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Abortion Rights Advocates Face Resistance in November

By Greg Moore

Ohio will be ground zero in the national abortion rights battle this fall when voters across the state will vote on a closely watched constitutional amendment to enshrine abortion rights into the Ohio Constitution. The statewide Ballot Issue 1, officially entitled "The Right to Make Reproductive Decisions Including Abortion Initiative" was certified on July 24. Supporters submitted 495,930 valid signatures from 55 counties, more than enough to qualify for



the November 7th ballot. Ohio Issue 1 in November seeks to enshrine the right to reproductive freedom into the Ohio Constitution in response to the 2022 landmark U.S. Supreme Court Dobbs v. Women's Health Organization

decision overturning the longstanding Roe v. Wade ruling. The Dobbs decision overturned over 50 years of precedent leaving abortion rights or restrictions up to each state to decide.

The "Vote Yes on Issue 1" effort is being led by Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights (OURR), a broad-based, statewide coalition that includes supporters of the successful "Vote NO on Issue 1, One Person One Vote" campaign. A July statewide poll conducted by Suffolk University/USA Today showed that 58% of Ohio voters

statewide supported the proposed constitutional amendment that was certified for placement on the November ballot.

Despite strong support in polling among voters across the state, supporters of the constitutional amendment are facing tactical opposition by Republican lawmakers and pro-life opponents in the lead-up to the election. Political opponents of Issue 1 are being led by Ohio Republican Secretary of State Frank LaRose and a coalition of pro-life

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Tahirah S. Mujahid: Encouraging Honest Life Changes

By Sheila Ferguson

This tribute is for one of Hough's own, Mrs. Tahirah Mujahid, a coworker and colleague for over 20 years at both the Cleveland Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Programs (UMADAOP) and the Catholic Charities Corporation. Throughout her life, Tahirah served as a social worker and foot soldier in the war against community decline and poverty. To her credit, she has been a part of the positive uplift created by the late Councilwoman Fannie Lewis' community services team, and Cleveland UMADAOP's various family services, prevention, and recovery initiatives.

Mujahid passed on June 19th of this year

and was celebrated with Janazah, a Muslim funeral prayer, on June 23, 2023 at the Cummings and Davis Funeral Home. She is remembered as a loving daughter, sister, faithful wife, mother, grandmother, friend to many, and third-generation member of Masjid Bilal. As a local personality, who can forget her lively presence, exuberant laugh, and colorful wardrobe of bright hijabs and flowing kaftans? Her glamour was accentuated by her self-confidence and her flair for knowing just how to enter a room and then work it. Still, her inspiration and love of people and the community live on. Tahirah's triumphant contributions and walk through this life bear mentioning.

The Early Years

Over the years she has been a certified instructor in the Center for Inclusive Child Care's (CICC) effective Black parenting, and group leader in UMADAOP's AKOMA Women's Program. More recently, she served as UMADAOP's Lead Community Instructor for the Multiple Approach Response Strategy Project, known as MARS. Through MARS she trained scores of professionals and families to prevent opioid deaths.

This graduate of the South High Class of '71 raised three successful daughters Shahidah, Nathifa, and Chaya. As a working adult, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Capital

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Try That In a Black Town

Editorial by Melvin Twigg Mason

A few months ago, I became aware of Jason Aldean's video, "Try That In A Small Town," only after going down the video rabbit hole of the latest in conservative thought found on YouTube. The fans of this musical contribution mentioned that there has been some insinuations of racism found throughout the video by those of the "woke" mentality. Well, I must admit I loved the rockin' music of this country song, but as I listened to the lyrics AND watched the scenes in the official music video, I quickly began to see why there was/is such a controversy.

In the video, which at the time of this writing had received 36 million views since its July 14th release this year, Aldean speaks about the increasing acts of violence and crime being

to. And the song lyrics tell that these boys have easy access to "the gun that my granddad gave me," while the video shows bonfire silhouettes of beards and baseball caps firing rifles into the night, with the American flag billowing as a backdrop. In the contemporary words of these staunch citizens the message is clear, "Not in My Backyard" (a.k.a., NIMBY), or in other words, don't try that stuff in a small town.

But as I watched this declaration of cultural solidarity, I began to think, "What if the shoe was on the other foot?" What would it look like to try that in reverse! What IF "the brothas" were delivering this same message to the so-called patriots of America?? The music would be the same, and the lyrics remain the same (for the most part);

but replace the current good old boys video footage with newsreel scenes from actual events of the 1960s.

Instead of the George Floyd protests of the 2020s, I began to imagine the civil rights riots of the 60s. Instead of seniors being "sucker-punched on the sidewalk," we see civil rights workers being wrestled to the ground with all the accompanying brutality of certain police departments of that era. Instead of good old boys watching out for their town, we show the armed brothers of the Black Panther Party "taking care of their own." The collective message then becomes, "Don't try that in a Black town."

Not since the 60s have Blacks and other people-of-color (POC) felt such a strong need to arm themselves for protection

like we feel in today's America. In a nation that's becoming increasingly more divided (in more ways than one), it's a sad state of affairs when we can no longer safely knock on someone's door to ask for directions, use a driveway to turn our car around, nor jog down a street in our own neighborhood in the light of day, without getting shot or shot at.

Though the increasing violence may be happening in our urbanized districts, not all of the violators are from the inner



Police wrestle MLK Jr to ground in 1960s. (Photo: Revolutionary United Front)

cities of America, nor are they always the POCs who live there, as evidenced by the brawl instigated in Montgomery, Alabama (a "chocolate city") on 8/5/2023. The day seems fast-approaching when most Americans, not just those good old boys in a small town, will also pride themselves on fighting to take care of their own — "by any means necessary," to coin another familiar phrase. Perhaps if the fans of this song could, like me, imagine it in reverse, they might see that the problem of unnecessary violence is not just a big city issue, nor a POC issue, it's everyone's issue, as evidenced already in the small towns of Henryetta, Oklahoma, Tate County, Mississippi, and Uvalde, Texas.



Demonstrators, during an open carry rally in Richmond, VA in 2020 (Photo by Eze Amos/Getty Images)

perpetrated in urban society and splashed across the national news over the last 3-4 years, such as carjackings, disrespecting law officers, and even unpatriotic acts against the American flag. He couples those words with visuals of protests gone violent, closed-circuit footage of store robberies in progress, and big city streets on fire.

He then brings home the message (See insert, right).

Any American who's lived any amount of time knows who the phrase "good ol' boys" refers

"Well that _S@!+_ might fly in the city (good luck)

But try that in a small town!

See how far you make it down the road.

'Round here, we take care of our own.

You cross that line, it won't take long...

Full of good old boys, raised up right.

If you're lookin' for a fight

try that in a small town!"

Eating Can Be Better — Together

By Presious Mills

One of the annual themes for the month of October is "Eating Better, Eating Together." In our fast-paced lives the importance of eating better and eating together sometimes gets overlooked. Research shows that these two practices are connected to not only offering health benefits, but also helping relationships. As you celebrate this month's theme, here are some reasons these two elements are important.

Eating better involves making conscious dietary choices to improve one's health and well-being. According to Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health, a diet consisting of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats can reduce the risk of chronic diseases. One advantage of eating healthy is its potential to ensure a balanced intake of essential vitamins and minerals. For example, fruits and vegetables

contain phytochemicals that boost immune function and protect against cellular damage.

Eating together is what nourishes the body and soul. It promotes social togetherness and mindful eating (i.e., being fully aware of what you're eating in the moment). The Journal of Family Psychology says sharing meals encourages communication and fosters deeper connections, leading to better relationships. Communal dining encourages

mindful eating and attentiveness to hunger cues like thinking to yourself, "I'm just about full now." When people dine together, they tend to eat more slowly and savor their food. Paying attention like this not only promotes healthier eating habits but also enhances the overall dining experience amongst individuals. Eating together can be a powerful way to fight mental health issues such

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Encouraging Honest Life Changes

From front page

University in 2004. Wherever Tahirah went, she was sounding the alarm on hidden community dangers, touching hearts, and telling personal stories of challenge and triumph, addiction and recovery, and a life of sober living. She did it to give others an “imagination and a vision” that recovery, healing, and growth are possible for us all only if we are willing to work at it. Angela Quinn, community social work manager of CMHA’s Community-Based Services Program, spoke with TCO about Tahirah’s life and contributions.

Quinn and Mujahid began their careers in child welfare and family preservation with the formation of the Department of Children and Family Services Program’s Family to Family Program in the late 1990s. Quinn recalls that from the start Mrs. Tahirah Mujahid was a fearless trailblazer and role model. Quinn also notes that after years of working in the field, “Tahirah wasn’t just a colleague, she was a friend. We worked with the families in the Central and Hough communities,” she said. “So as women, we shared a strong faith and passion for advocating for people. And because of it, we shared resources, information, and ideas for betterment. Over the years we have been there for each other, especially in the tough times. Thankfully she said I got to repay the favor and be there for her daughters during her health challenges.”

A Growing Career of Service

Quinn says that Tahirah was a down-home take-no-prisoners “Big Mamma” type of social worker. She encouraged everyone’s growth by giving them a realistic assessment of their situation, insight into what was not working in their lives, and some helpful hints on the steps to victory. As frank as she was, she always spoke “the truth in love.”

In the worlds of child welfare and substance abuse recovery, she was a sure-footed guide to helping parents regain custody of their children placed in foster care and achieving recovery. Those successes came from Tahirah’s ability to candidly explain how a person’s negative behaviors and communication style impact their working relationships with family, case workers and supervisors, school principals, and judges. She was also a broker and bridge-builder who created solid working relationships inside the Department of Children and Family Services and with the residents of the Hough community. She also

had a thorough knowledge of the Ohio Revised Code laws and the policies and procedures of the Annie E. Casey Family to Family Program. In recovery, she also knew every home group leader and sponsor across northeast Ohio who could help those mounting the Twelve Steps.

In serving the community, Tahirah demanded that all of her clients do the hard work of making “honest life changes.” It was her view that such honest life changes help us grow. So in her view, it is the magical key that unlocks doors to success.


Wisdom Learned and Shared

Since we are all on a journey, here is Tahirah’s recipe for “Making Honest Life Changes.”


STEP 1: Look at yourself in the mirror and give thanks to Allah or your Creator that you are here and have enough breath in your body to begin making some honest life changes.

STEP 2: Humble yourself by being thankful for the good stuff and good people in your life. Then ask the Creator for the strength to make all the necessary changes needed to live a happy and successful life. I am talking about changing everything from drugs, drinking, lying, quarrelsomeness, stinginess, poverty, thievery, a poor self-image, fear, aloneness, or the inability to speak up or stand up for yourself or anything else holding you back. She’d say, we all need to own what needs to be improved and take charge of ourselves by working the plan until it is second nature.

STEP 3: She’d also say that the solutions may include: entering therapy or treatment, joining an AA or NA recovery program, or joining an assertiveness training program, domestic violence class, mediation, exercise, Tai Chi, or



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To learn more visit areaagingsolutions.org/programs-services/what-s-happening/



Flu



Covid-19


Seasonal vaccines should be an important part of your plan for good health. The flu and COVID-19 vaccines will be available this fall. Talk with your primary care provider or pharmacist if you have questions.

Learn more at www2.cdc.gov/nip/adultimmsched/


For more information on how to plan for good health go to areaagingsolutions.org/public-health/

For vaccines contact or scan:

Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Phone 216-201-2000 or visit ccbh.net



Department of Public Health
Phone 216-664-2324 or visit clevelandhealth.org



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spiritual practice group. Maybe this is the time to get a GED, choose a career, or earn a degree, certificate, or license. Taking on an honest life change can spirit you into a whole new way of living and make you a better person!

Thanks and blessings, Tahirah, for your wisdom.



The Nottingham School

A Ministry of St John Lutheran Church

CMSD Town Hall



The meetings have been designed for parents, students, community residents, leaders of faith-based organizations and other social service agencies. The sessions have mostly been held in small venues such as coffee shops or school facilities. **On Monday, October 9th, Dr. Morgan will hold the second of two town hall meetings** that are designed to attract a larger audience.

During each of the past listening tour events, participants were asked three essential questions:

- What is needed to improve the quality of education in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for our students and families?
- How can we partner to accomplish these goals?
- If you were CEO, what would be your first course of action?

At the October 9th Town Hall, those in attendance will be invited to respond to the same

three questions. In addition, time will also be allocated for those wishing to ask the CEO their own unique question.

“I want to know what you think we’re getting right as well as hear your suggestions on ways we can continue to improve our schools and the delivery of our services,” said Dr. Morgan.

“I am especially eager to learn what you believe is specifically needed to improve the quality of education in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for our students and families. I would also like to hear how you believe we can best partner to accomplish this goal,” the CEO added.

The Monday Oct. 9th Town Hall will be held at the Near West Theatre, which is located at 6702 Detroit Road in Cleveland’s Gordon Square Arts District. The session will run from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. Doors for guest will open at 4:30 p.m.

By Phillip Morris

For nearly two months, Cleveland Metropolitan School District CEO, Dr. Warren G. Morgan, has crisscrossed Cleveland speaking with various organizations about ways to continue to improve the district’s outcomes. These meetings are what the new CEO, hired in May to replace outgoing CMSD CEO Eric Gordon, calls a listening tour.

Strategies for a Calmer You: Navigating Stress

by Donna Watson

Stress might feel like a constant companion, but remember you’re not alone in this journey. There are effective ways to overcome it and create a smoother path in life.

Cracking the Stress Code

Imagine being fully immersed in the present moment, whether reading a book, lost in your thoughts, or just being. It’s a form of mindfulness—the art of staying connected to the now. Conversely, consider meditation a time to let your mind rest and rejuvenate, like a refreshing break for your thoughts. Participating in physical activities, like exercising or enjoying a serene walk, releases God-given endorphins that combat stress and infuse positivity into your being.

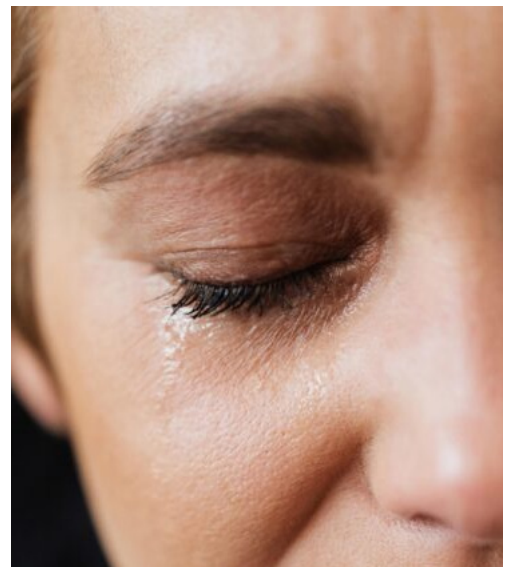
Tapping into God’s Support

When stress knocks

on your door, remember that you have a source of support more excellent than any human relationship. Share your burdens with God through prayer and seek guidance from His Word. Drawing inspiration from Proverbs 3:5-6, we find direction to place our trust in the Lord and avoid relying solely on our understanding. As friends and family offer advice, God’s wisdom provides insight and peace during turmoil. And when you feel alone, remember that you’re part of a community that can uplift and stand with you.

Crafting a Calm Spirit

Here’s the divine plan—incorporate these principles into your daily life to maintain a sense of peace. By practicing mindfulness, meditation, and staying active, you honor the body God has blessed you with. In Psalm 46:10, God invites you to “be still and know that I am God.” The icing is that God’s love and



grace are abundant, and so may be the support of your community. So, let’s rewrite the stress story, lean on God’s strength, and create a life filled with peace that surpasses all understanding.

Donna Walton is a passionate advocate of faith and positive living. To explore more uplifting insights and discover motivating gospel music, visit www.dwgnv.info.

Eating...Together

Continued from page 2

as loneliness and depression. Sharing meals regularly reduces stress and improves overall mood.

Eating better and eating together is the key to healthy living. Combining these two practices enhances the benefits of each. The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition says group dining reinforces healthy eating

habits through mutual motivation and accountability. Group dining also provides opportunities for culinary exploration, enabling the discovery of new, nutritious recipes and cuisines. Prioritizing nutritious foods in a communal setting nourishes both body and soul, enhancing health and harmony in our lives, according

to Oxford University’s Nutrition Reviews. In a world dominated by fast food and digital distractions, these practices become not just actions but vital components of a fulfilling and thriving life!

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Who Do We Appreciate?

by Pastor Larry Frazier

We observe holidays in our country for numerous reasons: to remember significant historical events, to annually observe days of reverence, to recognize loved ones in our lives, to have some days just for fun, and to honor people and their service. **Pastor's Appreciation Month (October)** falls in that last category.

I suspect that Pastor's Appreciation Month may be grouped, by some, with other celebrations such as Grandparents Day, Sweetest Day, and Administrative Professionals' Day as having questionable origin. In a derogatory way, some holidays have been called "Hallmark holidays," being popularized for the sake of profit. On October 11, 2007, Hallmark, the greeting card company, posted the following statement: "While we're honored that people so closely link the Hallmark name with celebrations and special occasions, we can't take credit for creating holidays."

Christianity.com states the following: "In 1994, the American Christian organization Focus on the Family began promoting Clergy Appreciation Month as a national month of observance. In



Photo credit: Tara Winstead (Pexels)

highlighting Clergy Appreciation Month, Focus on the Family sought to encourage the faithful to outwardly show their appreciation for religious leaders on a national level." October was thus set aside as Pastor's Appreciation Month.

Ultimately, calling on us to show appreciation to pastors comes from God. Hebrews 13:7 says, "Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you." 1 Timothy 5:17 says, "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose

work is preaching and teaching."

Even though God has established and directed the pastoral office, there is a misunderstanding concerning the ministry. Some say that pastors only work on Sundays and they question what pastors do during the week. Speaking from experience, I'm sure for many pastors our weeks are filled with various activities. We visit hospitals and nursing homes, take Communion to shut-ins, conduct funerals and chapel services, have study time and sermon

preparation as well as maintain a family life at home. Some pastors additionally have to balance these activities with a full-time job.

Pastors have to be prepared to visit and comfort members before and after surgery. It is not uncommon for pastors to receive phone calls at all hours of the day and night and sometimes make an unscheduled home visit. Neighborhood and civic activities often call for pastoral participation. Pastors have to operate in the present time with guidance from an eternal God that is from all time. Because the word of God was established in ancient times, some have accused pastors of being out of touch with modern life. Pastor's Appreciation Month is about thanking your pastor for being true to the word of God and preaching, teaching, and serving rightly, despite directions from the unbelieving world.

Let us continue to pray and give thanks for our pastors.

Pastor Larry Frazier attended the Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and from there was ordained as a pastor for the Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

Forget Financial Freedom, We Need Financial Liberation

By Ray'Chel Wilson

In the realm of personal finance, the concept of financial freedom reigns supreme. It promises individual autonomy and control over one's life. Let's delve deeper into a more profound pursuit: **communal financial liberation**.

Financial freedom is about securing personal needs and desires. Communal financial liberation, conversely, extends beyond self-interest. It's the act of using one's financial strength to uplift and empower one's community. Historical figures and events offer vivid illustrations of the importance of communal financial liberation.

Take, for instance, the thriving communities of Black Wall Street in Tulsa (OK) and Durham (NC). These communities weren't just about personal success; they also exemplified communal financial liberation in action. In Tulsa's Black Wall Street, individuals pooled their

resources, establishing successful businesses and building wealth within the Black community. This financial autonomy allowed them to uplift their neighbors, creating a thriving hub of economic empowerment. Likewise, in Durham, Black Wall Street served as a beacon of communal financial liberation, where businesses, banks, and educational institutions were nurtured, benefiting not just individuals but the community as a whole.

How can individuals in this day and age work towards communal financial liberation? Here are three key steps:

- 1. Elevate Financial Literacy.** Knowledge is a formidable asset, and financial literacy is its vehicle. Begin by educating yourself about financial systems, wealth inequality, and community development. Subsequently, share this knowledge within your community, enabling informed financial decision-making. Empowerment



starts with education.

- 2. Champion Local Initiatives.** Active participation in local businesses and community projects is instrumental. Use your financial resources and influence to support initiatives fostering economic growth and opportunity within your neighborhood. This may encompass volunteer work, patronizing local businesses, and/or initiating community projects. Collective efforts yield substantial impact.
- 3. Collaborative Advocacy.** High-profile activists aren't solitary warriors, they collaborate.

Join or establish networks dedicated to communal financial liberation. Team up with like-minded individuals to confront systemic issues such as affordable housing, equitable education, and fair employment practices. Together, collective action amplifies influence.

In essence, while financial freedom is an admirable pursuit, communal financial liberation elevates the goal to another level entirely. It is a commitment to shared prosperity and the betterment of communities. Let us embark on this journey collectively and advocate for a brighter future.

Ray'Chel Wilson, CFEI® , is a author of the Black Wealth Freedom series and CEO of Raise the Bar Investments.

Evidenced-Based Health and Nutrition Tips, Pt 1

By Sharon Lewis

In this present age, information is accessible from anywhere at any time. How often have you turned on the evening news or checked a news feed only to find that a food, drink, or activity previously touted as good for you ends up debunked by science? Such instances that stand out are:

- the consumption of eggs, and
- the suggestion that a no-fat diet fights the risk of breast cancer.

Well, people limited their consumption of eggs or ate just the whites. Then, women were told that they could cut their risk of breast cancer by consuming a no-fat diet. It is now known that fat is an essential part of the diet, and eliminating it altogether has negative health consequences.

Scientific research, such as that performed at the University of California-San Francisco's Medical School, has verified over 30 healthy lifestyle habits and diet tips, which will be shared in this series of articles. Here are the first four:

1. Don't Drink Sugar



Sugary beverages include soda, fruit juices, sweetened tea, and other artificial/sweetened beverages. These beverages are the primary source of added sugar to your diet and are the most fattening items that can be consumed. Studies have proven that the brain does not measure calories from liquid sugar the same way it does from solid carbohydrates. Therefore, you will consume more calories when consuming liquid sugar than when eating solid carbohydrates.

Some fruit juices are as bad as soda in this respect

because they contain almost as much sugar. The antioxidants consumed from fruit juice are insufficient to overcome the negative effects of consuming the sugar. EAT fruit, don't drink fruit.

Consuming sugary drinks, no matter what their source, is strongly associated with obesity, type-2 diabetes, heart disease, and other health issues.

2. Avoid Restrictive Diets

Dieting is often the first thought if one is carrying excess weight. A diet, in the sense of a temporary caloric restriction to lose weight, is ineffective. Many people yo-yo diet. This means they 'diet' to lose weight, then go back to their original eating habits, regain the weight, and start the process all over again. Unfortunately, a restrictive diet is the strongest predictor of future weight gain. An overly restrictive diet lowers metabolism, which makes it more difficult to lose weight. Restrictive diets can cause alterations to one's hunger and "satisfaction" hormones, resulting in strong food cravings for foods that are high in calories and sugar.

3. Eat Whole Eggs

Over the years, people have gone back and forth on the issue of egg consumption. It is a myth that eggs are bad for you because of the amount of cholesterol they contain. Studies show that they have minimal effect on blood cholesterol levels in most people. Eggs are a good source of protein and nutrients.

4. Eat Lots of Fruits and Vegetables – Eat the Rainbow

Harvard University's Health Publishing recommends eating at least five servings of fruit and vegetables. This ensures adequate consumption of fiber and other nutrients that may be lacking from the American diet. It sounds like a lot, but it is not that hard. Slice a banana on breakfast cereal or make a smoothie with frozen fruit, have a salad with lunch, or have sliced veggies as a snack, and then have one or two vegetables with dinner. The benefits will be a smaller waistline, better elimination, and weight loss without trying!

Continued on page 9

PEOPLE'S BUDGET CLEVELAND

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Fibroids: The Silent Pandemic, Pt 2

By Nicole D. Miller

Women have been combating hemorrhaging since Bible days and navigating the tumultuous emotional, physical, sexual, and even financial toll it takes on the woman suffering. This ailed woman may try several different solutions to figure out which one best fits her lifestyle while still dealing with all the effects of excessive bleeding from tumors like fibroids and polyps.

One physical effect is anemia, which can cause exhaustion, headaches, irritability, and loss of appetite. Anemia can be treated by taking iron supplements or eating food with iron and B12 vitamins. When anemic, the body becomes deficient in iron and needs more of it to replenish red blood cells that are being expelled at a great rate. If too much blood has been lost, there may even need to be a blood transfusion. Additionally, constant physical discomfort can accompany the bleeding, such as cramps, nausea, and back pain.

The emotional component of this experience is vastly rooted in the fear of the unknown. Not

knowing how much blood will ultimately be lost before a solution is found. Not knowing if there will be an accident while out in public. And on top of the not knowing, the embarrassment, anxiety, and frustration associated with the aforementioned symptoms. Sexually, the constant bleeding can damper a woman's view of her attractiveness, thwarting those intimate moments with her partner and, depending on where the tumors are located, even hindering fertility.

Financially, the woman is racking up costs with frequent visits to her local drug store and stocking up on feminine hygiene products. But the more extensive expenses occur with medical bills from doctor visits and procedures.

Tracy Ly experienced all the previously mentioned effects. As young as 22 years old, Tracy had a fibroid the size of a baseball and a cyst the size of a pineapple, resulting in a rock-hard abdomen. She proceeded to have a myomectomy which, according to the University of California-San Francisco, is a surgery to remove fibroids while



Tracy Ly

keeping the uterus intact for the possibility of future pregnancy.

Unfortunately, the procedure, failed to remove the fibroid because it protruded into her uterine wall. At her physician's request, she took a contraceptive to shrink the fibroid to allow for proper removal, only to find that the medication did not work, and she was now out of \$1500 in out-of-pocket expenses that were not covered by insurance. This

was just the beginning of Tracy's journey to healing. It was also the beginning of hearing that she would not be able to have children.

After another surgery, the fibroid was only partially removed and then grew back at lightning speed. Tracy sadly reports, "I sometimes question whether he (the surgeon) even tried to remove the fibroid because afterward, my nonexistent symptoms took a drastic turn." Tracy was now overcome with cramping that worsened with every passing month. This eventually did a number on her mental health and led her into depression. Still, she sought a solution only to come up short in Nashville and South Carolina. She finally moved to South Korea, where she was told that their doctors wouldn't be able to give her the care she required, but the bleeding through her clothes and the pain increasing every month became unbearable. In addition to that, she was experiencing substantial blood clots. "They were the biggest clots I had ever seen," she says, reflecting. "But when I tell my story I always have

Continued on page 11

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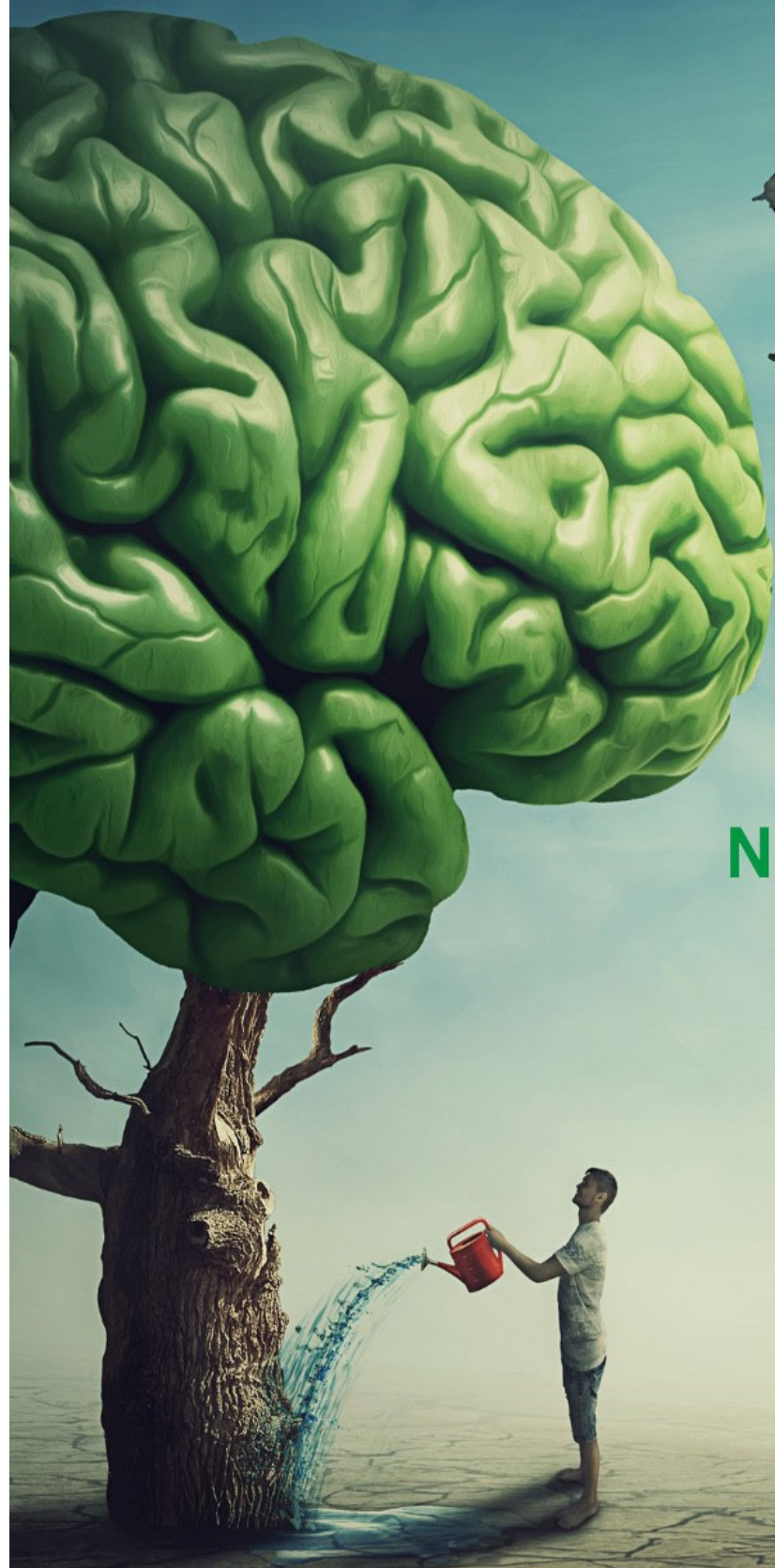


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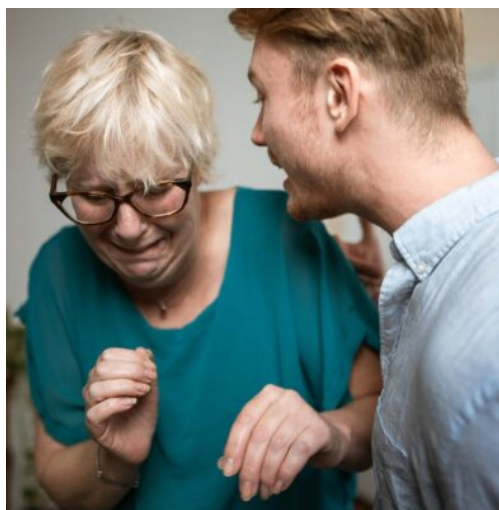
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Keeping Domestic Violence Survivors Safe

By Tonya Sams

Survivors of domestic violence may need to take extra precautions after leaving their abuser. In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October), it is good to be aware of steps you can take to prevent further abuse. Filing a **civil protection order (CPO)** is one way that victims can protect themselves. A CPO can be filed



Credit: RDNE Stock (Pexels)

with the Domestic Relations Court or Common Pleas Court. This can be done individually (called *pro se*) or with the help of an attorney.

When the CPO petition is filed by the victim of abuse (petitioner), the court will hold a

hearing the same day. This first hearing is called an *ex parte*, meaning only the petitioner takes part in this hearing; the abuser is not there. During this time the most recent incidents of abuse will be discussed. The court then determines if the request for a CPO will be granted.

After the first hearing, another hearing will be scheduled within seven to ten court days. This hearing is called a full hearing. The alleged abuser will be notified by the court to attend the hearing. The petitioner must bring all related documentation such as police reports and medical records documenting treatment related to the abuse. Copies of records of previous domestic violence or violent crime convictions that involve the abuser should also be brought. Any witnesses to the abuse should also come to the hearing.

If the alleged abuser opposes the CPO or fails to appear for the full hearing, the court will listen to the testimony of those who are present and then determine if a CPO should be granted for a period of up to five years. If the CPO is granted,



Photo: Leroy Skalstad (Pixabay)

the petitioner may (and should!) request several certified copies of the CPO from the Clerk of Courts free of charge. It is recommended that a copy of this order be carried by the petitioner at all times.

If the abuser violates the order, the petitioner should find a safe place to go and then call the police. Be sure to show the police a certified copy of the CPO. Also, be sure to notify a victim advocate or attorney. Violating a CPO could result in court supervision, community service, jail time, probation, or counseling. When a CPO is granted, the abuser could lose visitation rights to see

his or her children and may have to pay support to the victim and children. If a vehicle is involved, the abuser may be ordered to give it to the victim to use. The abuser may also be ordered to attend counseling for substance abuse, anger management, or batterer's counseling. If the abuser still resides in the same home as the victim, he/she may be ordered to leave the residence.

If you are a victim of domestic violence, Legal Aid may be able to help. A Legal Aid attorney can help people file civil protection orders against their abusers as well as direct them to community resources to help them escape those abusive relationships. Call 888-817-3777 or visit lasclev.org/apply for information. More information is available in Legal Aid's "Domestic Violence" brochure, or learn more online:

<https://lasclev.org/domesticviolence/>.

Tonya Sams is the Development & Communications Manager at The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Here Come The Judges!

By Margaret Adams

On Nov. 7th, Clevelanders will be voting on judges to fill six terms-of-office starting on Jan. 1, 2024. The judges will be elected to serve on the court for six years. In the past, there hasn't been much attention paid to the candidates running for judge, however, since the Trump administration, the public has become more aware of the important role judges play in our lives—how a judge handles the cases before them, and the rulings they hand out impact all of us.

On Tuesday, Oct. 17th at 5:30 p.m., The Cleveland Observer (TCO), in partnership with Community Culture of Informed Voters (CCOIV), will host a moderated forum for the citizens of Cleveland to hear from the candidates for a judge position on the Cleveland Municipal Court. The Forum will be held in the Cleveland Connections/Neighbor Up Room in the Cleveland Foundation building located at 1971 East 66th St.

According to the Ohio Supreme Court judges salary chart, judges make an annual salary of over \$100,000. To qualify to run for the office of a municipal judge, candidates must be less

than 70 years old, licensed by the State of Ohio, and have practiced law for at least six years. Cleveland Municipal judges are nominated by petition. A candidate can have their name placed on the ballot if they turn in a petition with only 50 verified signatures from city voters. The Cleveland Municipal Court has jurisdiction over the City of Cleveland and the Village of Bratenahl.

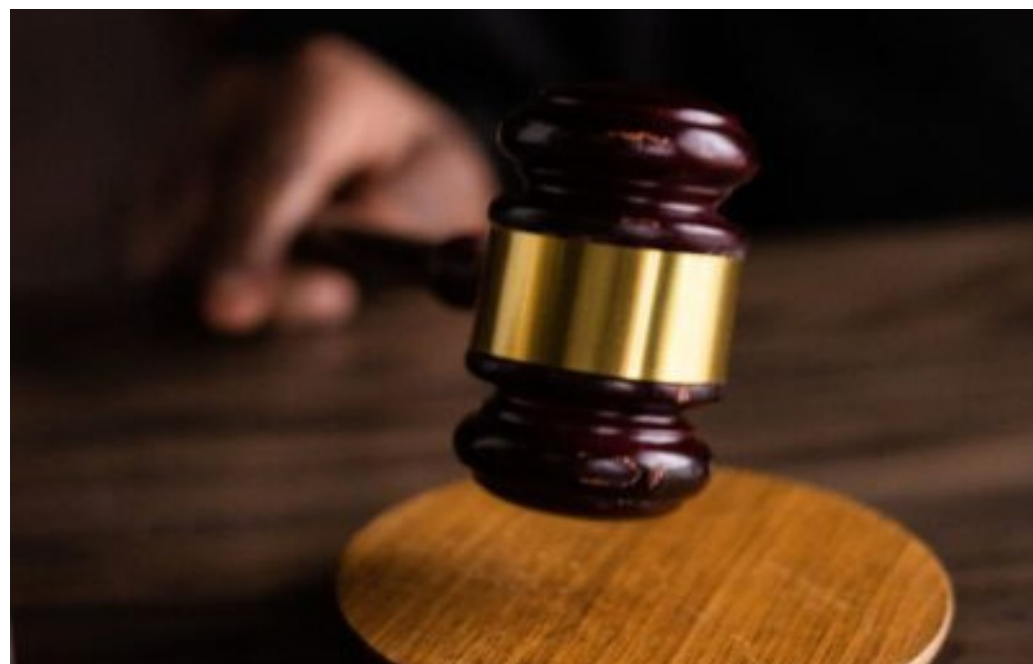
The primary function of municipal judges is to handle misdemeanors, including traffic offenses, drug-related offenses (such as DUI), domestic violence, assault, theft of property (such as shoplifting), and landlord and

tenant disputes. The judges conduct preliminary hearings and set bonds in felony cases committed in the city of Cleveland. They handle civil matters in the small claims court for cases under \$6,000. The general division of the courts can determine civil cases where the controversy does not exceed \$15,000.

According to the Cleveland Municipal Court's web page, the court wants to "help solve community problems." Rather than moving people through the system by sending them to jail and having them pay fines, the court is working to create remedies that go to the underlying reason(s)

that cause people to appear before them. To do this they have established specialized dockets for drug offenders, domestic violence, and mental health issues. The community needs to hear from the candidates to learn how they will address some of the social issues facing those who appear before them. It is just as important to hear from the candidates about how they will address the disturbing incidents of crime and violence within the youth of our communities.

The forum being presented on Oct. 17th will give people the chance to listen to the judges whose decisions will have an impact on us, our families, and our communities for at least the next six years. Your attendance is strongly encouraged.



Nutrition Tips, Pt 1

From page 7

Being healthy should be a goal for everyone. Old habits die hard, so try to eliminate and replace one unhealthy habit with a healthy one. One step at a time! More evidence-based nutritional tips coming up in Part 2 of this series.

Foster Mom Calls For New Foster Parents

By Sheila Ferguson

In recent years, foster care and adoption agencies across the nation have been challenged to locate and recruit new foster parents representing all racial and ethnic groups. The world needs foster parents willing to give children the tender, loving care they need to grow into healthy and productive adults. With the increasing numbers of Black children entering the system in Cuyahoga County, more African American families are needed to serve as foster parents who can care for sibling groups of three or more children.



RDNE Stock Project (Pexels)

Ms. Rhonda Wilson is a mother, adoptive mother, and community-based services worker in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood. She recalls her last two decades of caring service filled with love and dedication. "It has made me a better person and a parent," she says. In her career shift from a health insurance examiner to a systems-of-care specialist, Wilson has worked with many parents involved in the child welfare system and the foster and kinship families who give alternative care. Consequently, she understands parents' struggles to care for their children, including the plight of teenage parents, those who are homeless, drug and alcohol addicted, the under-educated, jobless, or the incarcerated. She has also served children left orphaned by parental illness and death.

It is Wilson's observation, and scores of others, that Cuyahoga County and the Greater Cleveland Community are currently in a crisis relative to the limited number of available foster homes to care for children

in need. The Division of Child and Family Services' July 2023 report backs these observations: 4,265 children were in care. Summarily,

- 52% are in foster care,
- 33% of children are in kinship care (i.e., care given by extended family or god-parents),
- 2% live in group homes,
- 6% are in residential care,
- 3% reside in adoptive homes,
- 4% live in independent living.

Demographically, 49% of children in care are female and 51% male. By race, 25% of children are White, 64% are African American, 9% are Hispanic, and 0% are listed as multi-racial or another ethnicity. In addition, abuse and neglect are the leading causes of a child's entry into care.

Wilson also notes that this "lack of licensed foster-to-adopt homes means that when families are in crisis their only hope for support comes from reliance on family kinship care providers or interested parties, friends, and neighbors who can lend a hand. Though families can be a significant source of support, all families differ in their capacity to give care," she states. Issues can arise, as some families are small or strained by having more elderly members who are able to care for the children than young or middle-aged families. Others may be financially strapped and need considerable assistance in the form of subsidies. Still others may lack clean criminal records or a safe home.

Wilson says that "it is never a child's fault that they have come into care." Thus, children need loving and stabilizing foster experiences followed by a return home. Others may need long-term, or "forever homes." The process of becoming a foster parent takes 2-6 months. It involves training, submitting your application packet, and completing a home study. To begin the process, you may also go online to complete an application at Foster Care and Adoption for Cuyahoga County.

To help with the crisis, Wilson calls all previously licensed and newly interested prospective foster parents to answer the call and sign on immediately. She states that anyone interested in becoming a foster parent should ask themselves the following:

1. Do I have a loving heart and commitment to caring for children?
2. Do I have a clean character and work history with no



- criminal record? Note: All prospective foster parents will undergo the Bureau of Criminal Investigations and FBI fingerprinting and records checks.
3. Can I give the time to complete the Foster Care Foster-to-Adopt licensing application and home inspection report to be prepared by the Division of Child and Family Services or any of the area's Therapeutic Foster Care agencies: Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY), Beech Brook, Bellefaire JCB, The Bair Foundation, Catholic Charities Corporation, National Youth Advocacy Program or the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services?
 4. Can I undergo 30 hours of foster-to-adopt licensing training that covers such topics as:
 - Car Seat Safety
 - Connecting: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity & Expression
 - Effects of Abuse and Neglect on Child Development
 - Identifying and Supporting Commercially Sexually Exploited Children
 - Infant Safety and Care
 - Medication Administration for Caregivers
 - National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Basics Course
 - Prudent Parenting
 - Preparing Youth for Transitioning to Adulthood
 - So, You Have a New Placement ... Now What?

- Children with disabilities
- Caregiving for Children with Sexual Behavioral Concerns
- Caregiving for Children with Physically Aggressive Behavior Concerns
- Youth Missing from Cars, and
- Adoption Support?
- 5. Am I:
 - :At a minimum of 21 years old?
 - Of sufficient income to meet my own basic needs?
 - In good physical, emotional, and mental health?
 - Single or part of a couple in a stable relationship for at least 1 year?
 - Am I willing to provide unconditional love and "inner standing" for a child who has faced challenges but deserves a chance?

Saying yes to every question means that you are ready to go. So seriously consider signing up to care for tomorrow's youth TODAY!

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Vote to Fight Voter Suppression Efforts

By Sheila Ferguson

Many African Americans are proud that their ancestors forged the Civil Rights movement. They stood up and risked life and limb to afford themselves and their descendants the right to vote. Historically, it has always been a fight against voter suppression and racial and economic discrimination. In these years of grievance politics, all Americans must be vigilant about local and national efforts to rob citizens of their fundamental rights and access to the ballot box.

Over four hundred anti-voter bills have recently been introduced in forty-eight states. These bills have sought to create unnecessary roadblocks for people to register to vote. Democracy is all about participation and allowing the voices of the American people as eligible voters to be heard. Vote to impact your community and the nation positively. Vote because many social issues are affected by elections, including

- grandfathers voted before 1867
4. All white primary elections strategy where Republicans ran first against Republicans and Democrats against Democrats, ending with the Republican winner running against the Democratic winner—Note: **Blacks were not allowed to vote Democrat**
 5. Locally purging the names of Black voters from the official lists of voters
 6. Not allowing former prisoners to vote
 7. Demands for government IDs like driver's licenses, special photo IDs, birth certificates, and
 8. Denying the homeless the ability to vote.

Today's modern voter suppression tactics being implemented across the nation are much the same, and include:

1. Felony Disenfranchisement blocks those with incarceration histories

voting. The Ohio House Bill sought to limit the number of drop boxes to just one location per county, and that location can have up to three drop boxes. It would also allow drop boxes to be used only in the ten days leading up to Election Day, a considerable decrease from last year when Ohio voters had 30 days to return their ballot via drop box. Those boxes would also only be allowed outside the county Board of Elections offices, hindering voters who do not live near the offices and do not have easy access to transportation. Such voters would have to find other ways to return their ballots.

In addition to the drop box changes, the bill imposed new restrictions on voter registrations and absentee voting, including limiting what kind of mail-in ballots can be "cured"—the process of fixing small mistakes voters made on their ballots so that the votes can count. HB 294 would also move the absentee ballot request deadline up seven days and eliminate in-person absentee voting on the Monday before Election Day. Additionally, the bill would cut early voting hours,

require two forms of voter ID, and limit the existing ability of the Ohio secretary of state to prepay postage on election mail. Like similar bills across the country, HB 294 aimed to disproportionately affect Black and Brown voters, students, low-income residents, disabled people, active-duty military, and seniors.

In 2023, an Ohio House Bill (HB 458) was signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine on Jan. 6. HB 458 was designed to enact a strict photo ID requirement and limit mail-in and in-person early voting. It is the first significant voter suppression law enacted after the 2022 midterms.

In these challenging times, the range of voter suppression efforts demands that responsible citizens vote. Voting is a response to the present-day efforts to take away rights concerning reproductive health, sports participation rights for transgender kids, and access to the factual elements of American history. Stand up and be counted, and do not allow fear or any form of defeatist thinking stop your vote.



(but not limited to) gay marriage, reproductive rights, health care, sports participation, gender-affirming care, environmental issues, public education, etc. Social issues affect everyone in one way or another.

According to scholar and griot [i.e., historian or storyteller] Dr. Russell Booker of America's Black Holocaust Museum (in Milwaukee, Wisconsin), America has a long history of threats and intimidation against Blacks and poor White southern voters from the Jim Crow era until now. Booker notes that the historical voter suppression tactics included:

1. Literacy tests proving the ability to read
2. Property test indicating that only property owners could vote
3. A grandfather clause which stated that people who could not read or did not own property could vote if their

2. Redistricting and Gerrymandering
3. Voter Purges, and Voter ID Laws.

Today the fundamental aim of voter suppression across the U.S. is to ensure that chosen GOP candidates win reelection, no matter what the voters say. Looking at recent Ohio history dating back to 2018, there have been a series of efforts to make voter suppression into law. In a 5-4 ruling in 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court gave Ohio a victory in a fight over the state's method for removing people from the voter rolls. Nationally, this is a practice that civil rights groups say discourages and negatively impacts minority turnout.

In 2021, like other anti-voting bills introduced across the U.S. by the GOP, Ohio's House Bill 294 severely restricted access to ballot drop boxes and absentee

Fibroids: Pt 2

From page 7

to talk about my spirituality and how God was building me up through this journey...He sent me so many angels along the way."

One of those angels was a young woman she met on a train in South Korea, whom she confided in about her issue of blood. This same woman had recently had a myomectomy and encouraged Tracy to meet with her doctor. She did meet with him, and he referred her to his mentor, Dr. Yoon of Cha Hospital who was



more skilled for the kind of surgery she needed. Dr. Yoon finally gave Tracy the relief she was looking for but there was still a journey ahead, resulting in two more surgeries.

In 2016, a large fibroid grew back in Tracy's uterus, and she was again told she couldn't conceive children. Still, after a total of five surgeries, miscarriages, and various hardships from this

experience, Tracy gave birth to a baby boy on her birthday within a year after her last surgery. "Do not settle for a recommendation for a hysterectomy," says the five-time myomectomy patient. "Take the time to research and find skilled doctors who have been blessed with healing hands."

The next article will explore much-needed next steps and medical options for fibroid elimination, so that others can have the same victorious outcome that Tracy did.

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Abortion Rights Advocates Face Resistance in November

From front page

groups led by the Ohio Right to Life coalition. All have worked for months to oppose the amendment by orchestrating a series of legislative and administrative tactics to ensure its defeat.

The primary tactic included the placement of a constitutional amendment on the ballot in an Aug. 8 special election to change the percentage threshold for passage of future constitutional amendments from 50% to 60%. Voters across the state of Ohio soundly defeated the measure 57 to 43%. In the aftermath of that defeat, abortion opponents again led by Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose took steps to adjust the ballot language from the initiative that was circulated to voters. As chair of the Ohio Ballot Board, which is responsible for the approval of the final language on the November ballot, LaRose and other abortion rights opponents voted 3-2 along partisan lines to make substantive changes to the ballot language that differed from the language circulated statewide by supporters of Issue 1.

OURR supporters cried foul after working for over a year gathering signatures and building widespread support across the state utilizing their carefully crafted language. On August 28, the Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against Secretary Frank LaRose and the Ohio Ballot Board asserting that the new ballot language word choice “serves to sway voters against the Amendment.” The suit claimed

that the language proposed by the ballot board was “incomplete, inaccurate, and misleading.”

The OURR coalition also challenged the board’s removal of language that listed additional reproductive rights that their original language covered. Most notably they opposed the exclusion of “the right to contraception, fertility treatment, miscarriage care, and continuing one’s pregnancy” among the rights being enshrined into the constitution. Plaintiffs in the lawsuit argued that the ballot board-approved language “fails to capture the full substance of the amendment and only names abortion even though [the] amendment’s protections extend but are not limited to reproductive decisions.” The other major change to the original amendment’s language included removing the medical term used throughout the original language from “fetus” to the more emotionally charged term “unborn child,” throughout the ballot amendment. The suit called on the Ohio Supreme Court to intervene and make an expedited ruling that would restore the original language submitted. Despite the outcome of the court’s final ruling, Issue 1 supporters vowed to continue their education and awareness campaign across the state.

Abortion rights advocates pointed to the failed attempt to change the percentage requirement for passing a constitutional amendment in

the Aug. 8 election, and the Republican-controlled Ballot Board’s efforts to dramatically alter the ballot language, as similarly misguided attempts by opponents to undermine the will of Ohio voters.

In reaction to the language change, OURR spokesperson Lauren Blauvelt released a statement saying that “anti-abortion extremists and Secretary of State Frank LaRose today exploited the Ohio Ballot Board process in a last-ditch effort to deceive and confuse Ohio voters ahead of the November vote on reproductive freedom.” Blauvelt went on to assert that “Anti-abortion extremists and politicians have repeatedly tried to mislead and deceive voters in their unending quest to eliminate Ohioans’ freedom. In a 137-page court filing, OURR asked the court to direct the board to “reconvene and adopt ballot language that properly and lawfully describes the Amendment.”

In response to the changes to the language by the Ballot Board, Ohio Right to Life president Mike Gonidakis asserted that “...people are going to make up their minds before they go in the ballot box anyways, and they’re not going to go in and then try to figure out what they want to do by reading something on a screen,” he said. Earlier statements by the Ohio Right to Life coalition had asserted that Issue 1, if passed in November, would “Enshrine abortion until birth and remove all protections for the preborn—

including a parent’s ability to stop their child from being pressured into an abortion.”

Opposition to the abortion rights amendment has been building within the pro-life community for many months. As early as July 25, the Ohio Right to Life’s CEO, Peter Range, released a statement asserting that “This extreme anti-life, anti-parent amendment from the ACLU provides no protections for the preborn through all nine months of pregnancy and attacks a parent’s right even to know if their child is seeking an abortion.”

The central question that remains unanswered by both sides of the issue is whether voters from across the state who voted No on Issue 1 on Aug. 8 will parlay their strong support for maintaining a simple majority to pass a constitutional amendment into a YES on Issue 1 on Nov. 7 in support of enshrining abortion rights into the same constitution.

There is also growing concern among abortion rights supporters that the “Vote No on Issue 1” campaign in the Aug. 8 election will confuse some voters who are supporters of abortion rights but might confuse it with the “Vote Yes on Issue 1” campaign in the fall. Educating voters about the differences between the two issues is a top priority among abortion rights supporters and opponents.

Fall Fest Is Back!

by Pastor Ron Rollins

What St John Nottingham will once again host it’s Fall Fest on Sunday October 15 from Noon until 3pm. It is open to the community and will feature Trunk or Treat, hayrides, crafts, games, prizes, photo opportunities, food and more. Children are welcome to come dressed in appropriate costumes. Fall Fest will take place rain or shine.

St. John is also home of the Nottingham School, grades K -3. The school will be open to those interested in seeing the new look and talking with staff about the vision for the school. St John is located on Nottingham Road at Lakeshore Blvd, across from Wildwood Park. For more information call 216-531-8204 or visit their website.



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Child Abduction: Prevention and Recovery

By Sheila Ferguson

From April through June 2023, thirty children of color went missing in Cleveland, Ohio. This was an unbearable situation for the families and the Greater Cleveland community. It left adults asking:

1. Where are the missing children?
2. Are they okay?
3. How are their families doing?
4. What are the police and media doing to help find them? and
5. What can the community do to help?

Nationally, there has been an increase in missing children of color since the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the recent missing children of color cases in Cleveland, many of the children had run away but have since safely returned home. Still, some remain missing making this a matter of high importance! Thus, we need to remember that likely offenders may include:

- A non-custodial parent.
- A human trafficker engaged in either the sex trades or economic slavery.
- A gang-hostage situation to exploit and trap by coercive control.
- A serial predator seeking to sexually violate, keep captive, or kill.

Understanding the plight of missing children and youth means educating families on health and safety, and improving police and community response. Overall, communities and families are key in preventing kidnaps and abductions.

Derrica and Natalie Wilson, founders of the Black and Missing Foundation, Inc. (BAMFI.org), say that the recovery of missing Black people is difficult in a society filled with racial and economic discrimination. Statistically, African Americans comprise 14% of the U.S. population and they make up 40% of all missing Americans. In BAMFI's mission to "Find US," the Wilsons report that the search and recovery of non-white individuals is complicated. They say that white people do not have to contend with racial discrimination, or the lack of police interest and media assistance as evidenced by:

- Police minimizing the families' worries and blaming the victims by saying things like, "Your kid is hanging out with friends, using drugs without your knowledge, or experiencing untreated emotional distress. They may need 24 to 48 hours to cool off." This can delay the startup of a search during the most critical



hours.

- Local and national media outlets' refusals to cover the stories of missing African American, Latino, and Native American loved ones. The late journalist Gwen Ifill coined the term "Missing White Woman Syndrome" to underscore the fact that missing white women like Lacy Peterson, Natalie Holloway, and Gabby Pettito more easily get the media attention to aid in their immediate search and recovery.

Stereotypes associated with race, address, and zip code feel like disqualifiers for requesting assistance on the grounds that missing persons in your area are highly predictable.

Family and Community Prevention Strategies

Families and communities may also play a significant role in keeping children safe by:

- Supervising adolescents and teens during after school and weekend hours. Let them know where you expect them to be. Parents must know their children's whereabouts and the planned time of arrival home.

Your children should also know how to lock the doors and stay inside the home without any guests until you arrive home.

- Have a magic word or code word that only you and your children know. This way no one will be able to trick your children by attempting to pick them up as a favor to you.
- Knowing what your children are wearing every day! Either have your child's clothes laid out the night before or see your child off for the day when possible. If you are unable to send them off, have a friend or neighbor see them off each morning.
- Walking about your neighborhood with your children. Point out the safe places in the neighborhood. These will include homes of friends and family, the library, or a neighborhood center.
- Getting family and friend support to help supervise or transport your child after school or during free time activities.
- Having a tracker placed on your children's phones to let you know where they are
- Never placing TOT FINDER decals on your child's bedroom

windows, as these are indicators to predators where your child sleeps and plays.

- Teaching your children about social media risks. Limit their use of electronics, and stress the dangers of online predators attempting to become their friends.
- Encourage your elected officials to create an ordinance to prohibit the posting of recruitment signs and messages on telephone poles. Messages like, "Do you want to be a model or actor? Call 216-xxx-xxx" or "Need money fast? Call 216-xxx-xxx" can attract young people's interest and draw them into trouble.
- Reading and posting the County Sheriff's postcards sent to your household that identifies any sexual predators living in your neighborhood.

Finally, join together with Black clergy and family advocates nationwide who are calling for the establishment of:

- Police policies and procedures to ensure fairness in all missing person cases regardless of race, gender, and ZIP code.
- Urgent police action along with media attention.
- Family funding support to cover the costs for launching their own investigations including, but not limited to private investigators, attorneys, telephone research, tracking dogs, drones, and excavation teams.
- Supportive housing to cover a family's expenses while they are off work and searching for their missing loved one.

Call the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (1-800-843-5678) and BAMFI (1-877-972-2634) when you need help!

References:

Missing White Woman Syndrome & The Media Bias Towards Missing People of Color | WUSF Public Media

Founders Launch New Podcast To Shine Light on Missing People of Color (blackenterprise.com)

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children can be reached at 1-800-843-5678. (1-800-THE LOST). To report child sexual exploitation, go to <https://report.cybertip.org/>



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The Cleveland Foundation (TCF) has awarded The Cleveland Observer (TCO) a grant from its Cleveland Black Futures Fund. The Fund supports Cleveland-based nonprofit organizations that are both Black-led and Black-serving. **TCO staff and Board members wish to thank the Cleveland Foundation** and their partners for this great resource, in furtherance of building a non-profit media/publishing company.

The mission of The Cleveland Observer is to engage, educate and empower the communities we serve. But for the grace of God, and the funding provided by Neighborhood Connections and the Cleveland Foundation, TCO would not exist. On behalf of all of us at The Cleveland Observer – **Thank You!**

Ron Calhoun, President and Publisher
The Cleveland Observer



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Student Media News Desk

The Cleveland Observer Student Journalist Paid Reporting



- September 2023 thru May 2024
- Bi-weekly meeting
- Solutions Journalism Training
- Community and peer to peer Interview
- Write blog and social media posts
- Create video content
- \$2000.00 stipend for content submission