



ECLIPSE CANCELLED!

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Dateline – April Fools’ Day – In a rare moment of unity, the two leading presidential candidates have agreed that the total solar eclipse scheduled one week from today must be postponed until after the presidential election. The celestial event scheduled for April 8 is causing a huge distraction from the critical race for the presidency.

The unexpected announcement has led to considerable consternation at NASA, NOAA, the American Astronomical Society, the American Federation of Astrologers, and the Flat Earth Society. “Do these candidates fail to understand the disruption of months of planning to collect scientific data that will be caused by a schedule change?”, demanded Flat Earth spokesperson Zaphod Dent. “We are on the verge of a major scientific breakthrough. Clearly, both political parties have conspired to disrupt our research. What are they afraid of?”

ECLIPSE CANCELLED!

Continued

Only hours old, the plan to change the date of the eclipse has already initiated a flurry of court challenges. “We have a strong case. The change clearly violates numerous laws of physics including all three of Newton’s laws of motion which have been on the books since the early 1700’s,” stated Dr. Draco Cygnus with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Representatives of the DNC and RNC in a joint statement quipped, “Scientists can have their say, but cannot always have their way.”

When questioned about the viability of the schedule change in court, the DNC/RNC spokesperson did cite case law questioning Newton’s laws of motion, specifically citing Einstein’s theory of general relativity as an exception to Newton’s laws. “Exceptions can and will be made under special circumstances.” This is a developing story.

April 8, 2024, Total Solar Eclipse

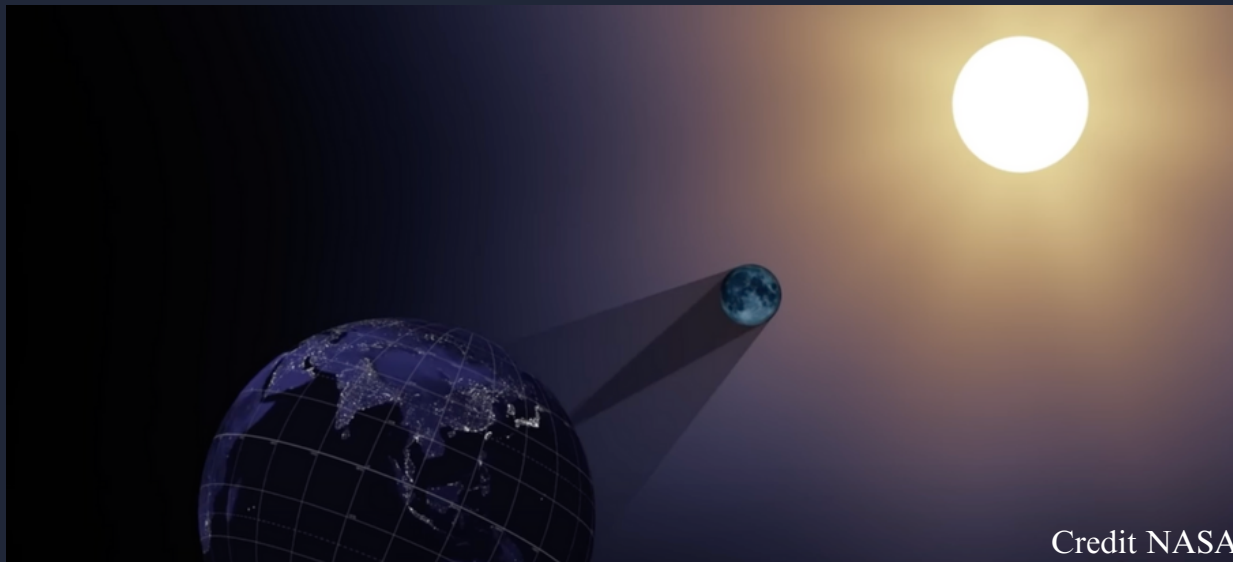
The Actual Story

by Eric Schreiber

As totality approaches, fish and wildlife go crazy. Bees instantly cease all activity. Humans, being smarter than fish and wildlife, go crazy years in advance.

The upcoming eclipse is a big deal. For many in Cleveland, it may be a once-in-a-lifetime event. The next total solar eclipse that crosses the contiguous United States occurs in 2045. If you cannot wait that long, there will be one in Montana and the Dakotas in 2044.

What is a total solar eclipse?



Definitely NOT to scale

Credit NASA

The moon casts an inner shadow called the umbra that tapers nearly to a point. The point of the umbra will pass over Cleveland on April 8, about 3:13 PM. The outer shadow is called the penumbra which covers a much larger area. Those areas will see a partial solar eclipse.

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The April 8 Eclipse, continued

The moon circles the earth once every 28 days or so. Most of the time, the moon's shadow misses the earth when it passes between the earth and the sun. When that shadow does cross the earth's surface, an eclipse occurs. The fact that a total solar eclipse occurs at all is due to a remarkable celestial coincidence. The moon is 400 times smaller than the sun. The moon is also 400 times closer to earth than the sun. This means the sun and moon appear to be the same size. If the alignment is just right, the moon will be exactly superimposed on the sun. However, you must be in the right place at the right time. For example, you must be in Cleveland, Ohio on April 8, 2024, at 3:13 PM EDT. Alas, there is no rain date.

The eclipse is of course a fleeting event. The shadow of the moon races across the surface of the earth typically at 1,500 mph. If you happen to be on top of a mountain with a great view on a clear day, and you are on the path of totality, you can see that shadow racing toward you at breathtaking speed. When the shadow overtakes you, the total eclipse for you begins. When the shadow leaves a few minutes later, totality is over.

I find it fascinating that keen observers studying the sky have been able to predict the occurrences of solar eclipses for thousands of years. If you wish to learn more about this eclipse and eclipses in general, considerable information is available at

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses>

Eye Safety

A few hours after a solar eclipse, a handful of eclipse viewers will arrive at emergency departments with eye complaints. Why? When the eclipse is nearly but not completely total, the thin crescent of sun is easy to look at directly without any eye protection. There are no pain receptors in your retina. The lens in your eye focuses that intense crescent on your retina. This will kill the retinal cells that take the direct hit. Once those cells are gone, they will never come back.

Approved glasses are easy to come by, and they are cheap. They block 99.9% of the light including the harmful ultraviolet light that you cannot see. (Dark sunglasses only block about 85% - not enough.) The bottom line is you should wear the protective glasses every time you look directly at the sun while the eclipse is partial. Perhaps the most dangerous moments occur seconds before and seconds after totality when you want to look at it so badly.

Solar Eclipse, Local Events

Cleveland Museum of Natural History

<https://www.cmnh.org/total-on-the-oval-eclipse-watch-party>

Shaker Heights, Thornton Park

<https://www.shakerheightsoh.gov/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/224922>

Great Lakes Science Center

<https://greatscience.com/explore/events-programs/total-eclipse-fest-2024>

Board Notes

by Kathleen Hickman

Each year, the Association contracts an outside accounting firm to audit our financial statements. We are pleased to say that the auditors found our books to be in good order and reported a clean audit with no reservations. The Board and the Budget and Finance Committee met with one of the auditors, giving us an opportunity to ask questions and we were happy to hear his positive comments.

Several times a year, the Facilities Committee meets and evaluates and prioritizes maintenance and repair and replacement projects for Moreland Courts. The Board at the latest Board meeting accepted the committee's report and recommendations for the first tranche of projects and authorized spending for them. Included in the list for annual capital and reserve fund expenditures are (among others) some masonry repairs, including the one now in process in front of the west tower building, restoration of the main door (at 13415 Shaker Blvd.), painting in the west garage, and seal coating of the back line drive (which will take place this summer). Monies were earmarked for repairs to mechanical systems and plumbing, so that will be available, as the need arises. There are still unallocated funds in the capital budget, because we want to be prepared to deal with unanticipated needs (and sometimes the crystal ball is cloudy). If there are no big unhappy surprises, those funds will be available for additional projects that will be determined in the fall.

The Residence Experience Committee also reported on activities which included a new resident orientation session early in March. It was well attended, and it has been a while since that useful session has been held, because of the disruption of the COVID-19 years. The committee put together a useful booklet with contact numbers and other information that was very well-received. Next up for the committee – organizing a cocktail hour gathering for the community on April 26. Invitations to residents will be forthcoming.

Reminder

The Farmers Market on Shaker Square reopens Saturday April 6.



General Manager's Report

by Paul Stroud

Since the break-ins at Moreland Courts and various locations around Shaker Square in 2023 and 2024, we have been pursuing enhancements and improvements to the Association security systems.

Over the past few months, we have met with several vendors to identify opportunities to apply technological systems to both deter and expose criminal activity on our campus. These include adding cameras with better acuity, upgrading current cameras, improving recording capability, and installing monitoring equipment to enable the desk officer to have a wider, clearer and more detailed range of vision. The next layer will be the installation of laser motion detection systems around the building envelopes that will activate both an alarm and camera in the security array, pinpointing the exact conditions in clearly identified locations. We have used this type of laser motion detection system on the West Garage roof, and it demonstrated its usefulness in an incident 7 or 8 years ago. There has been no recurrence. We are also alarming communal-area windows and entry doors along the Shaker Boulevard frontage and replacing glass on all entry doors with a ballistic, laminated glass that is resistant to breakage. A decision on selection of these systems is being undertaken now.

The up-lighting project along the Shaker Boulevard elevations is intended to provide light on the walls and to a few dark corners; it also provides aesthetic benefits of showcasing the architecture of the buildings. We have added a computer controlled *Detex* system that requires guards conducting rounds to check in at stations around the property as they perform their rounds. This enables verification that rounds are indeed occurring as scheduled and provides a feedback loop to those who are interested.

Security Chief Karl Batson Jr. has developed positive rapport with the officers at the fourth district Cleveland Police Department. That relationship has enabled much better response from the police, who have conducted several unmarked car stakeouts along Shaker Boulevard and at Shaker Square.

The group of criminals that had been active in the neighborhood has been broken up by police activity and arrests. Quiescence has returned for the time being. While that is all good, we remain vigilant.



*From the editor:
Please welcome the newest member of our newsletter committee, Patricia Murphy.*

A LITTLE FISH by Patricia Murphy

From the very beginning I wanted to be an actor, not a star nor rich nor famous, just a little fish in a big pond, and I have been fortunate enough to have achieved just that! It's a wonderful life, although at times it has been a struggle. Like all working actors, I have had my share of "survival jobs." But in the end, I am proud to say that for over sixty years I have supported myself with my chosen craft. I have been a nanny, a minibus driver, a shop assistant, a dog walker, a drama coach and a theatre administrator. I have met and worked with some incredibly talented actors, famous and not so famous, and have thoroughly enjoyed being that little fish in a very big pond.

I trained at the Central London School of Speech and Drama. My first professional job was as a Junior Reporter for Theatre Arts, on the BBC radio program The Younger Generation. Theatre jobs followed until I was persuaded to try my luck in the United States, where I found in those early years that classically trained actors were not needed. "Can you sing and dance?" was the first interview question, and musicals ruled. So, I learnt to sing and dance, not terribly well I might add, until a British choreographer with Lewis and Young Music Circus in Sacramento took pity on a fellow Brit and decided to give me a chance. As part of a truck and tent touring company, I spent three wonderful years, footsore and weary performing in musical theatre chorus across the western U.S. Eventually, of course, LA beckoned, and I was on the move again to try my luck in yet another unfamiliar field of the entertainment industry. There followed work in film, commercials, a soap opera, animation voice over jobs, and finally . . . theatre, where I found myself back on stage again, my first and always love.

So, you can see that my journey as an actor has so far been unremarkable and I have loved every minute, but it's not MY story that I want to tell, it's YOURS.

Moreland Courts has its complement of doctors, lawyers, academics, and business folk, but among the residential throng I have so far met there are also Peace Corps workers, tango teachers, a retired Broadway performer, a moon rock scientist, a former Hollywood publicist, and WWII survivors. It is their stories I want to hear, don't you?

Patricia does want to hear from you. If someone you know or if you have a great story to tell, you can send a message to Patricia through the newsletter email address editor@morelandcourts.com .



Enter the Comet

by Eric Schreiber

Lost in the excitement around the total solar eclipse crossing much of the United States, a little known comet has begun to make an appearance in the western sky. The official name of the comet is *12P / Pons-Brooks*. Just like the better known *Halley's comet*, *12P / Pons-Brooks* has a schedule, returning every 71 years. *12P / Pons-Brooks* last visited our region of the solar system in 1953. It was also observed in 1883 and 1812. It has the potential to be quite bright for a comet throughout much of the month of April.

12P / Pons-Brooks has a nickname. It has been dubbed the *Devils comet* because of the sometimes-visible horns arising from the head of the comet. The comet will be best spotted with binoculars, although it may become bright enough to be seen with the naked eye.

It should be noted that this photograph was taken with the benefit of a telescope, excellent photographic equipment, and the ability to synchronize the exposure with the rotation of the earth. Trying this at home will yield mixed results.



Comet Pons-Brooks, as it appeared in early March 2024 from Skull Valley, Utah. Credit: James Pierce (Flickr)

It is possible, just possible that *Pons-Brooks* will suddenly become visible during totality, but don't count on it. If such fortune were to strike, it could potentially look like this Photoshop version below. This image is very optimistic. Binoculars will likely still be necessary to see the comet, but only during totality. Binoculars become dangerous once the sun starts to show.

How To Spot Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks in Tonight's Sky (Includes Map and Free Tracker)

Mar 16, 2024 | ☰ -7 min

Topics: [Small Bodies](#)



April Fools' Note: When political spokespersons were contacted about their potential impact on *Pons-Brooks*, they responded, "no comet."

REMINDER

We kindly request you inform reception and security whenever you are expecting a visitor. We consider anyone coming to see you as your guest, be it your family, friends, housekeepers, nurses, contractors, or delivery personnel. We care for your safety and well-being, and if we are unaware of your guest, we cannot permit them access without confirming with you first.

*The Resident Experience Committee
Cordially Invites You to
The First*



HAPPY HOUR

Friday, April 26th
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

The Gallery

Featuring Jazz Pianist, Gary Richards

Light Hors d'oeuvres

B.Y.O.B., no red wine, please.

R.S.V.P:

reception@morelandcourts.com or call 216-751-1100
by April 19th

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The Newsletter Committee takes responsibility for the content of the newsletter.

Questions and comments can be addressed to

editor@morelandcourts.com

MANAGEMENT SECTION

The fitness room is cleaned from 10 am to 11 am Monday - Friday. We kindly ask that you give the housekeeping team the time and space they need to make the room sparkling clean for everyone to enjoy.

Exterminators come the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. If you are interested in being added to the schedule regularly please call the reception desk.

Please inform the front desk and security if you have any contractors or guests coming. We want to make their access as easy as possible.

Please remember all packages are to be delivered to 13500 Cormere Ave.

THANK YOU...

Moreland Courts is working diligently around the building. We appreciate your patience with construction activity and noise.

We are invested in preserving this historical property.

