Helping Moms and Babies Celebrate A First Year
Shana B. and fund By the Solutions Journalism Network.

Pregnancy is supposed to be a time where women “take it easy.” It’s a time where we recognize how to day to day stresses and demands greatly impact a person’s health and in this case the health of a baby as well. However, 2020 has proven to be anything but stress free. Imagine if you were a pregnant woman in 2020. Think about the concerns you would have making sure your family is safe, fed, and healthy. Think about the challenges of coordinating working from home and having your children navigating online school. Think about the concerns you would have as you make your birthing plan, arrangements for childbirth classes, and the fear and uncertainty of whether you’ll be delivering alone. Now think about this scenario if you were pregnant and Black. When COVID-19 kept us at home in March and April many Black people found that they were now classified as essential workers and had to continue to go to work. In May, like many Americans, Black women watched another Black person, this time George Floyd, who lost his life at the hand of a police officer. Since then, a barrage of news stories and videos of black and brown faces, including young people losing their lives, a call for equality, justice and an opposing call and protest that their Black lives don’t matter.

Loss Of A Legend-In-The-Making
Melvin Twigg Mason

As news of his passing circulated in the media, I found myself mourning as if one of my own relatives had passed away. And I also found myself contemplating the stellar body of work this relatively young actor had amassed in his seemingly brief career. It was 2013 when Boseman, then 36 years old, burst onto the big screen with a critically-acclaimed performance as baseball legend Jackie Robinson. The biopic of Brooklyn Dodgers’ player number “42” portrayed the Hall-of-Famer’s arduous journey as the first black athlete to be signed with a major league baseball team. Boseman followed that up in 2014 with another biopic, “Get On Up,” this time finding that segregated schools were unconstitutional. But then to continue his illustrious legacy of films, Boseman delivered in “Black Panther,” Portraying this fictional superhero, Boseman captured the hearts and imaginations of many Americans, especially African Americans. Through T’Challa, the prince of the fictional kingdom of Wakanda, and his royal family, Black America could envision (perhaps for the first time in a long time!) who we could become: a people of wisdom and industry, of self-reliance and strength. Those kinds of images are not often found in Hollywood portrayals of black life & community in America.

Indeed, Boseman’s work may bring to remembrance another such impactful actor/icon. In his time, Sidney Poitier’s body of work has also been legendary and ground-breaking in scope and depth. It was unheard of in the ‘50s & ‘60s to see a “Negro” in such roles as a no-nonsense homicide detective in the rural & racist South (In The Heat of the Night, They Call Me Mr. Tibbs), or a doctor who becomes the unexpected fiancé of a young caucasian socialite (Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner?); let alone for a black man to play the lead in such roles as a no-nonsense superhero in a fictional story. But this Best Actor Oscar winner

(Continued on page 4)
Understanding the 3 Branches of the U.S. Government

**Legislative Branch (Life Term)**

The legislative branch is made up of the House and Senate, known collectively as the Congress. Among other powers, the legislative branch makes all laws, declares war, regulates interstate and foreign commerce and controls taxing and spending policies.

**U.S. Congressional Districts**

Also referred to as a congressman or congresswoman, each representative is elected to a two-year term serving the people of a specific congressional district. Through legislative debate and compromise, the U.S. Congress makes laws that influence our daily lives. It holds hearings to inform the legislative process, conducts investigations to oversee the executive branch, and serves as the voice of the people and the states in the federal government.

**Executive Branch**

The executive branch of the U.S. government consists of the president, the vice president, and the executive departments that the president installs and supervises. The executive branch carries out federal laws and policies, especially those involving national defense, foreign policy, taxation, and the regulation of commerce.

**Judicial Branch**

The judicial branch consists of the Supreme Court and the federal courts of appeal. These courts interpret the Constitution and federal laws, deciding on the legality of actions and how the law should be applied. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the federal system and has the final say on the interpretation of the Constitution.

Local Government

The government of the State of Ohio consists of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches. There are also several levels of local government in Ohio: counties, municipalities (cities and villages), townships, special districts and school districts.

**County Government**

County governments serve a larger geographic area than cities and towns, but a smaller area than states. They are created by the state government and typically operate under provisions set out in the state constitution. As such, they are essentially administrative units of the state. County systems usually take one of three basic forms: the commission system, the council-administrator system, and the council-elected executive system. Ohio is a Council elected executive system.

**City Government**

The City of Cleveland is committed to improving the quality of life in the City of Cleveland by strengthening our neighborhoods, delivering superior services, embracing the diversity of our citizens, and making Cleveland a desirable, safe city in which to live, work, raise a family, shop, study, play and grow old.

Cuyahoga County Organizational Structure

https://www.cuyahogacounty.us/my-government/county-organization-amp-ordinances/organizational-chart

High-quality Preschool
Your child’s pathway to kindergarten readiness

Enroll your child in our free preschool program today!

Call 216.838.3675 to speak with an enrollment specialist.

Limited seats are available across the District.

Required documents for preschool enrollment:

- Child’s birth certificate
- Complete & current immunization record
- Current physical exam documentation
- Current dental exam documentation
- Valid photo ID & guardian documents, if applicable
- Proof of address
- Child’s medical insurance card
- Proof of income

Children must be 4 years old by September 30, 2020 to be eligible.

Your child will love learning with us...

Families have many reasons to enroll their children in CMSD schools. The District supplies devices to students for remote learning, gets families connected, provides technological support and family assistance with social & emotional needs.

Limited English Proficiency families may call 216.838.0140 for assistance.
Helping Moms and Babies Celebrate A First Year (From front page)

Nationally, the Black Maternal Health Crisis focuses on who dies and who survives. Often, it is the expectant mother passing away during or after childbirth, leaving her family to raise a new baby. Conversely, it’s a once joyful expectant mom and dad mourning the loss of a baby that died in utero, during delivery or before their first birthday. Both are devastating situations for families and both have statistics that clearly show the racial disparity between black and white women and babies.

“Why do I fight so hard to bring these babies in the world, when you’re just going to kill them?”

First Year Cleveland applied for and received a Rapid Response Grant from the Cleveland Foundation. With that grant, they were able to purchase iPads so that mothers can stay connected with family members during the delivery. Additionally, the Parent And Infant Loss Committee (PAIL) began offering services through a new service called OWN, Our Wellness Network. The network provides emotional, spiritual and emotional support by Black therapists and counselors to Black men and women who are new or expecting parents and are experiencing the loss of a baby. Katrice Jones, the director of the Parent And Infant Loss Equity Program at First Year Cleveland, stated that this network was formed after hearing from volunteers and families that they felt as if they had no one to talk to about their feelings and or couldn’t find a Black therapist to support them when they were feeling the stress of systemic racist practices.

This graph and chart was compiled based on data provided by First Year Cleveland for the Ohio Department of Public Health and Statistics and Informatics.

Loss Of A Legend-In-The-Making (From front page)

and 3-time Golden Globe winner showed Black America (& indeed, all Americans) what life might look like in a racially-healthier United States, with films like Lilies Of The Field (1963), Patch Of Blue (1965), and Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner (1967). Furthermore, Boseman’s work has embodied some ideals and non-typical images of black people that have made us proud, and given us an alternative visual of who we are, who we’ve been, and who we could become! Images like “The Express (2008),” a film about the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy. Or “Message From The King (2016),” portraying the response of a close-knit brother to the murder of his sister. Interestingly, both Poitier and Boseman have taken their turn portraying (pre-Supreme Court) Thurgood Marshall.] And like Poitier, Boseman was becoming an articulate speaker & thought leader in the black community outside of Hollywood as well. His perspectives on black life and destiny were impressive. Just listening to his speeches at commencement ceremonies and award shows (that I found online) was inspiring.

So now, with his passing, the voice of such hopeful inspiration and vision has been halted...too soon, some might say. And for many of us, that hurts. Yet let us not just see the legacy of his celluloid artistry. Instead, continue to be reminded of the beauty and promise of Black America that he saw in his people, that he spoke of in his speeches, and that he presented in his work.
The 2020 Election Candidates and Issues  
By Ron Calhoun

U.S. President:  
Donald Trump - R (Incumbent)  
Joe Biden - D

Ohio 11th Congressional District  
Laverne Gore - R  
Marcia Fudge - D (Incumbent)

Ohio 14th Congressional District  
Dave Joyce - R (Incumbent)  
Hillary O’Conner Mueri - D

Ohio Judge of the Court of Appeals (8th District)  
William Vodrey  
Kenneth R. Callahan

Judge of the Court of Common Pleas  
Coleen Ann Reali

Several candidates on the ballot are unopposed and were not featured in the article

Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal and Increase) Cleveland Municipal School District  
A renewal of 15 mills and an increase of 5 mills to constitute a tax for the benefit of the Cleveland Municipal School District for the purpose of current expenses of the school district and of partnering community schools at a rate not exceeding 20 mills for each one dollar of valuation (of which 1.5 mills is to be allocated to partnering community schools), which amounts to $2.00 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for ten years, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021.  
- For the Tax Levy  
- Against the Tax Levy

Shape the news with your voice!  
$125.00 To Participate  
Want to express your thoughts about the upcoming election and issues that are important to you? The Your Voice Ohio project and The Cleveland Observer are partnering to sponsor a series of online conversations so that you can contribute to presidential election coverage in Ohio. Volunteer to contribute to this effort by going to this web site: www.yourvoiceohio.org/election2020  
Participants will be selected from the list of volunteers to represent Ohio demographics and will receive a $125 stipend for participation in a session.
Say Whaaat? The New Cleveland Observer Thanks Everyone! C. Cehoun

The Cleveland Observer media platform was birthed out of the Ward Seven Observer. The New Cleveland Observer now has writers from Downtown to East Cleveland and from Glenville to the Harvard-Lee communities. As a result of the papers expansion we have been busy with the positioning of a program director, Devon Jones. and We sponsored a vacant lot workshop, “Cleveland Spaces Vital Places,” (a program hosted and organized by the Sustainable Cleveland Vital Neighborhoods Working Group) with the City of Cleveland, coordinated by Marka Fields. We have also produced 10 live stream podcasts with Chateau Hough’s owner Mansfield Frazier and featuring his new daughter Ashley Smith on “The Sunshine and Dad show,”

On September 12th we hosted a Spectacular Voter Registration and Census submission event. The event was well attended by supporters, writers, volunteers and spectators and well participated by the residents in and around the community. The event was held at Dave’s Grocery and Eatery parking lot. It was a beautiful sunny day and even the bees were in attendance. We were live with WZAK 93.1 FM and WOVU 95.9 FM throughout the event. We registered over 25 voters and over 100 households completed the census, which represented over 250 people. The Cleveland Observer gave away swag bags with PPE supplies, flashlights and The Cleveland Observer wrist bands. We also gave away over $800.00 in gift cards: twenty $25.00 gift cards and thirty $10.00 gift cards for those who completed their census on site. Excitement was in the air and several in attendance, were pleasantly anticipating the next Cleveland Observer Event.

Lastly, but definitely not least, The Cleveland Observer will conduct a raffle for individuals that registered to vote and submitted their census in person and on the new website. It’s not too late to go to: theclevelandobserver.com to register.

Great things are happening in Cleveland Communities. Stay informed, get connected and get involved. Yes! WE WANT YOU.

The winner will receive a 3 month free cell phone service from one of three of the following providers: T-Mobile, AT&T or Verizon. The drawing will be held mid-October on WOVU 95.9 FM. Great things are happening in Cleveland Communities. Stay informed, get connected and get involved. Yes! WE WANT YOU.
Using the Gentle Art of The Swedish Death Cleaning Method (döstädning) Sheila Alease Ferguson

The number one reason why people hold on to clutter is because “I might need it one day.” The other reason we own way too much stuff (say the 300,000 things in your house)” is because we keep bringing new stuff in and never get rid of the old stuff.

Searching for My New Normal

The year 2020 will forever be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic as an event marked by mass illness and a horrific death toll, economic upheaval and social unrest. Living through such troubled times forced me to gain a whole new perspective on life. One of the many blessings gained while “sheltering in place” included the time to focus on all things family and home and my mortality. In the end, my home surfaced as an ordered space. If I died, I was confident my kids and grandkids would be able to go. Magnusson also shares that you can also enjoy the journey by capturing memories as you go. She wrote down stories about some of the precious items she passed along to others.

The Process

Briefly, the process involves the following:

STEP ONE: Gather boxes, crates, contractor bags and cleaning supplies. Also collect the contact information for the Salvation Army, Goodwill, and AMVETS or various consignment shops in your area.

STEP TWO: Dispose of all items cluttering in your home storage area.

STEP THREE: Move from room to room and pare down the items. Get rid of duplicate items and clothing not worn within the last two years. Create new areas for items designated as: Throw Away, Donate, Family and Friends Give Away and Move.

STEP FOUR: Keep going until you can see a visible difference.

STEP FIVE: Sort the clothing of your family pictures last.

STEP SIX: Keep one box for yourself labeled as “TOSS WHEN I AM GONE.”

STEP SEVEN: When you are done, keep your space clear and make a monthly ritual of disposing or giving away items.


Let’s Design an Anti-Racist Street Joshua Jones

Residents in Downtown, Hough, Central, MidTown, AsiaTown, St Clair-Superior, and Glenville are discussing ideas for safer street designs to connect our communities, while being honest about Cleveland’s racial segregation and inequity. We want to pop-up and test a safer design with the City on at least one street that crosses I-90 by October.

Let’s design an anti-racist street that connects Cleveland’s Downtown and east side neighborhoods through short-term, pop-up interventions and long-term visioning. Anti-racism asks us to identify and eliminate racism by changing the systems that perpetuate it. This project calls for a change to our street infrastructure that currently divides us rather than connects us.

Together we envision a street that:

• Counteracts Cleveland’s racial segregation to better connect our communities.
• Makes it safer to walk, bike, scoot, roll, or drive.
• Intentionally protects Black people of color’s lives and reduces injuries, Coronavirus spread, and police encounters.
• Is kid-friendly and family-friendly.
• Is beautiful and welcoming.
• Is accessible to those who are differently abled, physically and mentally.
• Generates and redistributes wealth into neighborhoods that have endured years of disinvestment.

Why Now?

• Addressing the racism embedded in our street designs is overdue. Cleveland has declared racism a public health crisis and must take action, large and small.
• The Coronavirus has made wide, empty roadways and narrow sidewalks more obvious and more dangerous.

How Do I Participate?

• Register to join our public Zoom meeting at bit.ly/antiraciststreet.
• Take our optional survey about this vision and your gifts and availability to help: surveymonkey.com/r/9NYDMD9.
• Add biking problems you’ve experienced to Bike Cleveland’s Connecting Communities map, which will inform our work.

What’s the Timeline?

• The Sept. 3 meeting will help us form action groups and identify an initial street segment.
• We’d like to pop-up and test at least one street idea by October 2020.
• We’d like to plan additional ideas and implementations for Spring 2021.

Who is Involved?

• This is a resident-led effort, with residents from Downtown, Hough, Central, MidTown, AsiaTown, St Clair-Superior, and Glenville.

For more information, please visit https://antiraciststreet.org. This is a project where residents of Cleveland can get involved. For more information, help: surveymonkey.com/r/9NYDMD9.
Early Childhood Literacy

Margaret Adams

Before our current pandemic crisis, there were efforts to focus on preparing children for literacy before starting kindergarten. Helping your child build literacy skills can begin soon after their birth. The earlier children are exposed to reading, the more prepared they will be for their educational journey. According to sites like www.readingrockets.org/ or www.educationcorner.com/ or www.getreadytoread.org/, infants and toddlers begin to learn literacy skills through the language spoken to them by family members and caregivers. Written language begins when they are read to and can see printed language in the books being read to them. Our children must get these early literacy skills at home before starting kindergarten.

We have in our community our own award-winning Cleveland Public Library offering programs so that our little ones are not left behind. Beginning September 21st, the library plans to meet our youngest residents’ needs. They are offering a Young Scholars Program (formerly known as The Kindergarten Club) that will focus on three to five-year-olds. According to Rhonda Pai, Early Childhood Coordinator, the Young Scholars program will “provide support for the parents and the parents’ goals for their children.” The program is open to input from parents and caregivers who participate. In these times of remote learning because of the pandemic, online participation is encouraged. Parents can register for the program at cpl.org or they may go into any branch and ask for assistance registering for the Young Scholars Program. The library has additional hours to try to accommodate families.

However:

- Mondays 10am-10:30am or 6:30pm-7pm, Tuesdays 6pm-6:30pm, Wednesdays 11am-11:30am or 4:30pm-5pm and Thursdays 4:30pm-5pm.
- There must be an adult with the child during these sessions and the adult is not limited to family members only.
- The Young Scholars Program will focus on building reading readiness skills with the children and their caregivers through interactive activities focusing on recognizing the letters of the alphabet, rhyming words, and reading comprehension; it will also include counting and numbers’ recognition. Participants are encouraged to bring books and supplies that they may keep.
- The staff is available to support parents whenever and however they can. To parents and caregivers, let’s not let the Coronavirus pandemic interfere with the important task of preparing our little ones for school. If you cannot participate in the Young Scholars Program, every branch offers a free kindergarten kit for parents of children ages two-five years. These kits must be returned to the branch after use.

We have a good resource within our community, The Cleveland Public Library. Let’s take advantage of their programs so that our little children are not left behind.

“Uncle Tom’s” Coming out Party

R.A.C.

The documentary “Uncle Tom” taunted as an oral history of American Black Conservative and co-written by radio host and black activist Larry Elder, filmmaker Justin Malone, and cameraman Ryder “had it’s debut on June 19th 2020 as an online movie. Uncle Tom can be rented or purchased www.uncleteom.com/. The documentary is insightful and educational for anyone who does not know, what the film deems the truth about civil rights in American history and how blacks are not victims as a narrative.

However, Americans know this is only a fragment of black history, and that “it’s complicated.”

The complications of systemic racism are not evident in “Uncle Tom” the documentary, but in the overwhelming data that has been researched and analyzed by academia and institutions focused on disparity among minorities and the poor. One of those researchers is Raj Chetty, an economics professor at Harvard University, and his team of about 40 researchers and policy specialists dropped everything— including work on inequality in housing, higher education, and longevity—to document the pandemic’s impact on poor and minority communities. The result is a data tracker that gives a day-by-day, state-by-state, and even neighborhood-by-neighborhood view of the coronavirus economy, funded by The MacArthur Genius Grant. (reference: Bloomberg Businessweek)

Chetty and his team of researchers found that the effects of COVID-19 are disproportionate to lower income people and specifically to the black community. By late June the gap had widened further, even though many businesses had reopened. In fact, the segment of Americans who are paid best had recovered almost all the jobs lost since the start of the pandemic. Even as the better-off watched employment rebound and the stock market surge, the virus’s economic devastation was all around them, in failing restaurants, hair salons, and gyms. Like many of his contemporaries, Chetty is a data driven man, “the more data the better” he says. His goal in diagnosing the source of the economic pain is to find ways to cure it. His team will pitch their finding across party lines and to anyone who is willing to get on board with fixing this problem.

“Uncle Tom the documentary gives a simpistic perspective of how some non victimized black Americans view America but is clearly not the broad view. Uncle Tom claims the modern era of civil rights was rooted in the Republican Party. Barry Goldwater was the Republican Party nominee for president of the United States in 1964. Goldwater predicted the destruction of democracy as we see it today, and his career suffered at the hands of a Democratic-driven media crucifixion. The film condemns one party for walking away from black America and the other party for ignoring it for years. There must be an adult with the child during these sessions and the adult is not limited to family members only.

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