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THE PLAIN DEALER

IT'S PLAYOFF TIME!

WHEN IT COMES TO THE CAVS AND THE PLAYOFFS, COLUMNIST TERRY PLUTO GETS NERVOUS, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S A NO. 4-VS.-NO. 5 SEED MATCHUP. SEE HOW TERRY THINKS THIS CAVS VS. RAPTORS SERIES WILL SHAPE UP. **C1**

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EUCLID BEACH PARK

Gone are the trailers, coming are the trails



The \$15 million waterfront trail through Euclid Beach Park the county will start construction on soon will not be just for those passing through. cleveland.com

Vast changes are coming to Euclid Beach. Can it become the catalyst on the East Side that Edgewater is on the West Side?

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After years of planning, land deals and initial community input, the long-discussed vision to transform the lakefront around Euclid Beach and Wildwood parks is beginning to unfold — marked by real progress taking shape this year.

The way many in the community look at it, this can be a catalyst for the entire Collinwood area the way the West Side has blossomed around Edgewater Park — not just with the parkland but with key linkages into the neighborhoods.

“It’s scary how similar it is to where we were 25 years ago” near Edgewater Park, said Matt Zone, a former West Side councilman who more recently helped spearhead the expansion of Euclid Beach Park through his work with the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

Big things don’t happen overnight, Zone noted, but a lot is in the works this year.

Fencing around a former mobile home park the conservancy acquired and then handed off to the Cleveland Metroparks is



The fence along this trail, on the eastern edge of Euclid Beach Park, will come down this year, adding 28 acres to the park from what formerly was a mobile home park. Rich Exner, cleveland.com

expected to come down by fall. This will instantly add 28 acres of public space to the park, which is technically a collection of three adjacent parks — Euclid Beach, Villa Angela and Wildwood.

Cuyahoga County plans a ceremonial groundbreaking May 4 to launch 18 months of work on a 0.6-mile lakefront trail from the

western edge of Euclid Beach Park to Lake Shore Boulevard near East 151st Street — the fruition of agreements with multiple lakefront homeowner’s associations and others.

The trail will be part of about a mile of continuous lakefront public access.

The Metroparks expects to have enough work done by this fall to start offering educational programming in the former Hornblowers restaurant barge. It has been anchored in the Wildwood Park Marina since shortly after it was acquired three years ago. This is an incremental step toward additional barge renovations and more use in the future.

And the Metroparks late this year will begin the next phase of extending its trail network through the Euclid Creek Reservation that now runs from South Euclid to just north of Euclid Avenue in Cleveland. The next section to St. Clair Avenue is due to be finished by late 2027. Plans are mapped out to eventually connect the trail to the lakefront parks.

“Things are moving,” said Michael Polensek, the area’s councilman since 1978.

He points to the 2013 transfer of the lakefront parks from the state to the Metroparks as a pivotal moment. Day-to-day maintenance improved almost immediately, and the park system opened a 315-foot pier in 2019.

SEE PARK, A2

2026 OHIO GUBERNATORIAL RACE

Acton has plan to make life more affordable

Candidate doesn’t say how she would pay for the changes, including paying off Ohioans’ private medical debt.

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COLUMBUS — Gubernatorial candidate Dr. Amy Acton has unveiled a list of policy proposals ideas aimed at making life more affordable for the average Ohioan, but she won’t say exactly what they’ll cost, or how she would pay for them.

In a statement, spokeswoman Addie Bullock said that “Acton will close tax loopholes for the ultra-wealthy,” but didn’t provide more details beyond that.

Proposals in the Columbus-area Democrat’s “Affordability Plan” range from paying off Ohioans’ private medical debt to offering tax credits for children and lower-income residents. Many items are likely to cost little or no money.

An analysis of Acton’s platform by cleveland.com/The Plain Dealer found that her tax-credit proposals could mean \$1 billion in lost revenue to the state.

SEE ELECTION, A2

CLEVELAND STREET PARKING

City Council wants to rein in changes

Council members say complaints are flooding in.

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Cleveland City Council is trying to unwind parts of Mayor Justin Bibb’s street parking cost increases, advancing legislation that would make parking cheaper outside of downtown, restore free parking on weekends and evenings in neighborhoods, and prevent the mayor from making changes without council approval.

The push comes after weeks of debate and what council members describe as a flood of complaints since parking prices began rising in January.

Council gave Bibb authority to increase parking prices and expand enforcement in September 2023, but members appear to now have buyer’s remorse after the mayor began turning those theoretical price hikes into reality this year.

SEE PARKING, A3

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