for Community Impact & Innovation at the Main Library.

Learn how to locate a sample ballot and find accurate, up-to-date information about local elections. Ohio Pride PAC, a nonpartisan political action committee dedicated to advancing LGBTQ equality, will also give a presentation.

DML’s The Center is sponsored by Wright-Patt Credit Union.

For more information, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library’s Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Culture

Ladies and Gentlemen

By: Carol Prewitt, President
Prewitt Consulting LLC, Civility an Etiquette Training



Three Ways to Say No Nicely Without Feeling Guilty

No one wants to be thought of as the grouch of the family, office, or neighborhood. Most of us think that a good way to achieve niceness, perhaps even a mandatory element for it, is saying yes often. Socially, we say yes because we don't want to let people down and sometimes because we feel trapped. Using proper social etiquette helps us to say "no" nicely.

When we understand that saying yes means we would be standing on platitudes but saying no means we're staying

true to our priorities and convictions, no becomes a lot easier to say, and guilt goes out the window because we realize it's the right decision.

Here are three ways you can use proper etiquette to respectfully say "no" without feeling guilty.

- Be True to Yourself, Your Convictions, and Your Priorities. If you're on good terms with yourself, you'll be on good terms with others. That's one reason it's important to stay true to your convictions.
- Think Before Answering. Pause and take a moment before giving your

answer. You need to weigh your answer with your convictions and priorities. Answering in a flash will trample the person's ego and make it seem like your no is more about them and not so much about their request. Mean what you say so that others know you have integrity.

- Don't say things that will send mix messages. Keep your answers short and sweet. If you can give the real reason your answer is no, state the reason. It's the kind and respectful thing to do.

Virtual Public Participation Meeting to Review the Proposed Amendment to the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) maintains the Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (AWQMP) which guides planning across five counties (Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery and Preble) for the protection of water resources including management of non-point source pollution and wastewater treatment. The proposed amendment to the AWQMP includes updates to policy and changes to the Facility Planning Area (FPA) boundary in one location.

The AWQMP delineates Facility Planning Areas (FPA), which are locations where sanitary sewers are or may be provided. MVRPC staff have worked with the City of Greenville (Darke County)

on a proposed amendment to the boundary of the Greenville FPA area. This update will clean up the FPA boundary to include areas that the city of Greenville is already serving with sanitary sewer. It will not impact any other FPA boundaries.

Separate from the Greenville-specific update, and beginning in early 2026, MVRPC staff have been facilitating a working group of wastewater Designated Management Agencies (DMA) in a review of the MVRPC Facility Planning Policies, which were adopted in September 2005. The working group identified policy updates and language changes to reflect current practice, and the proposed updates to the policies are provided for public review and comment.

The virtual meeting will take place via Zoom, a

video conferencing platform, and will be held as follows: Tuesday, October 27, 2026 – 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Access the meetings via computer, tablet or mobile device using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85604462713> Enter Meeting ID: 856 0446 2713

Or call in to join the meeting by phone: (646) 558-8656 - Meeting ID: 856 0446 2713# US (New York) (312) 626-6799 - Meeting ID: 856 0446 2713# US (Chicago)

Participation via computer, tablet or mobile device using the link above is encouraged to take advantage of Zoom on-screen meeting features even if relying on the phone for audio functions.

After a brief presentation regarding the amendment and how to comment, MVRPC staff will accept comments and answer questions.

If you are unable to attend, information will also be available for public review on MVRPC's website at mvrpc.org/area-wide-water-quality-plan and at the MVRPC offices, 6 North Main Street, Suite 400, Dayton, OH, 45402, during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday). Written comments regarding the DRAFT updates will be accepted at the above address, web address, or via email at mlindsay@mvrpc.org until November 4, 2026.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin or ability. MVRPC is committed to providing access and inclusion and reasonable accommodation in its services, activities, programs and employment opportunities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable laws. To request a reasonable accommodation due to a disability, or language in-

Leafy Toilet Paper



By Professor Sterling Haynes

A group of black men came together to found Leafy. Ohio's first sustainable toilet paper company. Located in Columbus, Ohio.

Leafy is an eco-friendly

brand that focuses on the betterment of the environment through the benefits of bamboo. Established during the COVID-19 pandemic. When a strong demand for essential products like toilet paper effected the nation.

Since then, Leafy educates and elevates consumers to be more socially conscious. Its top product is ultra soft bamboo toilet paper.

Bamboo toilet paper and traditional toilet paper are produced with different manufacturing processes. Traditional toilet paper is colored white due to bleaching. It begins as wood fiber and separates from the lignin. A rigid polymer that glues wood fibers together.

Wood based pulp is then bleached using two common methods. Elemental chlorine free bleaches by using chlorine dioxide instead of using chlorine gas. Totally chlorine free bleaches with hydrogen peroxide instead of chlorine.

Leafy toilet paper is made from all-natural bamboo. Sourced in China and made in the USA. Bamboo

and strategic community plans that chart the course for member communities and partners. MVRPC's geographic area includes Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby, and northern Warren counties in Southwest Ohio. Learn more at mvrpc.org/our-region.

is an anti-inflammatory, hypoallergenic, and has anti-bacterial properties.

The bamboo manufacturing process does not require the use of chlorine or bleach. Retaining a natural tan color. Chemical and scent free. Great for sensitive skin and works with septic tanks.

Leafy packaging is made with 100% sugarcane, no plastic and Bisphenol A (BPA) free. Sold and shipped in 12, 24, and 80 single rolls. A subscription service is available to keep rolls stocked.

I have used the 24 pack. The bamboo toilet paper is sturdy, strong, absorbent and handles personal business. Easily flushes down the toilet. Each roll is individually wrapped.

Leafy Co-Founders Marvin Green and Charles Peaks were vendor spotlights at the 2025 Ohio Black Expo. A statewide non-profit organization committed to enhancing the lives, success, and well-being of communities in Ohio. To learn more about this company visit <https://www.getleafyproducts.com>

Resources:

American Forest and Paper Association & Marvin Green

Cartoon characters Bostwick, Yolanda, and Lenny are created by Sterling Haynes. Learn more at Sterlinghaynes.com

Dedication

Through dedication, we light the way,
Like the morning sun that welcomes the day.
Our children are treasures, precious and bright,
Seeds of tomorrow, reaching for light.

With caring hands, help their dreams take flight,
Guide them through shadows and into the light.
Let laughter ring as they learn and grow,
Plant seeds of love wherever they go.

Let every child sing beneath the sun,
Let every heart beat and every voice be one.
Keep them from darkness, protect them within,
Give them the courage to rise and begin.

Let kindness bloom and compassion shine,
Let hope grow strong in every mind.
Through dedication, love, and care,
We give our children a future fair.

By Martel Kelly
Sponsored by Remind4you.com

DML Holds Annual Trans Summit

Dayton Metro Library will host We'll Always Be Here: A Summit on Trans Lives Past, Present, & Future, Saturday, October 17, 10 am-6 pm in various locations throughout the Main Library. Registration required.

This annual educational, inspirational, and celebratory event will feature George M. Johnson as the keynote speaker.

Schedule:

- 10 am: Opening Ceremony, Eichelberger Forum
- 10:30-11:20 am: Breakout Sessions
- Option 1: Use Your Voice! A Workshop on Gender-Affirming Voice Care, Community Room, 2nd Floor. Hosted by voice pathologist Marissa Nguyen.
- Option 2: Knowledge is Power! A Workshop on Tracking State Legislation, The Center, 1st Floor. DML's legal resources specialist will discuss how to track the progress and passage of state bills throughout the Ohio House and Senate.
- 11:35 am-12:25 pm:

Breakout Sessions

- Option 1: Call Me by My Name: A Workshop on Legal Name Changes, The Center, 1st Floor. The Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project will provide a step-by-step guide to pursuing a legal name change.
- Option 2: All About Allyship: A Panel on How to Support the Trans People in Your Life, Community Room, 2nd Floor. Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio will lead a moderated panel on supporting trans people.
- 12:25-1:30 pm: Lunch provided by PFLAG Dayton
- 1:30-2:20 pm: Breakout Sessions
- Option 1: Black, Brown, and Lavender: A Workshop on Finding BIPOC LG-BTQIA+ History, The Center, 1st Floor. Led by Lajmar Anderson, MLIS.
- Option 2: Alteration Nation! A Workshop on Gender-Affirming Clothing Alteration, Community Room, 2nd Floor. Jesy Kessel, owner and creative director of Needle, Ink, & Thread: A Modern Sewing Studio, will

demonstrate how to alter clothing to better align with your gender identity and expression.

- 2:30-3:50 pm: Rainbow Reels Documentary Screening of Framing Agnes, Eichelberger Forum. Learn the story of Agnes, a transgender trailblazer who sought and received gender-affirming medical care in the 1960s.
- 4 pm: Keynote with George M. Johnson, Eichelberger Forum. Johnson is the author of All Boys Aren't Blue, We Are Not Broken, and Flamboyants, and has written for several media outlets.
- 5 pm: Celebrate Your Most Fabulous Self Party, Eichelberger Forum. Enjoy music, dancing, and snacks provided by PFLAG Dayton, and reflect on the day.

For more information and to register, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Real Estate

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DAYTON, OH 45402**

\$160,000

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BRINGING SHIBA HOME

WHAT THE STATE OF BLACK HOUSING MEANS FOR DAYTON

A LOCAL CONVERSATION. A STRONGER TOMORROW.

Dayton is a city built on neighborhoods, families, history and the belief that a place to call home can become the foundation for something greater. For many Black families, homeownership represents stability, an asset that grows over time, and a legacy for the next generation. Yet the path to homeownership continues to come with challenges that have lasted for generations.

The State of Housing in Black America (SHIBA) examines these challenges nationally. But the conversation is just as important right here at home.

THE NUMBERS TELL A STORY

These statistics highlight the homeownership gap and housing challenges facing Black families in Dayton and across Ohio.

38%

Black residents make up approximately 38 percent of Dayton's population.
U.S. Census Bureau

48%

The overall owner-occupied housing rate in Dayton is about 48 percent.
U.S. Census Bureau

37% vs. 73%

In Ohio, 37 percent of Black householders own their homes, compared with 73 percent of White householders.
Ohio Housing Finance Agency

\$1 IN 5

Black Ohioans lives in a household spending at least half of its income on housing.
Ohio Housing Finance Agency

HOMEOWNERSHIP IS ABOUT MORE THAN BUYING A HOUSE.

It's about education, access, informed decisions and building generational wealth.



EDUCATION TODAY. STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS TOMORROW.

The Greater Dayton Realist Association believes strengthening homeownership begins long before someone receives the keys. We help families by providing:

- Homeownership education
- Understanding credit and financing options
- Down-payment assistance information
- Fair housing education
- Property ownership and estate planning
- Educational and networking meetings
- Professional development
- Community service
- Conversations about generational wealth
- Access to trusted professionals who educate, not just complete transactions

TURNING A NATIONAL CONVERSATION INTO LOCAL ACTION

Reports like SHIBA help identify the larger challenges facing Black homebuyers. Local organizations help turn information into action. Together, we can:

- Help more renters become prepared homeowners
- Connect families with reliable information
- Protect longtime homeowners and their equity
- Help families pass property to the next generation
- Strengthen neighborhoods so Dayton families grow with them

BUILDING WEALTH WHERE WE LIVE

Dayton's homes tell the story of the city — from historic neighborhoods to communities experiencing new investment. The goal is not simply to watch neighborhoods grow. It is to help Dayton families grow with them.



The Greater Dayton Realist Association remains committed to educating, connecting and serving the community while advancing the principle of Democracy in Housing — one family, one homeowner and one Dayton neighborhood at a time.

Learn more at GreaterDaytonRealist.org
For information about educational programs, membership and upcoming community opportunities.

Housing Resource Connection Fair – Connecting the Dots From Renting to Homeownership...

Continued from Page 1

The Housing Resource Connection Fair is sponsored by PNC Bank and First Financial Bank, with generous support from Gem City Market and Gettysburg Grocery. The event is free and open to the public and will include free lunch, giveaways, and raffle prizes.

The City of Dayton's Human Relations Council, established in 1962, works to ensure all people in Dayton are treated fairly and have equal opportunities. Created to promote peace, goodwill, and justice, the HRC investigates discrimination in housing, employment,

credit, public places, and police interactions through the Office of Justice & Inclusion; reviews complaints about police conduct through the Community Appeals Board; and supports minority-owned, women-owned, and small disadvantaged businesses through the Business & Technical Assistance program. The HRC's mission is to protect civil rights, strengthen community trust, and make Dayton a welcoming place for all.

Learn more at www.daytonhrc.org

The Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, founded in 1994, is a nonprofit based in Dayton dedi-

cated to eliminating housing discrimination and ensuring equal housing opportunities throughout the region, Ohio, and beyond. The center provides educational workshops, conducts outreach, investigates housing discrimination complaints based on protected classes—including race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and familial status—and advocates for stronger fair housing laws and enforcement. MVFHC also collaborates with policymakers and serves as a regional leader in promoting inclusive, bias-free housing practices.

Learn more at www.mv-fairhousing.com/

FREE

HOUSING RESOURCE FAIR: CONNECTING THE DOTS FROM RENTING TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

OCTOBER 10TH, 2026 | 11AM – 2 PM

THE SALVATION ARMY DAYTON KROC CENTER
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**SINGLE-FAMILY HOME**

**MLS #948004**

A DISTINCTIVE MODERN HOME IN DAYTON



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☎ (937) 286-0410





SCAN FOR ALL 12 LISTINGS

Closing the Black Homeownership Gap, One \$180,000 House at a Time

By **Dayton Weekly News**
Editorial Staff

Owning a home remains one of the main ways American families build wealth. In the Dayton region, Black families are still far less likely to have that foothold.

The Miami Valley Urban League's State of Black Dayton report, released Aug. 3, puts numbers to the gap. Across Montgomery County, about 65 percent of households own

their homes, compared with 41 percent of Black households. Inside Dayton city limits, 48 percent of households own, compared with 35.6 percent of Black households.

The report also tracks Black families moving outward. In Huber Heights, Black residents grew from about 13 percent of the population in 2010 to more than 15 percent in 2020, according to Census data cited in the report.

A program built for first-time buyers

For families who want to buy inside Dayton, a state-funded program is now accepting applications. The Montgomery County Land Bank received \$6.96 million from the Ohio Department of Development for Welcome Home Ohio, which builds new homes and fully renovates older ones for income-eligible buyers.

New construction is planned in three West Dayton neighborhoods: Madden Hills, Fairview and Dayton View Tri-

angle. Renovated homes are spread across the city. The first sale price of each home is capped at \$180,000.

- Who qualifies**
- Household income at or below 80 percent of the area median income for Montgomery County
 - A completed application and a homebuyer counseling appointment through The HomeOwnership Center
 - A mortgage pre-approval letter
 - A homebuyer education class, completed be-

fore closing

The Land Bank says eligibility can be confirmed in as little as one to two weeks when applicants move quickly. A real estate agent is not required.

Know the strings attached

Buyers must live in the home as their primary residence for at least five years, and no part of it can be rented. For 20 years, any resale must go to another buyer who meets the income limit, though the resale price itself is not capped. Selling early

can trigger a penalty unless the state approves a hardship. These rules are designed to keep the homes with owner-occupants instead of investors.

How to start

Visit mclandbank.com/who, call the Land Bank at (937) 531-6921, or email info@mclandbank.com. Offices are at 130 W. Second St., Suite 1425, and in-person visits require an appointment.

Editorial & Comments

Something to Consider:

Wading Through Our Troubled Waters

By: **Brenda Cochran**
Contributing Writer

Most would agree that we are living in changing and difficult times. Would you have ever imagined that we must constantly be aware of all types of scams? Would you have ever imagined that the major part of our city would be destroyed by a tornado? Would you have ever imagined that many would lose their lives because of the actions of one individual? This is only a few examples of the changes that are so negative for hundreds of us.

I have heard and made the statement – “We are living in difficult times.”

Though we are going through these difficult times, suppose we just describe the realization that we must be able to continue to hold on to hope, not lose our faith, pray without



Brenda Cochran

ceasing, gather and believe in the importance of courage and last, but not least, keep the attitude of gratitude.

When we think of the definition of wading. We learn that to wade through something means to physically try to move through some area or substance that restricts moving forward. So, wade is just a metaphor. We aren't trying to physically move through something, we're trying to mentally deal with things.

People certainly agree

that life is not always easy and these days, seems to be downright difficult. Thinking about these troubled waters can box you in, beat you down and definitely bring about lots of depressing days, not to mention those hours in our days that appear to be more and more difficult. It will seem that there are more dark days, than those good days that we use to have.

Think about those times when we were much younger and had little or no challenges. I've heard my friends say things like, “My parents did not tell me about these hard times. I don't think they had any, or maybe they just decided not to share any of them. I had no idea that things could get so hard.”

The question is – how are we supposed to wade through life's storms? These adversities seem to grow and grow. Add to the regular stresses that all of us have through everyday life that include finances,

children, spouses, health and the fact that dealing with those small life crises just don't seem to cease. They can be very difficult to handle.

Getting through or wading through our trouble waters (times) can be a little bit easier when we can rely on certain things such as falling back on strategies that we or someone we knew, have worked through when times were not as bad as they seem to be today.

We might think that these difficulties or troubles will automatically disappear – they won't! We simply have to realize the importance of the basic beauty and the simplicity and the miracle of life.

Whatever we are going through today or have experienced in the past, others have no doubt gone through them also. Over the course of a centuries, human beings have had to suffer through lots of troubled and tough times.

No matter how much

trouble or difficulty we are going through and how difficult it is for us to wade, walk, live through – all of our trouble times can diminish and help us to overcome these awful circumstances.

Here are some to remember: 1) Stay positive. Life is not the way it is suppose to be, it is the way it is. 2) Get creative. You might not be able to do much and you have to deal with it, but there are other times that you can actively work to make things better. 3) Learn from those difficult times you have experienced. Facing difficulties is inevitable, learning from them is optional. 4) Change it up. When you find out key take-

aways from those difficult times, then make a change. 5) Don't forget what you are already grateful for. Gratitude means showing appreciation for ALL the good in your life, instead of focusing on the negative. 6) Focus on what you can control, not on what you can't. 7) Remember you probably have support from people around you.

A grateful heart is a beginning of greatness. It is an expression of humility. It is a foundation for the development of such virtues as prayer, faith, courage, contentment, happiness, love, and well-being. James E. Faust.

Support Black Owned
Businesses Advertise in the
Dayton Weekly News

Education

Black Girl Vitamins Brings Homecoming of Health Tour to Central State University...

Continued from Page 1

The company's answer is the BGV University Study Hall, a hands-on session where students can talk through practical ways to manage stress, sleep better, keep their energy up and fit wellness into a packed schedule. Attendees will also learn about some of the company's supplements, including Calm Girl Ashwagandha, Dream Girl Sleep and Chlorophyll Drops. There will be interactive activities and branded giveaways as well.

The company says the bigger goal is helping students form habits they will keep long after they leave CSU.

The tour ties into a larger conversation about health equity and getting reliable, culturally relevant health information to Black women. The National Institutes of Health has reported that vitamin D deficiency is more common among

Black Americans, and researchers have documented gaps in several other health outcomes for Black women.

Supplements can help with certain deficiencies, but they don't replace a balanced diet, regular checkups or medical care. Anyone thinking about starting a new supplement, especially those taking medication or managing a health condition, should talk with a doctor or pharmacist first.

For students, the takeaway is simply that preventive care is worth your attention before something goes wrong.

Central State is the first stop on the company's second annual tour. From CSU, the tour heads to Howard University in Washington, D.C., Oct. 16 and 17; Texas Southern University in Houston, Oct. 23 and 24; and Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, Nov. 6 and 7. It wraps up Nov. 28 at

the Bayou Classic in New Orleans.

Black Girl Vitamins visited HBCU campuses during last year's homecoming season as well. This time, the company says it is putting more weight on education and spending more time with students and alumni.

Launching at CSU also puts a national spotlight on the role HBCUs continue to play as places of learning, leadership and cultural identity.

Homecoming is usually remembered for the game, the reunions, the music and the fellowship. Black Girl Vitamins is betting that health conversations land better in places where people already gather and feel at home.

For students heading into careers and family life, and for alumni coming back to the yard, your health deserves a spot on the schedule too.

The Contemporary Dayton Call for Artists

The Contemporary Dayton is proud to announce a Call for Artists for In Small Measure, its second annual fundraising exhibition and sale, taking place February 12, 2027, at The Contemporary Dayton, located at 25 W. 4th Street in downtown Dayton, Ohio. This creative initiative invites artists from across the region and beyond to donate original, postcard-sized artworks, each measuring 4 x 6 inches, in support of The Contemporary Dayton's mission to advance equity, diversity, and access through the presentation of contemporary art and ideas.

Artists of all backgrounds and working in any medium are welcome to participate. Submissions may include drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, collage, sculpture, textiles, or mixed media, as long as each work is original and reflects the artist's hand.

Each artwork will be exhibited and sold anonymously for \$100, giving collectors and art lovers an accessible opportunity to discover and take home

a unique work of contemporary art while supporting The Contemporary Dayton's exhibitions and programs.

All participating artists will receive two complimentary tickets to the In Small Measure Live Sale Event on February 12, 2027.

Submission Guidelines:

- Artworks must be 4 x 6 inches, unframed and unmatte.
- Artists may submit up to three artworks (a separate entry form must be completed for each).
- To preserve the mystery, artworks should remain anonymous. Artists should sign only the back and refrain from posting images publicly until after the sale.
- Works must be mailed or dropped off by the following deadlines:
- Postmark deadline: January 25, 2027. Artwork should be mailed to The Contemporary Dayton, Attention: In Small Measure, 25 W. 4th Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402
- In-person drop-off deadline: January 30, 2027

All artists must complete the online submission form at codayton.org.

"In Small Measure is a celebration of the incredible range and creativity of artists working in our region and beyond," said Heather Jones, Interim Director and Chief Curator of The Contemporary Dayton. "By bringing hundreds of original works together at an accessible price point, we're creating an opportunity for more people to experience and collect contemporary art while giving participating artists the chance to have their work seen by new audiences and collectors. At the same time, the event brings our community together for a lively, one-of-a-kind evening of art, discovery, and connection. We're thrilled to build on the success of this year's inaugural event and invite even more artists and art lovers to be part of In Small Measure in 2027."

To participate or learn more, visit www.codayton.org.

University of Findlay Awards Ohio's First Lady Fran DeWine Honorary Doctorate

Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine (front middle) is ceremoniously hooded by University of Findlay President Richard Ludwick, J.D., D.Ed. (left), President Emerita Katherine Fell (back middle), Ph.D., and UF Trustee Gulshan Mehta (right).

FINDLAY, Ohio - The University of Findlay today presented Ohio's First Lady Fran DeWine with an Honorary Doctorate of Arts and Letters, celebrating her dedication to children's literacy in the Buckeye State.

"Fran DeWine has honorably served the State of Ohio and its citizens with her passion for making children's lives better," UF President Richard Ludwick, J.D., D.Ed., said. "Thanks to her leadership, Ohio now has the largest program for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in the nation, as well as a significant statewide Storybook Trails pro-

gram at our state parks and interstate rest stops. All of these programs develop confident readers and lifelong learners."

The degree was conferred upon Mrs. DeWine during a ceremony at UF's Mazza Museum, the world's first and largest collection of original picture book artwork, housing 23,000 pieces of original artwork.

"Reading is a lifelong skill that opens doors, sparks imagination, and creates opportunities for children to live up to their God-given potential," said Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine. "I'm honored to receive this recognition, and grateful for the opportunity to work with many community leaders and organizations to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio. Together, we can carry on Dolly's legacy, ensuring the next generation of Ohio children continue to receive a free monthly book in the mail."

Trustees Rev. Lance

Finley and Gulshan Mehta, along with President Ludwick and UF President Emerita Katherine Fell, Ph.D., conferred the degree and bestowed the hood upon Mrs. DeWine.

Fell presented a citation to Mrs. DeWine, noting, "Fran made it her mission to expand Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio, allowing every child under the age of five in each of Ohio's 88 counties to receive a free book in the mail each month."

The First Lady also has helped a statewide effort to flourish in which newborns at the hospital can be enrolled and are guaranteed to receive all 60 books in the Imagination Library collection.

Mrs. DeWine and her husband, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, are the parents of eight children, grandparents of 28, and great-grandparents of two; she first learned about the program when one of her grandchildren received a book from the Dolly Parton collection.



Since 2019, more than 28 million books have reached over 1 million children in the Buckeye state and 65 percent of eligible Ohio children are now receiving books.

In addition, Mrs. DeWine is the inspiration behind the Storybook Trails featured in 23 of Ohio's state parks and at 38 rest areas along interstates. The trails allow children and their families to spend time together outdoors along paths featuring artwork and narrative from children's books, positively impacting their education and health.

President Ludwick explained that the University and the Mazza Museum

share the First Lady's dedication to promoting future educational success with a mission to promote literacy and enrich the lives of all people through the art of picture books.

"The Mazza Museum and the Joseph and Judith Conda STEAM (science, technology, education, arts, math) Education Center are committed to exhibits and programming that connect visitors with the magic of picture book art, science, and creativity," he explained.

In addition, UF students in the College of Education share in the efforts to improve reading proficiency among local children through the free

Clubhouse tutoring service.

President Ludwick noted the critical importance of children spending more time with reading and books.

"It is a priceless investment to capture the attention of young children with picture books and draw them in," he said. "Of all the skills a child learns in the early years of school, the ability to read has the strongest impact upon the other aspects of learning throughout their educational journey."

DML Welcomes Author Willis

Dayton Metro Library presents Weird Events in Ohio History with James Willis, Saturday, October 17, 4-5:30 pm, at the New Lebanon Branch.

Popular DML guest James Willis is the author of several books, including Weird Ohio, Central Ohio Legends & Lore, and Ohio's Historic Haunts. He will discuss unusual events often overlooked in Ohio history classes, including an 1884 mine fire that is still burning, unsolved Cleveland murder mysteries from the 1930's, a man who discovered an entrance to the Hollow



Earth, and more. Registration required.

For more information and to register, visit

DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

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OPEN TO 18-26 YEAR OLDS & MILITARY VETERANS AND SPOUSES (ANY AGE)

Arts & Entertainment



By: Wanda Haynes-Certified Sommelier

Gervasi Vineyard Resort & Spa is one of my favorite places in the country to visit.

Its presence has re-hydrated Canton, Ohio and brought a sense of style and elegance.

There are three properties and all are amazing in their own way.

The Villas

Enter through a stunning lobby with comfortable dining areas and access to a shared patio.

The furniture and bedding are high quality, and the fireplace is next level.

Two breakfasts per room are complimentary and can be ordered between the hours of 7am-9am.

My favorite is the oatmeal with pecans, sunflower seeds, tart raspberries, and brown sugar.

The Casa

The boutique hotel structure houses a shared lobby and an exercise facility.

A complimentary Italian-style continental breakfast is offered each morning.

Features one king bed, two club chairs, ottoman and adjacent 110-square-foot cov-

ered veranda. Maximum number of guests per room is two.

The Farmhouse

Experience a piece of history with a stay in the property's original farmhouse from 1830.

Breakfast isn't available at the Farmhouse.

The Farmhouse sleeps 8 guests with four bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room, dining room, sitting, and a modern kitchen.

Time to eat and there are many choices

The Bistro features rustic, upscale Italian cuisine served in small and large plate portions for sharing. Family-style Sunday brunch is served from 11am-2pm. A kid's menu is ready and able to satisfy even picky youngsters.

The Crush House

The Crush House is a contemporary wine bar and eatery housed in a modern industrial style building with indoor and outdoor seating options. Stop in for lunch or dinner and no reservation required.

The Piazza

The Piazza is an open-air casual restaurant. Opens in the spring annually. Featuring live music when weather permits. You'll enjoy watching the swans swim in a nearby pond.

The Twisted Olive

The Twisted Olive is a few miles from the main campus and provides a modern dining experience. The contemporary restaurant has indoor and outdoor seating. This is my favorite Gervasi restaurant, providing one pond with lily pads with pink flowers and a second pond with a deep blue fairy tale color.

The Spa

I don't know of anyone who couldn't benefit from a massage or a day of pampered spa treatments. The spa is available for overnight guests as well as the public.

There is a free shuttle service to get around the vast property and parking is also free.

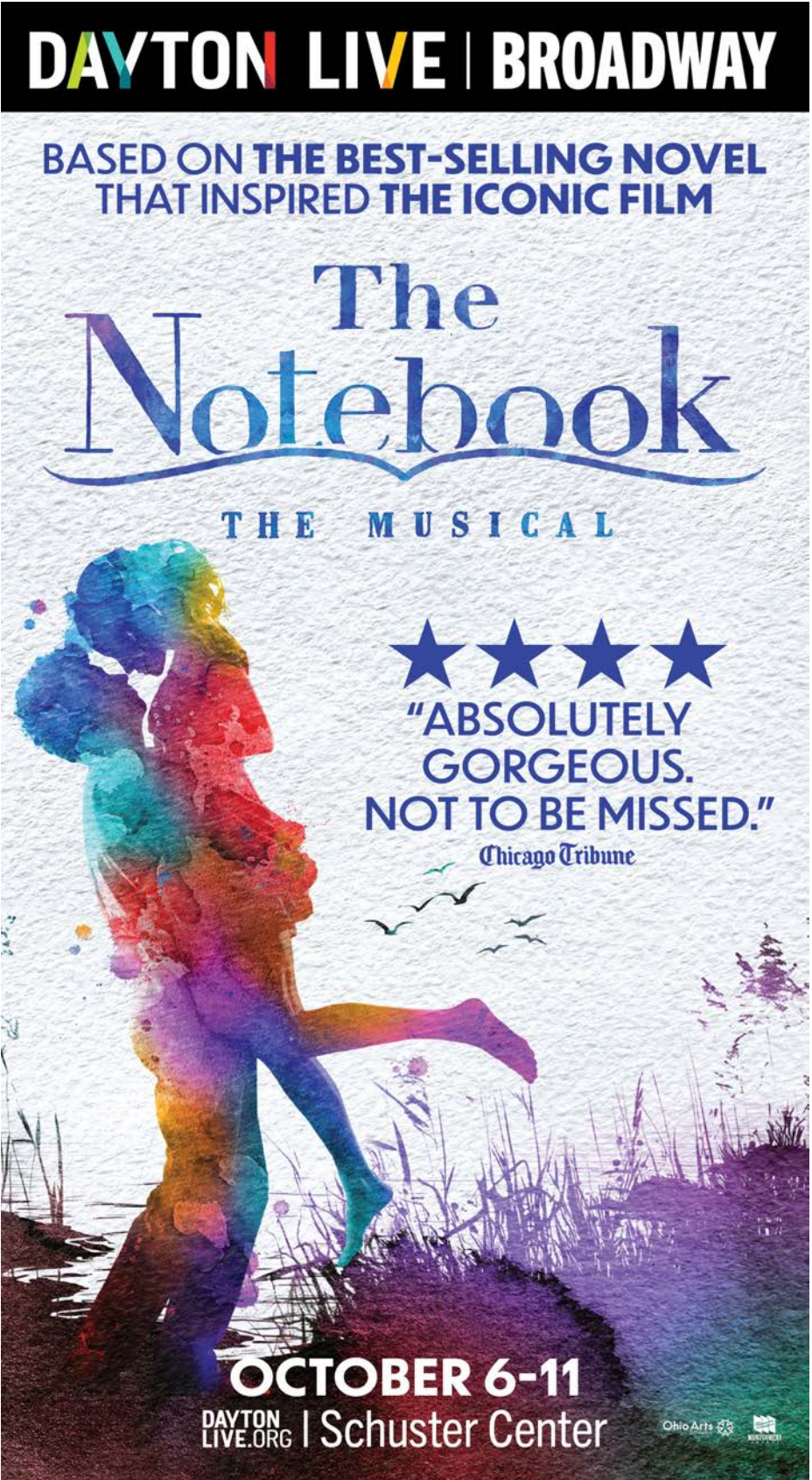
Italian Collection

Gervasi currently offers ten Italian imported wines, from a private label specifically for Gervasi Vineyard. Franciacorta rosé and Amarone Della Valpolicella are my favorite Italian wines at Gervasi. Enjoy while dining they're not available to be purchased for carryout or shipment.

Gervasi Estate Wines

Gervasi's in house wine portfolio is made from grapes in their own vineyard, and juice from other regions.

<https://gervasivineyard.com/>



Celebrate Día de los Muertos at DML

Dayton Metro Library will celebrate Día de los Muertos with a variety of programs:

Decorate a Sugar Skull, Saturday, October 10, 3-4 pm, Wilmington-Stroop Branch: Decorate a wooden sugar skull. Grades K-5 and families

Pan de Muerto Cookies, Tuesday, October 13, 4-5:30 pm, Burkhardt Branch: Make these popular cookies from scratch. Families

Elementary Explorers: Sugar Skull Art, Wednesday, October 14, 4-5 pm, Kettering-Moraine Branch: Create a colorful piece of art. Registration recommended. Grades 1-4

Teen DIY: Paper Flowers, Monday, October 19, 4-5 pm, Electra C. Doren Branch: Make paper marigolds to take home or add to the

Branch's ofrenda. Teens

Teen DIY: Día de los Muertos Craft, Tuesday, October 20, 3-4 pm, Vandalia Branch: Paint a wooden sugar skull with a marigold crown. Teens

Sugar Skull Day of the Dead Velvet Posters, Thursday, October 22, 4:30-5:30 pm, Trotwood Branch: Celebrate the day by coloring vibrant felt posters. Grades 1-4

Teen DIY: Day of the Dead Skull Wind Chimes, Monday, November 2, 2:30-3:30 pm, New Lebanon Branch: Observe the day with this unique craft. Teens

Tween Time: Día de los Muertos Celebration, Monday, November 2, 3-4 pm, Electra C. Doren Branch: Explore the holiday's symbols, decorate paper skulls, make tissue marigolds, and create an altar. Tweens

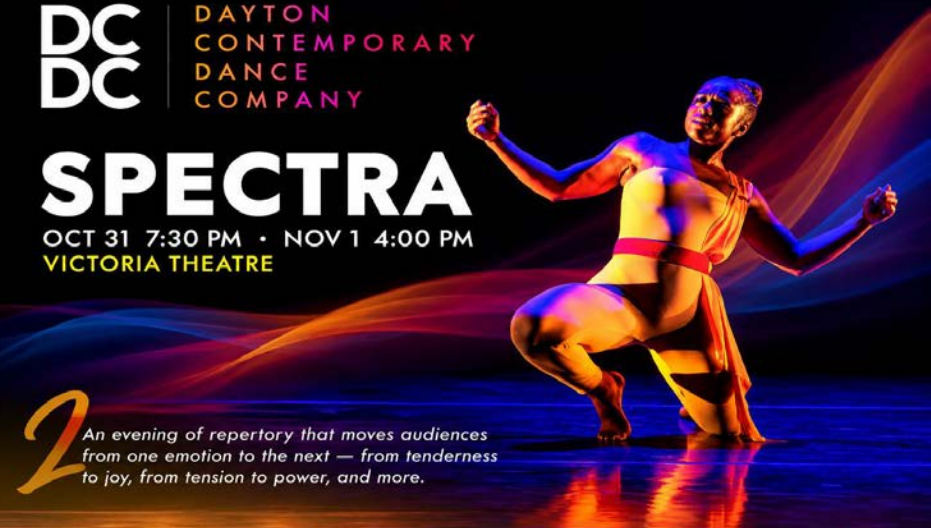
Paint Your Own Sugar Skull, Tuesday, November 3, 3:30-4:30 pm, Northmont Branch: Paint and decorate a sugar skull. Teens

Mexico and Latin America observe Día de los Muertos on November 1 and 2. During this holiday, people believe the spirits of the dead return home to visit their loved ones. Families visit gravesites and create altars with photos and other offerings to honor and remember those who have passed.

For more information and to register if required, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

DCDC's New Artistic Directress Makes Her Victoria Theatre Debut With Spectra...

Continued from Page 1



company's associate artistic director, succeeded Debbie Blunden-Diggs in the artistic role this year. Blunden-Diggs, daughter of DCDC founder Jeraldine Blunden, continues as president and CEO. Season 58 carries the theme "Continuum... Legacy in Motion," a nod to carrying the founding mission forward while making room for new voices.

Blayr has described "Spectra" as a journey through a range of emotions, drawing from across the company's repertory. The program includes full-company works along with a duet and a sextet.

Rooted in the Black experience

Jeraldine Blunden founded DCDC in 1968 to create performance opportunities for dancers

of color. Nearly six decades later, it is the oldest modern dance company in Ohio, a co-recipient of a 2016 Bessie Award, and a regular presence on national stages. Its home base is 840 Germantown St. in West Dayton.

What's ahead this season

"The Littlest Angel," 7 p.m. Dec. 18 and 19, Kennedy Union Boll Theatre, University of Dayton, 300

College Park

"(Re)Singing from the Underspace," 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 and 4 p.m. Feb. 21, 2027, Victoria Theatre. Guest choreographer Charles O. Anderson's Black History Month work confronts race and justice head-on.

"Ever Forward," 7:30 p.m. May 1 and 4 p.m. May 2, 2027, Victoria Theatre

Tickets are available through Dayton Live at daytonlive.org, by phone at 937-228-3630, or at the Dayton Live Box Office. Season subscriptions are 15 percent off through Friday, Oct. 30. The Victoria Theatre is at 138 N. Main St. in downtown Dayton.

Local Author Visits DML

Dayton Metro Library welcomes local author Sara Kaushal to host Behind Urban Legends on the following dates:

Friday, October 16, 4-5 pm, West Branch (All Ages)

Monday, October 26, 6-7 pm, Vandalia Branch (Adults)

Thursday, November 12, 6-7:30 pm, Northwest Branch – registration required (Adults)

Kaushal will share stories about ghosts, urban legends, monsters, and cryptids, and offer semi-logical explanations.

For more informa-

tion and to register if required, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library's Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

DML wants to make sure everyone can enjoy our Library. If you need a sign language interpreter, assistive device, language translation, or other services, please call our Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665 or visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org/Contact to send an email. Please tell us your needs ahead of time so we can get everything ready for you.

Business

Black-Owned Businesses in Dayton Average \$35,000 a Year. Here is Where Growth Help Lives...
Continued from Page 1

lease. Since 2020, the incubator has worked with more than 350 entrepreneurs and helped secure more than \$80,000 in microloans, \$100,000 in equity grants and nearly \$400,000 in contracts for underrepresented business owners through UD partnerships. Momentum is visible on the street. In July, Daily Dose Caff  opened at 13 N. Williams St., a shop Wright Dunbar Inc. describes as the only coffee shop in all of West Dayton. Owner Karina Taffola, co-owner of Yellow Springs Baking Company, signed a three-year lease. The shop is open 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Every new storefront brings nearby entrepreneurs foot traffic, a place to meet and proof that West Dayton customers will show up. Closing the distance between \$35,000 and \$650,000 takes capital, contracts and coaching. Those resources exist in Dayton. The work now is getting more Black owners through the door. Three moves for solo owners Separate business and personal money and keep clean books. Lenders and grant programs will ask for them. Pursue certifications that open doors to public contracts, such as minority business enterprise status. Build a team before you feel ready, starting with one part-time hire or a trusted contractor.

ADAMHS Receives \$12 Million National Grant to Combat Homelessness and Behavioral Health

Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) has been awarded federal funding to administer the STREETS (Safety Through Recovery, Engagement, and Evidence-Based Treatment and Support) grant. STREETS will serve individuals experiencing both behavioral health disorders and homelessness within Montgomery County. The project targets individuals 18+ experiencing homelessness and will refer those with a behavioral health diagnosis to additional services. ADAMHS was one of only 8 organizations nationwide to receive this competitive grant. The agency will receive an award of \$3 million each year for four years, thanks to funding from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). “Statewide data shows us that 67% of Ohioans experiencing homelessness have a mental health diagnosis and 20% have a substance use diagnosis,” said Kimberly Priester, Director of Treatment and Supportive Services at ADAMHS. “This makes it clear that additional support is needed for our homeless population, especially when it comes to referrals to our local behavioral health resources.” The STREETS grant will create cross-system partnerships of several agencies, behavioral health providers, and community stakeholders with the goal of creating more efficient referral pathways to evidence-based mental health and substance use treatment. It will also focus on connecting individuals actively enrolled in treatment to housing assistance, improving recovery outcomes for STREETS clients, and creating a quality improvement plan to continually refine the model for success. Over the grants’ four years, ADAMHS anticipates serving 550 people through treatment and housing services, with 90% maintaining their treatment program. “The STREETS partners believe that this is an invaluable investment in the behavioral health, self-sufficiency, and recovery of the Montgomery County community. Successful implementation will result in a model that can be nationally replicated,” said Priester. “We are grateful to SAMHSA for selecting Montgomery County as one of the communities to launch this important work.”

Can One Legislate a Different POV?...
Continued from Page 1

political and ideological perspectives through: faculty, curriculum, and even campus culture. Lawmakers are currently confronting this perceived ideological imbalance and attempting to correct it via policy. Ohio’s already doing it. The state’s lawmakers explicitly described SB1, or (Senate Bill 1) Ohio’s 2025 Advance Ohio Education Act, as doing two things simultaneously: Eliminating DEI programming while also requiring, “intellectual diversity”. Intellectual diversity is described as “multiple, divergent, and varied perspectives.” The irony here is hard to miss however, as the same legislation that dismantled traditional DEI programs are now creating a government-directed framework for another kind of diversity. This is the same mechanism. While DEI sought to address perceived demographic imbalances. Intellectual diversity on the other hand, is seeking to address perceived ideological imbalances... The question of whether universities actually lack “intellectual diversity” isn’t entirely hypothetical. Research examining the political composition of academia has found substantial disparities between liberal and conservative faculty representation. Particularly in certain academic disciplines. Research by Nathan Hon-eycutt, affiliated with The University of Arkansas and Rutgers University, found approximately 74% of faculty identified as liberal. Compared to 15% describing themselves as politically moderate, and 11% as conservative. So if conservatives object to institutions using government power to engineer demographic outcomes, what happens when the government then starts using the same methods to engineer ideological, cultural, or even biological outcomes they deem preferable? Historically speaking, they have before. That question becomes even more complicated when viewed alongside the

Trump administration’s broader efforts to reshape institutions according to its own definition of merit and acceptable ideology raises a similar contradiction with Hegseth’s recent testosterone policy. As the Pentagon now requires male service members age 30 and up, to be screened for testosterone deficiency allowing treatment when medically indicated. Critics have argued this policy is a form of gender-affirming care, a term the administration has also opposed especially in regards to transgender service members. In addition, Hegseth has also criticized senior officers for being involved in DEI, while at the same time, making race, gender, and ideological orientation the majority of the public debate surrounding who should lead the U.S. military. Hegseth has stated on multiple occasions that officers involved in DEI “have got to go” One cannot argue that the government should not engineer diversity simply because you

disagree with the outcome, then use government power to then create another. Be it racial, demographic, intellectual, cultural, or ideological. To be clear, I’m not defending DEI. I oppose using institutional power to push demographic or ideological outcomes. No matter which side the similar underlying logic that is DEI comes from. You can legislate exposure to different ideas all you want. You can change incentives, change who gets hired, promoted, funded, or heard. But you can’t legislate conviction. Maybe the real question isn’t whether government can legislate a different point of view. It’s whether anyone should have the power to try.

SCORE Workshop at DML

Dayton Metro Library has partnered with SCORE of Greater Cincinnati and Dayton to host a series of nonprofit workshops through November. The second workshop will be held Friday, October 16, 10 am-12 pm, in The Center for Community Impact & Innovation at the Main Library and will focus on volunteer management. Presenter Connie Hinitz, who has served as volunteer coordinator for One Source Center for Nonprofit Excellence and other large nonprofit organizations, will discuss: Understanding volunteer motivations and how to leverage them for recruitment and retention. Setting clear expectations for both volunteers and the organization. Developing effective strategies for engaging and recognizing volunteers. Creating a positive and supportive volunteer experience. Participants will gain practical strategies for recruiting, managing, and retaining volunteers through small-group activities, real-world problem-solving, and peer discussions. Registration required. The Center at DML is sponsored by Wright-Patt Credit Union. For more information about this workshop and to register, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library’s Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.

Classified



Invitation for Bid

GD 26-51 Brake Kits, Calipers, Rotors & Hardware

Due Date: 10/29/2026, 10:00 AM EST via OpenGov.

Greater Dayton RTA is soliciting bids from qualified vendors for the purchase and delivery of disc brake kits, rotors, calipers, side pin kits, and associated hardware for RTA’s 30-foot, 35-foot, and 40-foot buses.

If interested: <https://www.irderta.org/about/doing-business>.

Direct questions to pnath@greaterdaytonrta.org.

Priyanka Nath, Purchasing Agent



Invitation for Bid

IFB GD 26-50R Large Parts Washer

Due Date: 10/29/26, 11:00 AM EST via OpenGov.

Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is soliciting bids for the purchase of one (1) large parts washer for its maintenance facility located at 600 Longworth Street in Dayton, Ohio.

The Better Engineering Products Purifier Model RD-4000 parts washer has been identified as the preferred unit and basis of design. RTA will consider an approved equal that meets or exceeds the full functionality of the specified unit.

If interested: <https://www.irderta.org/about/doing-business>.

Direct questions to pnath@greaterdaytonrta.org.

Priyanka Nath, Purchasing Agent



Sports

Top 5 Games on Friday Night (Week 8)



Wayne Star WR Jamier Brown extends for this catch vs Springfield.

By: Deon Cash
Staff Writer

The 5 Biggest Games of the Night in Southwest Ohio (Week 8)

Springfield at Beaver-creek

Can one of the hottest teams in the Miami Val-

ley continue to dominate the GWOC? Springfield beat Wayne last week to sit atop the GWOC alone (4-0). Beavercreek (4-3) has had a very good season so far. Could they take it up a notch and defeat the top team in the league? They

beat Centerville recently.

Trotwood vs Mt Healthy

The Rams have conquered a stifling schedule and sit at 6-1 with a huge matchup in Week 10. Will Mt. Healthy be ready for the challenge? The Rams



Springfield Senior QB C.J. Wallace stands against Wayne in Game of the Week.

have seemed to hit their stride, lead by a punishing defense and explosive offense.

Atler vs McNicholas

The battle for first place in the Greater Catholic league. The Knights are lead by their all-time leading rusher in Drew Cripps, while McNicholas is lead by Quarterback Evan Sandfoss. Both teams are 2-0 in the GCL.

Dunbar vs Stivers

In a intriguing game, not

so much for the competition but for what both teams are facing heading into the game.

Dunbar will be playing its 2nd stright game after losing last night to Northwest 32-17. They will face newly made Stivers, who initially started, then quit, then restarted the program after the parents complained. The report is that Dunbar will use a variety of different players for the back to back

games they are going through.

Middltown vs Lakota East

In a game which has future playoff value, can the Middies (4-3) shake off the tough loss last week and defeat a Jon Kitna lead Lakota East team who has had success this season? They also await the OHSAA decision of quarterback Kolby Morgenson, who is out because of transfer rules.

Health

How My Stutter Became a Superpower

By Dr. Okey K. Enyia

For much of my life, introducing myself was never a neutral act.

My name is Okechuku Kelechi Enyia. My first name means God's gift. My middle name means thank God. My last name means friend in Igbo. Yet because I am a person who stutters, saying it could feel like entering a moment of uncertainty.

Like many people who stutter, I learned to substitute an easier word or move past my name before it had been fully spoken and received. The deeper challenge was learning not to disappear when speaking became difficult. My healing would not come from waiting until I could speak without stuttering. It would come from becoming more fully present while I stuttered.

That distinction changed my life.

My stutter is not my voice

My stutter is a neurological speech pattern. My voice includes my identity, story, author-

ity, calling, convictions, and presence. My stutter may affect how my words arrive. It does not determine whether those words deserve to be heard.

I am a husband, father, son of Nigerian immigrants, Black man, Igbo man, public health professional, policy leader, author, and person of faith.

I did not have to become fluent before I became qualified.

Even when my stutter is not audible, the internal vigilance remains: anticipating difficult words, rehearsing an introduction, wondering whether a pause will be read as uncertainty. This is the invisible labor of stuttering.

Performance asks, "How am I being perceived?"

Proving asks, "Have I done enough to deserve to be here?"

Presence asks, "What is required of me in this moment?"

The shift from performance and proving to presence has been central to my healing.

Hypervisible and invisible

My stutter helped me name a tension that shapes the lives of many Black

men: being simultaneously hyper-visible and invisible. Black men are often made hyper-visible as bodies, laborers, or measures of institutional risk, yet remain invisible as fathers, thinkers, healers, and human beings deserving of rest and protection.

Healing required me to remain present long enough to become known.

Radical acceptance
Radical acceptance does not mean giving up on growth. It means refusing to make war with the reality of my own body. Psalm 139:14 reminds me that I am "fearfully and wonderfully made." I do not have to call defective what God has called worthy of care.

When I began to say openly, "I am a person who stutters," I was choosing the meaning of the moment. More opportunities came. I moderated panels and delivered keynotes. What I feared would diminish my credibility often deepened my connection with the audience.

The Safe Name Framework

I developed the Safe Name Framework on a simple premise: people should not have to discon-

nect from themselves to make their names easier for others to receive. A person should be able to say their name at their own pace and correct its pronunciation without apology.

A safe name is a name its owner can inhabit without shame.

From personal to structural

That journey shaped my book Indisputable and later The John Henry Health Equity Playbook. John Henry was hyper-visible for what he could produce and invisible in what the production cost him. That tension mirrors the experience of too many Black men.

Black men and boys are not problems to be solved. We are assets to be invested in. The goal is to redesign the conditions that keep requiring Black men to sacrifice themselves to prove their value. That conviction guides my firm, Enyia Strategies, and the John Henry Institute for Black Men's Health and Policy Innovation.

Ending self-abandonment

Healing is not always the disappearance of the con-



Okechuku Kelechi Enyi

dition. Sometimes healing is the disappearance of the shame that governed your relationship to it.

When Moses questioned his capacity to speak, God responded, "I will be with your mouth" (Exodus 4:12). I read that not as a promise that every difficulty will disappear, but as a promise of presence.

Not everyone stutters, but many people know what it feels like to edit themselves to belong. Where are you performing

acceptability instead of practicing presence?

My stutter became a superpower because shame no longer gets to determine how much of me enters the room. Every time I say, slowly and completely, "My name is Okechuku Kelechi Enyia," I am practicing freedom. And I am making room for someone else to do the same.

Read the full essay at daytonweeklyonline.com.

West Third Street Church Opens Its Doors for a Free Day of Health Care

By Dayton Weekly News

Editorial Staff

On a stretch of West Third Street where churches have long done more than preach, Mt. Enon Missionary Baptist Church will spend a Saturday this month with open doors for caring for bodies as well as souls.

Just Mercy. Just

Health. 2026, a free community health and wellness fair, runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at the church, 1501 W. Third St. Organizers expect to serve 400 to 500 people.

What to expect:

- Free health screenings
- Wellness education
- Mental and behavioral health resources
- Activities for young

people

- Referrals to community services

The fair is organized by Day Rise Inc., Kettering Health, and Declare Dayton, with a grant from the Kettering Health Foundation.

Mt. Enon's congregation formed in 1925 and bought its West Third Street building in 1962, as Black families moved

into the neighborhood. The building began as a United Brethren church with ties to the Wright family and served as the site of the city's first relief effort during the 1913 flood. Serving neighbors in a hard season is written into the building's story.

This Matters Now

West Dayton has been without a full-service hospital since Good Sa-

maritan closed in 2018. The Miami Valley Urban League's 2026 State of Black Dayton report found that nearly 70 percent of Black residents have low to very low health outcomes. While city leaders work out how to move a voter-approved public hospital forward, a free screening down the street can catch a problem early.

The Black church has

filled gaps in care for generations. Events like this one bring trained professionals and practical resources into a building people already trust.

Admission is free. For questions, call 610-662-7578 or email rise-churchdayton@gmail.com.

Health



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Built for Little Explorers: Boonshoft’s New Toddler Play Area “Stone’s Zone”

A baby mastodon is getting his own playground at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery — and the community is invited to help celebrate its grand opening. The Boonshoft Museum will officially open Stone’s Zone, a new colorful, climbable play area created especially for toddlers, with a ribbon cutting Friday, Oct. 9 at 4 p.m. at the Museum, 2600 DeWeese Parkway in Dayton.

Named for Stone, the juvenile mastodon featured alongside his mother, Feather, in the Museum’s recently renovated Ice Age lobby, Stone’s Zone expands the Ice Age story into an interactive environment built for some of the Museum’s youngest explorers.

The play area is inspired by the rocky landscape left behind as glaciers receded from the region, giving toddlers a place to climb, explore and play while connecting to the natural-history story unfolding around them.

“Stone has quickly become a favorite with our visitors, so it seemed only fitting that our youngest guests should have a place where they can explore right alongside him,” said Tracey Tomme, president and

CEO of the Dayton Society of Natural History.

“Stone’s Zone is fun and playful, but it is also part of a much larger story we are telling about the forces that shaped this region and the water that continues to connect all of us today.”

Stone and Feather are among the life-sized Ice Age animals introduced as part of the Museum’s renovated lobby. Stone was inspired by a juvenile mastodon specimen in the Boonshoft’s collection whose remains were discovered at Carter Bog in Darke County, Ohio. The larger exhibit traces the region’s natural history from the Ice Age into the development of the rivers, aquifer and ecosystems that define the Miami Valley today. Boonshoft Museum of Discovery Grand Opening Marks Next Chapter of \$10.5 Million Campaign

The opening of Stone’s Zone will also mark a significant milestone for the Museum’s \$10.5 million “A River Runs Through Us” capital campaign, officially launching the campaign’s public phase after a highly successful period of private fundraising.

The Museum has raised approximately \$8.8 million — more than 80% of its overall goal — through major gifts, foundations, corporate support and other private contributions.

“We have been incredibly fortunate to see such strong support for this vision during the private phase of the campaign,” Tomme said.

“Our donors understood that this is about much more than renovating exhibits. It is about investing in a place that generations of Dayton families have grown up with and making sure the next generation has those same opportunities to discover, explore and learn. Now, as we move into the public phase, we are inviting the entire community to be part of that future.”

Stone’s Zone was made possible through generous early support from the Charles D. Berry Foundation, Berry Family Foundation, Marj Keenoy and E. Gray, whose contributions helped bring the new play experience to life. Their support played an important role in building early momentum for the campaign and creating an engaging new space where young children can learn through play and connect with the natural world.

The public phase represents a shift from primarily major-gift fundraising to broader community participation and engagement. Expected to last approximately three to six months, the campaign will focus on closing the remaining gap toward the

\$10.5 million goal and completing the Museum’s planned first-floor transformation.

“If you came to the Boonshoft as a child, brought your own children here or simply believe places like this are important to our community, this is an opportunity to pay that experience forward,” Tomme said.

“A gift of any size helps us get closer to the finish line and ensures that children will continue making memories here for decades to come.”

Members of the community can learn more about the campaign and make a contribution at the Museum’s A River Runs Through Us capital campaign page.

From the Ice Age to Dayton’s Water Story Stone’s Zone is one step in a larger transformation underway at the Boonshoft.

The campaign is reimagining portions of the Museum to tell the story of the Miami Valley’s natural history, from the glaciers of the Ice Age to the rivers, aquifer and ecosystems that continue to shape the region today. Future renovations will include a new custom water table and a new tree house climbing structure with a slide, creating updated opportunities for hands-on exploration, active play and discovery.

Become a Gatekeeper with DML Program

Dayton Metro Library will host Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Gatekeeper Training on Thursday, October 15, 6:30-7:30 pm, at the Miami Township Branch.

A Gatekeeper is someone who recognizes a crisis and warning signs that a person may be contemplating suicide. Gatekeepers can be parents, teachers, youths, doctors, first responders, mental health professionals, and Library patrons.

Becoming a certified Gatekeeper will help participants:

- Recognize the warning signs of suicide.
- Increase awareness of stigma and understand

that suicide is a public health issue.

- Learn how to offer hope.
- Learn how to access local and national resources.
- Learn how to get help and save a life.

Haven Behavioral Health Hospital of Dayton will present this program in partnership with DML’s The Center for Community Impact & Innovation. Registration required.

For more information and to register, visit DaytonMetroLibrary.org or call the Library’s Ask Me Line at 937.463.2665.



OCTOBER
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