

1992

Top Films: *Basic Instinct*, *Wayne's World*, *Batman Returns*

Deaths: Marlene Dietrich, Isaac Asimov, Bert Parks

Major Events:

- * Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer got a life sentence for committing 15 murders.
- * Euro-Disney opened in France.
- * The Navy was rocked with the "Tail-hook" scandal.
- * Talk show host Johnny Carson ended 30 years with *The Tonight Show*.
- * Hurricane Andrew ripped through Southern Florida.
- * The U.S. "Dream Team" won the gold medal in basketball at the Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.
- * William Jefferson Clinton beat incumbent George Bush and challenger Ross Perot in the presidential election.
- * Prince Charles and Princess Diana announced their separation.
- * Higbee's department stores were purchased by and renamed Dillard's.

What's Hot: hairbands, beepers-pagers

With the inauguration of John T. Kocevar as mayor in 1992, the city was about to undergo a renaissance. The new mayor immediately set an agenda: to establish a mini-chamber of commerce, to begin a pilot recycling program, to resurrect Home Days, and to create a strategic plan for the city.

Councilwoman Georgine Welo headed a feasibility study on having Home Days. Later, she would spearhead the event's return. Almost a decade since it was last held, Home Days returned on August 1st and 2nd at Bexley Park and at Notre Dame College. Like in the old days, it included food booths and entertainment. Old-fashioned relay games were held and an apple pie baking contest judged. Wrestlers from the Great Lakes Wrestling Association sparred, tethered hot-air balloon rides were offered, even rides in a 1967 Peter Pirsch fire truck were given. Residents were invited to bring a picnic dinner and join their neighbors on the lawn at Notre Dame. Fireworks, sponsored by city businesses, were presented as a gift to residents.

Just like in the past, a Sunday afternoon parade featured antique cars, marching units, and bands. Parents and children were encouraged to participate by donning costumes and decorating their bikes. The event was a success.

Another parade, held in May, had also been successful. It was the annual baseball community parade, ushering in the baseball and softball season. This combined baseball and Memorial Day parade began at Maymore shopping center and ended with a dedication ceremony at Bexley Park. The Community Center coordinated this parade.

The South Euclid branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library had reason to celebrate. The William Telling mansion, where the library was housed, celebrated its 40th birthday. Festivities included a 1950's style benefit and an open-house organized by Friends of the South Euclid Library and staff.

Not everything in the city dealt with fun. Serious issues also needed to be addressed.



A special meeting was held at Brush High School featuring a panel of police and school district officials addressing the issue of gangs. Gangs were a growing problem in cities across the country and suburbia was not immune. Over 100 concerned parents attended. Parents were told to watch for evidence of gang insignia and to note their children's peers. Police stated that only 15 students at Brush were gang members but that 5% of the 1,300 students were "wannabees." To combat the problem, a dress code was to be formulated, school ID's issued, beepers and hats forbidden in school buildings, and lockers subject to search.

Gangs were not the only nuisance issue addressed by the city. A vicious dog ordinance was passed due to the increasing numbers of pit bulls being owned by residents.

The police department started a Juvenile Diversionary Program as a way to keep some of the city's delinquent youths within the city rather than sending them to county juvenile

courts. It was to be used to handle first-time offenses and minor problems like curfew violations. Youths would not have an arrest record, nor would they burden the already overburdened juvenile court system. Admission of guilt by the youth and parental permission were requirements for participation. Sgt. James Pitten, city liaison officer for the schools, was in charge of the program.

The Municipal Court had undergone some changes. Judge Jerome Klein resigned after serving 31 years on the bench. Governor George Voinovich chose Edward Joseph to succeed him.

During the weeks of Thanksgiving and Christmas, Judge Joseph waived up to \$30 in fines if the offender donated \$30 worth of food to a worthy cause like a church, temple, or food bank.

To address residents' concerns, a series of ten, two-hour "Town Hall Meetings" were held to gather input and ideas about South Euclid's future and its residents. The meetings, held at

John T. Kocevar Mayor, The City of South Euclid 1992 - Present



John T. Kocevar was born on May 15, 1934, in Cleveland, Ohio to John and Rose Kocevar. Raised in Garfield Heights, he graduated from Cathedral Latin High School in 1952 and Case Western Reserve University in 1956 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He married Terry Svoboda in 1957 and their family grew to include four children, Marilyn, Lisa, Barbara, and John D. The Kocevards moved to South Euclid in 1970 because of its convenient location, family environment, school system, and city services.

John's business career encompassed 29 years in the garment industry. He was employed by Bobbie Brooks, Inc. (1960-1983) as a contracting manager and also spent 1-1/2 years on a special assignment in Hong Kong and Macau. He was later employed at Workwear Corp. (1983-1989) as a special projects manager. When the company was sold and not wishing to relocate his family out of the area, he decided to start a business in South Euclid.

John Kocevar entered politics when former councilman Jack J. Clifford asked him to assist in his campaign for South Euclid City Council. Clifford won, and, as a result, Kocevar became involved in city

government. He was appointed by then Mayor D'Amico to serve as a member of the city's Community Development Corporation. He found satisfaction in community involvement and chose to seek the vacant Ward 2 council position in 1983, when former Councilman William O'Brien resigned because of his relocation out of the city.

John Kocevar was selected by the members of council to succeed O'Brien and served as councilman for nine years before declaring his candidacy for mayor following Mayor D'Amico's announcement that he would not seek re-election in November, 1991. Kocevar's campaign centered around an "open style of government." In a December run-off election, he was elected and took office on January 1, 1992. As the city charter required the mayor to be full-time, he left the private business sector. He was re-elected in 1995 and in 1999.

His greatest challenges as mayor included the creation of a strategic plan with special emphasis on implementing a flood control plan and the re-development of the city's commercial and industrial districts, i.e., new buildings at Mayfield/Green, Monticello/Green and Cedar Center.

To keep a pulse on the community, Mayor Kocevar maintained an "open-door" policy, welcoming input from city residents. Dedicated volunteers from the community have accepted appointments to the Mayor's Financial Advisory Board and have served on special committees such as curbside recycling and Home Days. The issuance of a bi-monthly city newsletter has kept residents informed of city operations and developments.

Mayor Kocevar has said that the most rewarding part of his job is meeting residents who are appreciative of the city's responsiveness to their calls for assistance.

He envisions South Euclid upon its 100th birthday in 2017 as a city continuing to be family-oriented. He sees a residential community with a blend of excellent city services and a quality school system offering state-of-the-art computer and communication networks.

various locations around the city, were the first step in formulating a five-year strategic plan for the city. The plan was to be a guide for elected and appointed city officials.

Legislation was passed to inspect the ever-growing number of rental properties (homes) within the city to maintain their condition and hold landlords responsible.

A nearly \$1 million project was underway to renovate the northern portion of Cedar Center. The city took responsibility for the front renovations: new overhangs and signs. The owners were responsible for re-paving the rear parking lot.

Council authorized the city to purchase 2.16 acres of land at 441 South Green Road from the county. The property was to provide the service department with a place to store equipment, salt, wood, and other materials and to aid in the city's successful new curbside recycling venture. A garage on the land was to be leased to the school board for storage and maintenance of school buses. Buses had previously been stored in Cleveland Heights.

After his first year in office, Mayor Kocevar stated, "We did what we said we'd do."

Commercial revitalization was an ongoing process for the city in 1993. City officials explored the potential for an Enterprise Zone which would aid in redeveloping land on South Green Road near Monticello Boulevard. An Enterprise Zone was a benefit to cities by offering tax incentives to prospective or existing businesses that wish to expand. The property in question was 25 acres owned by ten people.

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District began a 30-month sewer project to help

1993

Top Films: *Jurassic Park*, *Schindler's List*

Deaths: Arthur Ashe, Dizzy Gillespie, Conway Twitty, Lillian Gish, Marian Anderson, Rudolf Nureyev

Major Events:

- * A bomb rocked the World Trade Center in New York City.
- * One of the worst snow storms in the century lashed the Eastern United States.
- * The Cleveland Indians played their last game at Cleveland Municipal Stadium.
- * The May Company, a downtown Cleveland landmark, closed its doors. Suburban branches were renamed Kaufmann's.

What's Hot: cellular telephones, laptop computers

alleviate overloaded sewers. The project was part of the ongoing Heights-Hilltop Interceptor Project.

An ad hoc recreation committee, comprised of residents appointed by council and the mayor, studied the future of recreation in the city. The committee searched for diverse activities to add to the city's recreation program.

Home Days returned with expanded activities. The two-day event was held at Bexley Park on Saturday and at Notre Dame College on Sunday. Featured were games, contests, a moonwalk, camel and pony rides,

Remember? . . .

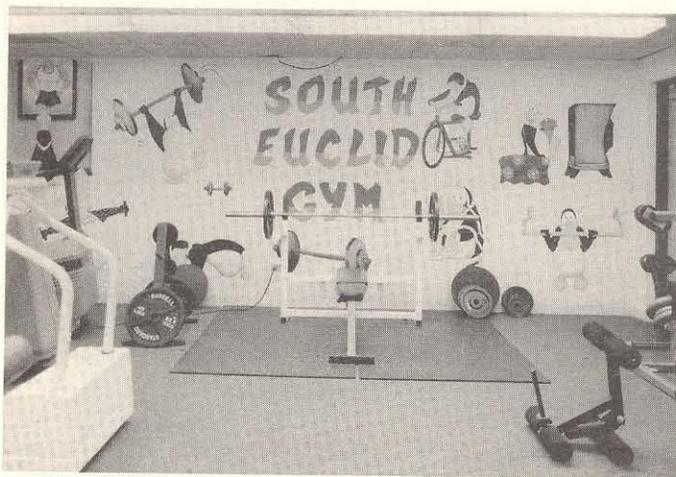
The South Euclid Police Department had a problem. The 20' x 8' cement block wall in the police department's gym was drab and boring. It did little to motivate workers to work out.

A solution was found. A contest was held between art classes at Regina and Charles Brush high schools. The winner would have the opportunity to design and paint the gym's wall.

Joshua Rose, a senior at Brush, was the winner. He received a \$50 prize and all the materials needed to create his design on the wall in the police department's gym.

For his design, Joshua had turned to the comic strip "Bloom County." He focused on Opus, a hapless penguin, by depicting him in various positions of exercise angst. Opus was shown tangled up in a jump rope, struggling with a barbell and rewarding himself by being seated in front of a television set. The cheery mural made workouts fun.

In the fall of 1993, Joshua was off to Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After graduation, he moved to San Francisco, California to pursue a career in product design.



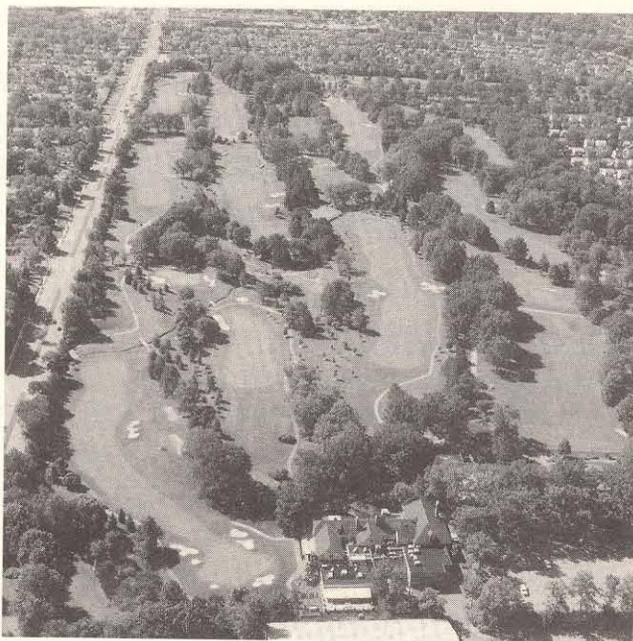
a petting zoo, and space ball. Included was a rib burn-off, craft show, garden show, talent show, food vendors, and fireworks.

Development and residents' opposition to it provided the focus in 1994.

A massive retail project, including a proposed Wal-Mart discount store, was considered for the Oakwood Country Club site. The country club, located on 160 acres at Warrensville Center and Mayfield roads, considered selling its property in exchange for a new club in a rural location. Part of the land was situated in Cleveland Heights but another part was located in South Euclid.

A group of concerned residents from both communities objected to the selling of park-like green space for a concrete develop-

ment. Over 70 residents, part of the "Stop the Mart" campaign, marched on Cleveland



Oakwood Country Club

1994

Top Film: *Forrest Gump*

Deaths: Kurt Cobain, Burt Lancaster, Dinah Shore, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

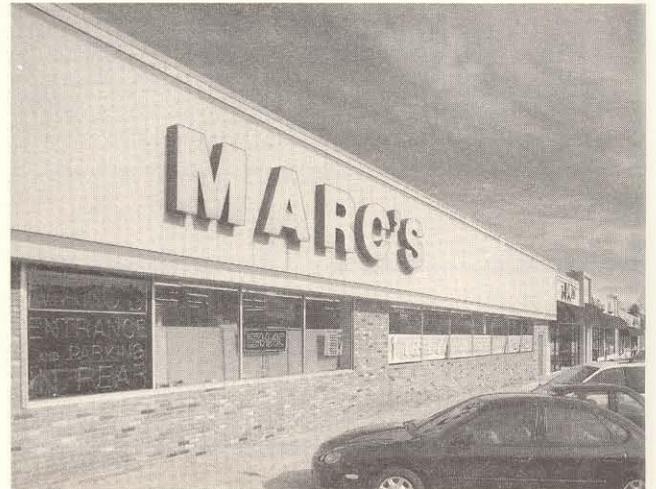
Major Events:

- * The Whitewater scandal upset the Clinton administration.
- * A major earthquake rattled Los Angeles.
- * Nelson Mandela was sworn in as the President of South Africa.
- * The Channel Tunnel, called the Chunnel, opened between France and England.
- * Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were murdered in Los Angeles. Football great O.J. Simpson was implicated.
- * Jacobs Field and Gund Arena opened in downtown Cleveland.

What's Hot: White Ford Broncos, figure skaters Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding

Heights City Hall to petition council to stop the project. Later, they petitioned the council in South Euclid to halt the project. Due to community opposition, changes at Severance Town Center, land rezoning issues, and the difficulty in finding a new location for the country club, the project was shelved and Oakwood remained.

Other retail projects involved changes to existing businesses. Riser Foods, owners of



Rini-Rego Supermarkets, purchased the Acme Food Center on Mayfield at Victory Drive. Mazzulo's Food Centre, which had been Mancuso's seven years earlier, closed and was turned into a Marc's Deep Discount Store. At Cedar Center, Fuddrucker's replaced the closed Corky and Lenny's. Walgreens built and opened a store on the corner of Mayfield and Sheffield roads. Merchants, however, in the May-Green business district were upset with the disruption of business caused by the reconstruction and repaving of Mayfield Road.

The city considered its first proposal for an Enterprise Zone agreement when TransDigm,

Thomas W. Lucha
Chief, The South Euclid Police Department
December 27, 1994 – Present



Thomas Lucha grew up on Homestead Road in South Euclid. He attended St. Gregory the Great Church and Grade School and graduated from St. Joseph High School.

After a job as a security guard for the Republic Steel Corporation and a stint as a U.S. Air Force Air Policeman, Sentry Dog Handler, he joined the South Euclid Police Department on December 13, 1971.

While a patrolman, he attended Lakeland Community College, graduating in 1976 with an Associate's Degree in Law Enforcement. He went on to attend Cleveland State University, graduating in 1995 from the James Nance College of Business Administration with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Management and Labor. He also attended the Police Executive Leadership College and the F.B.I. National Academy.

He was promoted to sergeant on November 30, 1980, and to lieutenant on September 4, 1983. During his career, he has worked as a uniform patrol officer, traffic officer, assistant traffic commissioner, training officer, administrative lieutenant and acting chief of police.

As his family was gathered for an after-Christmas "game day," Thomas Lucha received a phone call from South Euclid Mayor, John Kocevar. The Mayor called to congratulate him on winning the job of police chief. So, on December 27, 1994, Tom Lucha became chief.

He has brought new ideas and programs to the police department. Under his direction, the police department implemented a new community policing program. A Youth Resource Officer was assigned. A new S.W.A.T. unit was established.

Chief Lucha is married to Linda (Gorslene), a graduate of Brush High School. They have three children, Pamela, Thomas, and Craig. The chief's hobbies include golf, running, reading, and jazz.

Inc., an aerospace company, proposed remaining in South Euclid in exchange for a 50% tax reduction in personal and new real property taxes. In return, TransDigm agreed to retain 81 employees at the site and to aim for a goal of 131 employees there.

While the city discussed the potential redevelopment of the area of South Green Road and Monticello Boulevard, Congressman Louis Stokes presented the city with a

\$750,000 federal grant for economic and community development activities.

Police were trying to prevent the growth of gang activity in the city. The Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program was formed. Police would meet with students to discuss the issues of gangs, conflict resolution, and drug use. The emphasis was on prevention and involvement in more positive activities like Boy Scouts and 4-H.

After a 30-year career in law enforcement, Police Chief James Farrell retired. Twenty-year veteran Thomas Lucha was named chief.

At the municipal court, a new judge took office. Patricia Kleri replaced Judge Joseph.

The Ox-Roast/White Elephant Sale, sponsored by the South Euclid-Lyndhurst Kiwanis, celebrated their 50th annual event. A nostalgic look back with a World War II theme, complete with ration coupons and a mess hall, decorated the food booths, craft show, and white elephant sale.

Celebrating "Community Unity," Home Days returned home both days to Bexley Park. Live entertainment, food booths, train and wagon rides, a petting zoo, and diving exhibition were featured. Fireworks, sponsored by local merchants, capped off the event.

South Euclid United Methodist Church merged with Hillcrest United Methodist Church. The new church was called South Euclid-Hillcrest United Methodist Church.

In 1995, city leaders took the first step in putting the \$750,000 federal grant, awarded last year, to work. As a start, council authorized the mayor to enter into negotiations to purchase two parcels of land in the city. One was at the Mayfield and South Green business district. The other was in the Monticello and South Green industrial district.

Council authorized the Building Department to begin planning for an addition to the Municipal Court area. The court was to be expanded, modernized, and computerization implemented. Office space would be doubled.

A new Conflict Mediation Program was begun by the city's Community Relations De-

1995

Top Film: *The Bridges of Madison County*

Deaths: Israel's Yitzhak Rabin, Dean Martin, Eva Gabor, Selena

Major Events:

- * Nerve gas attacked commuters in a Tokyo subway.
- * In Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, a terrorist bomb blew up the Federal Building, killing 158 people and injuring hundreds.
- * A huge earthquake devastated Kobe, Japan.
- * O.J. Simpson was found not guilty in the murder of his estranged wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman
- * The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum opened on the lakefront in Cleveland.
- * The Cleveland Indians were in the World Series, but lost to the Atlanta Braves.
- * The Cleveland Browns football team moved to Baltimore.

What's Hot: bashing former Browns' owner, Art Modell

partment as a way for neighbors to resolve disputes peaceably without going to court. A group of trained volunteer citizen mediators, acting as a neutral third parties, would facilitate discussion and resolution of conflicts

Training costs were covered by a \$2,000 grant from the Supreme Court of Ohio.

The police department implemented a new community policing program. As a hands-on approach to law enforcement, this program focused on preventing as well as combating crime. This innovative program encouraged the development of police-citizen cooperation to control crime, maintain order, and improve the quality of life for residents. A federal grant provided funds for assignment of an officer to the community policing program. Patrolman Andy Mull was the city's first community policing officer. He was a visible and trusted member of the "Warrensville West 5" neighborhood (the five streets behind Cedar Center). His primary responsibilities covered anything that occurred within the neighborhood, addressing even the smallest complaints. More community policing officers were to be added to the force in the future. Another addition to the police department was a new police radio tower.

In the November election, Mayor John T. Kocevar won a second term, beating councilman Joe Coreno by a margin of 72.9%.

One of the more important programs, instrumental to the city's future, began in early 1996. The mayor and council appointed a citizens' advisory committee to study city expenditures and projected income for the next several years. Their recommendations were to be used by council and the administration in formulating sound, realistic future financial plans.

1996

Top Films: *The English Patient*, *Independence Day*

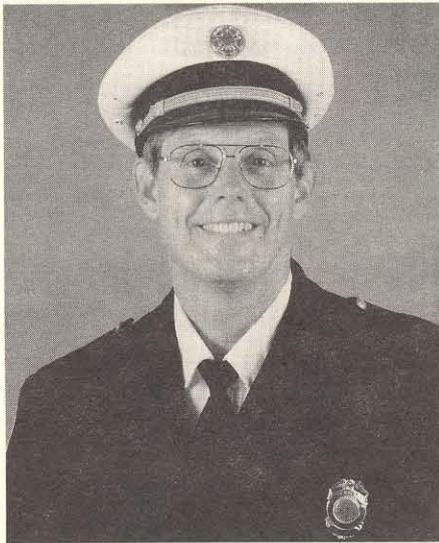
Deaths: Francois Mitterrand of France, Carl Sagan, Marcello Mastroianni, Erma Bombeck, Ella Fitzgerald, George Burns, Gene Kelly, Spiro Agnew, Minnie Pearl, Carl Stokes, and U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown

Major Events:

- * The 100th Olympic games were held in Atlanta, Georgia.
- * A bombing at Centennial Olympic Park rattled the festivities.
- * Boris Yeltsin was re-elected President of Russia.
- * In Dunblane, Scotland, 16 children and a teacher were shot by a deranged gunman.
- * Bill Clinton was re-elected President.
- * The Unabomber, Theodore Kaczynski, was arrested.
- * TWA Flight 800, enroute to Paris, exploded and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off of Long Island, New York, killing all 229 on board.
- * In Great Britain, Prince Charles and Princess Diana officially divorced.
- * Six year old beauty queen, Jon Benet Ramsey, was found murdered in her parents' Boulder, Colorado mansion.
- * The Great Lakes Science Center and Museum opened on the lakefront in Cleveland.
- * Cleveland celebrated its Bicentennial.

What's Hot: The Internet, inline skates, mountain bikes, carbon monoxide detectors, virtual reality, sports utility vehicles, the macarena dance

Thomas Cannell Chief, The South Euclid Fire Department 1996 – Present



Thomas Cannell grew up in Lyndhurst, Ohio and graduated from Brush High School in 1974. He began his career as a South Euclid Firefighter in April, 1977. He quickly rose through the ranks and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1980 and Captain in 1985. On October 14, 1996, he was appointed Chief of the department, which fulfilled a life-long dream.

Chief Cannell graduated from the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program in Emmitsburg, Maryland in 1990. He is certified by the State of Ohio as a Fire Safety Inspector, an Emergency Medical Technician, and completed the Labor Relations Program at Cleveland State University. He has been a member of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors since 1993. Chief Cannell is also a member of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Society of Executive Fire Officers, and the Northeast Ohio Fire Prevention Association. He has served on the Cuyahoga County EMS Board and, in 1993, was named Firefighter of the Year by the VFW Post 7416.

The ability to help others is what attracted Chief Cannell to the fire department. He believes in keeping the South Euclid Fire Department up-to-date with new technology, such as thermal imaging cameras, a new rescue pumper purchased in 1999, and an increased number of active firefighters and paramedics on duty per shift.

He lives in Highland Heights with his wife, Cathy, and three sons, Tom, Sean, and Rob.

Plans were underway for the redevelopment of the northwest corner of Mayfield and South Green roads. The fire-damaged structures were demolished to make way for a new one-story retail building. When completed, the building housed a Video Update store. The city was in the process of acquiring two parcels of land adjacent to this building to provide additional parking.

Efforts to spruce up storefronts on Cedar Road were underway. The storefronts of Pizza Bazaar, Dry Clean U.S.A., and Helen Hutchley's Chocolate Emporium were redone in bright blue, red, and white.

After nearly 33 years of service, 11 as fire chief, Larry Huston retired. Captain Thomas

