



# City of North Royalton

**Dan Langshaw**

*Ward 3 Councilman*

*Safety Committee, Chairman*

*Storm Water Committee, Vice  
Chairman*

*Review & Oversight Committee,  
Member*

**North Royalton Ward 3 Councilman Dan Langshaw  
Senate Bill 266 Capital Appropriations for FY 2019-2020 Testimony  
Ohio Senate Finance Committee  
March 1, 2018**

Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chairwoman Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and committee members. My name is Dan Langshaw and I am the Ward 3 Councilman on the North Royalton City Council. I apologize I am unable to appear in person but am thankful for the opportunity to submit my written testimony on Senate Bill 266 the Capital Appropriations for FY 2019-2020.

There are many worthy projects throughout the state seeking funding for FY 2019-2020. I would like to bring to your attention a specific project that is worthy of your support to fund which is the 2018 North Royalton Cemetery Improvements (Attachment A) which Senate Bill 266 in its' current form would allocate \$100,000 towards the project in my community. Before I get into background and specifics about the project. I first want to thank my Senator Matt Dolan who represent us in the 24<sup>th</sup> Ohio Senate District for his support of this important project to my community and American history!

Founded in 1866 as the Royalton Road Cemetery, graves were moved to this cemetery over the years from other sites in Royalton Township, including the Village Green. In 1879, it was designated as one of Cuyahoga County's most picturesque cemeteries, thanks to the work of the ladies of the Cemetery Association who maintained it. In 1927, the City of North Royalton took over maintenance of the cemetery and continue maintain it today. Located at 6170 Royalton Road on one of greater Cleveland's busiest roads it is the final resting place to early settlers, founders of the City of North Royalton, war heroes from the American Revolution to the present day, and even American history.

Buried in our Cemetery is John Shepherd who is believed to be the longest lived veteran of the American Revolution. He died at the age of 117 years, 9 months, and 18 days. He entered military service the first time during the French and Indian War 1754-1763. The 26 year old Shepherd, along with George Washington and others survived Braddock's Defeat at the Battle of Monongahela in 1755. In middle age, Shepherd enlisted in the army again and defended Pennsylvania and other colonies as they fought for freedom from Great Britain during the Revolutionary War 1775-1783. Shepherd served in the 2nd Pennsylvania Battalion and then the 3rd Pennsylvania Regiment. In the 3rd Pennsylvania, he was a sergeant and his unit saw action at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, among others, in 1777. Sgt. Shepherd also survived the brutal winter at Valley Forge in 1777-1778 and was at the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse in 1778. At the age of 89, Shepherd witnessed the founding of Royalton Township in 1818 later re-named North Royalton. His daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Robert Engle, were two of the community's original settlers (Attachment B and C).

Why now for this project? 2018 marks a historic milestone for the City of North Royalton as we celebrate our bicentennial (Attachment D). We have many special events planned throughout the year to celebrate. As well as we are working to honor our city's past with working to preserve it, which is

why we are working to improve the North Royalton Cemetery. We need about \$580,000 in funding for the proposed cemetery upgrades, which include restoration of the gothic-styled receiving vault, the possible installation of a brick and wrought-iron fence with signage along Royalton Road and landscape master plan development and enhancements (Attachment E). A Cemetery like North Royalton's deserves to be improved to respectfully honor all those who call it home for their final resting place but also a place that has significant importance to American history is worthy of funding from the Ohio General Assembly to accomplish that.

In closing, Senators on behalf of my residents I represent I respectfully ask for your support of the 2018 North Royalton Cemetery Improvements requested in Senate Bill 266 Capital Appropriations for FY 2019-2020 and if possible increase the amount currently written in the legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to opportunity to offer my written testimony for the committee. If you have any questions I can be reached at [ward3@northroyalton.org](mailto:ward3@northroyalton.org) or at 440-785-4240.



## Improvements

Van Wert County Niswonger Performing Arts Center	\$	200,000	1729
Unionville Tavern Restoration Structural Rehabilitation	\$	185,000	1730
Beach Park Railway Museum Improvements	\$	175,000	1731
Wright Factory Unit - Dayton	\$	175,000	1732
Freer Children's County Home	\$	170,000	1733
Cozad-Bates House Interpretive Center and Cultural Park Renovations	\$	150,000	1734
Grand Theater Restoration Project	\$	150,000	1735
Village of Genoa Civic Theater Renovations	\$	150,000	1736
Glamorgan Castle Improvements	\$	150,000	1737
Sandusky State Theater Improvements	\$	125,000	1738
Gallipolis Railroad Freight Station Museum Restoration	\$	125,000	1739
Evendale Cultural Arts Center ADA Compliance	\$	125,000	1740
Lorain Carnegie Center Exhibits	\$	125,000	1741
Lorain County Historical Society	\$	112,000	1742
Southeast Ohio History Center Renovation Project	\$	100,000	1743
Great Stone Viaduct Park	\$	100,000	1744
BAYarts Huntington Playhouse Improvements	\$	100,000	1745
Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art	\$	100,000	1746
Levi Scofield Mansion Transformation	\$	100,000	1747
El Mercado at La Villa Hispana Cultural Revitalization	\$	100,000	1748
Mayfield Civic Center Theater Renovation	\$	100,000	1749
2018 North Royalton Cemetery Improvements	\$	100,000	1750
Leesburg Historic B & O Rail Depot	\$	100,000	1751
Lorain County Law Enforcement and Firefighters Memorial	\$	100,000	1752
The Funk Music Hall of Fame & Exhibition Center	\$	100,000	1753
Shawnee Development/Tecumseh Theater Restoration	\$	100,000	1754
Jacob Miller's Tavern Renovation	\$	100,000	1755

Attachment B

# A pioneer and war hero will be celebrated in North Royalton



By **Grant Segall, The Plain Dealer**

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on June 22, 2010 at 12:00 AM, updated June 22, 2010 at 12:47 PM

North Royalton -- The tombstone of a sergeant and North Royalton pioneer misspells his name and exaggerates his age a bit.

John Shepherd (the right spelling) wasn't really 118 years at his death in 1847, but a mere 117, according to a descendant planning a two-day bash in the sergeant's honor.

The stonemason inscribed the right dates of birth and death and did the usual math with them, forgetting to account for a calendar change during Shepherd's life.

Still, 117 was remarkably old back then--old enough to make Shepherd the last and longest-living colonial survivor of the French and Indian War and the longest-living American survivor of the Revolutionary War, according to Charles Phebus, Shepherd's great-great-great-great grandson.

Phebus lives in San Antonio, Texas, sports a Stetson hat and spends untold hours on genealogy. He claims ancestors such as Lord Baltimore and founders of Jamestown, Va., Cincinnati and greater Columbus. He's grown especially fond of Shepherd.

"He was an American hero," said Phebus. "He was with Washington all the way."

Born outside Philadelphia, Shepherd, fought in the Ohio Territory and survived Braddock's Defeat in 1755 with a savvy few, including Washington and Daniel Boone.

During more than four years in the Revolutionary War, Shepherd endured bitter winters with Washington at Valley Forge and Morristown, N.J. and crossed the Delaware with him. He was wounded at Brandywine, captured at White Marsh and rescued by comrades. He weathered many other battles.

According to a military pension application unearthed by Phebus in the Congressional archives, Shepherd wrote at age 102 that he'd been hospitalized in Philadelphia during the Revolution and "wholly crippled with very severe rheumatic complaints" lasting the rest of his long life. He'd finally been discharged by General Benedict Arnold.

In 1817, Shepherd moved in with his daughter, Margaret Engle. A year later, they hosted a few friends in her cabin and co-founded Royalton Township.

According to [johnshepherdfamily.com/jshep.php](http://johnshepherdfamily.com/jshep.php), he cut two acres of corn there one day at age 112.

The Shepherd soiree will run from 9 a.m. to the late afternoon on Saturday, June 26, and resume on 9 a.m. Sunday, June 27.

It will feature two pancake breakfasts, an "ox roast," a flintlock shooting match (register ahead and bring your own flintlock), a parade, a traveling Liberty Bell replica new to Ohio, three color guards, a speech by a retired lieutenant general and 19 wreaths placed by military and historical groups at Shepherd's newly refurbished headstone.

For details, see [johnshepherd.us](http://johnshepherd.us).

Phebus has visited North Royalton twice to research Shepherd. He and some members of the North Royalton Historical Society recently dropped a magnet down a roughly 20-foot well on private property that used to be the Engle family's. They found many long-rusted shards of iron and wonder whether they might have come from Shepherd's tools.

Phebus also replaced a broken base of Shepherd's headstone.

The June 26 events will begin at North Royalton High School, 14713 Ridge Road, and move to a community cemetery at 6170 Royalton Road. On Sunday, the Liberty Bell will go on view again at 9 a.m. while breakfast is sold at the American Legion Post 572, 6483 State Road, Parma.

Phebus has recruited many civic, historical and other leaders to help stage and fund this month's fete. His research surprised and impressed them.

"We knew there were some Revolutionary War veterans buried in North Royalton," said Mayor Robert Stefanik, one of several officials treating the public to Saturday's pancakes, "but this one has a pretty storied history."

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Attachment C

# Remarkable Ohio



Home / Cuyahoga County / 95-18 John Shepherd-An American Hero, March 16, 1729-January 3, 1847 [3]



95-18 Front side of sign



95-18 Back of Marker



95-18 Front of Marker

**Title, side A** John Shepherd-An American Hero, March 16, 1729-January 3, 1847

**Title, side B** John Shepherd-An American Hero, With Washington All the Way

**Text, side A** John Shepherd is believed to be the longest lived veteran of the American Revolution. He died at the age of 117 years, 9 months, and 18 days. He entered military service the first time during the French and Indian War (1754-1763). The 26 year-old Shepherd, along with George Washington and others survived Braddock's Defeat at the Battle of Monongahela in 1755. In middle age, Shepherd enlisted in the army again and defended Pennsylvania and other colonies as they fought for freedom from Great Britain during the Revolutionary War (1775-1783). (Continued other side)

**Text, side B** (Continued from other side) Shepherd served in the 2nd Pennsylvania Battalion and then the 3rd Pennsylvania Regiment. In the 3rd Pennsylvania, he was a sergeant and his unit saw action at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, among others, in 1777. Sgt. Shepherd also survived the brutal winter at Valley Forge in 1777-'78 and was at the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse in 1778. At the age of 89, Shepherd witnessed the founding of Royalton Township in 1818 (later re-named North Royalton). His daughter and son-in-law, Margaret and Robert Engle, were two of the community's original settlers

[Military, American Revolution](#)

**Sponsors** City of North Royalton and The Ohio Historical Society

**Address** 6170 Royalton Rd  
North Royalton, OH 44133

**Location** Municipal Cemetery

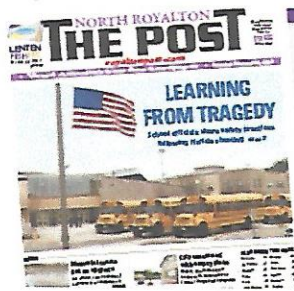
**Coordinates** Latitude: 41.188270, Longitude: -81.438840.

Google map:

Ohio History Connection  
800 E. 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. Columbus, OH 43211  
(614) 297-2300

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Attachment D



HTML

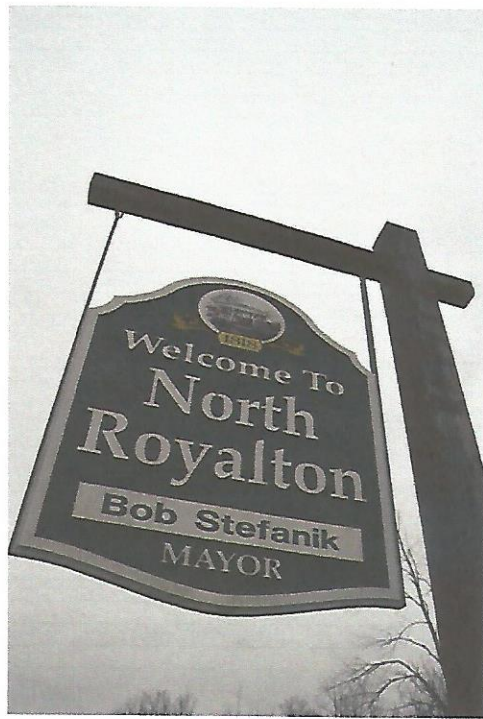
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 THIS WEEK'S EDITION OF THE  
**DIGITAL NORTH ROYALTON POST** FEBRUARY 24, 2018

[http://www.thepostnewspapers.com/north\\_royalton/local\\_news/planning-underway-for-bicentennial-celebration/article\\_0fdb6253-1154-5f86-a0d6-cb2f148c62f9.html](http://www.thepostnewspapers.com/north_royalton/local_news/planning-underway-for-bicentennial-celebration/article_0fdb6253-1154-5f86-a0d6-cb2f148c62f9.html)

### Planning underway for bicentennial celebration

Committee overseeing festivities has been formed; is drafting plans

By JAIME ANTON The Post staff writer Dec 30, 2017



Established in 1818, North Royalton will celebrate its bicentennial next year and plans are already underway.  
Photo by JAIME ANTON

NORTH ROYALTON – Next year will be cause to celebrate.

The year 2018 marks the community's 200th anniversary, its bicentennial.

In 1811 the first settlers moved to what would become North Royalton. Prior to 1818, Royalton was under the jurisdiction of Brecksville, but on Oct. 27, 1818, that all changed when it withdrew to become Royalton Township. North Royalton officially became a city in 1961.

Mayor Bob Stefanik has formed a bicentennial committee to beginning planning the festivities, which are already beginning to take shape, to commemorate this rich history and milestone.



The committee consists of one or two representatives from each of the city's service clubs and organizations: the Lions, Royalton Hills Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, Historical Society, Garden Club, North Royalton City Schools, the North Royalton Community Band, the North Royalton Alumni Association and the Chamber of Commerce. Council President Larry Antoskiewicz will chair the group, which has already been meeting and drafting plans.

Stefanik shared some of the committee's headway so far. Nothing is quite solidified, and everything is still tentative, but the bicentennial will likely kick off the weekend of July 28 and 29 with a citywide sidewalk sale, highlighting participating businesses. The annual Pet Carnival, hosted by the North Royalton Animal Hospital, is planned July 29.

Residents will have the chance to dress up and dance the night away at the bicentennial ball tentatively planned Saturday, Aug. 4 at Carrie Cerino's Ristorante and Party Center. The following day, Aug. 5, the community will gather for a free Picnic in the Park at Memorial Park, reminiscent of North Royalton's original Farmers' Picnic, which first started in 1884 and became the Community Festival we celebrate today.

"We're also kicking around the idea of doing a movie in the park that same night," the mayor shared.

The North Royalton Community Festival, or homedays as many refer to it, will move up significantly next year to Aug. 10, 11 and 12. As always, homedays weekend will be capped with a fireworks display, this year a display to top all displays, Aug. 12.

"This will be the largest fireworks display ever," Stefanik promised.

The Olde Timers Banquet, for residents who are 70 or over and who have lived in the community for 30 plus years hosted by the Royalton Hills Lions, will be Saturday, Aug. 18.

"All of these events and dates are tentative now, but we will be firming these up during and after our Jan. 11 meeting," Stefanik said. "I'm sure the local newspapers will provide extensive coverage of the festivities as we roll into the summer months."

He said no doubt this is an exciting time for the community.

"For me, it's an honor to be mayor of North Royalton as we celebrate our 200th birthday as a community," he said.

Antoskiewicz said the bicentennial will be the perfect way to bridge the city's past and future, it's new and longtime residents.

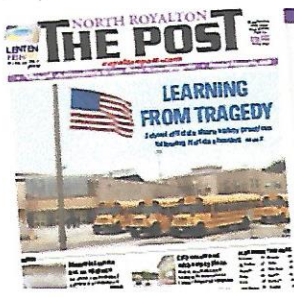
"The uniqueness of the bicentennial is that it's really going to showcase the city but also bring the residents, in some ways, closer together. We have residents that have lived here 50 years who remember so much about the history and because of our growth, we have residents that haven't lived here that long. So, this will educate them on the history of North Royalton," he said. "This is really going to help bridge the generations from those that lived here and saw the city mature, to those who have been here a shorter period of time but have really embraced the city."

Jaime Anton





Attachment E



HTML 5

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[http://www.thepostnewspapers.com/north\\_royalton/local\\_news/city-seeking-state-funding-for-cemetery-upgrades/article\\_7d0338da-fb83-577d-a829-9b572665b1c7.html](http://www.thepostnewspapers.com/north_royalton/local_news/city-seeking-state-funding-for-cemetery-upgrades/article_7d0338da-fb83-577d-a829-9b572665b1c7.html)

### City seeking state funding for cemetery upgrades

Hoping to secure dollars to restore vault, possibly add fence or archway

By JAIME ANTON The Post staff writer Jan 13, 2018



The city is seeking full funding through the state for the upgrades it is considering at the cemetery which include possibly restoring this historic receiving vault, potentially adding a brick and wrought iron fence with signage and developing and implementing a landscape master plan.

File photo by JAIME ANTON

**NORTH ROYALTON** – The city is seeking \$580,000 in state funding for the proposed cemetery upgrades, which include restoration of the gothic-styled receiving vault, the possible installation of a brick and wrought-iron fence with signage along Royalton Road and landscape master plan development and enhancements.

Community Development Director Tom Jordan shared a more detailed preliminary cost breakdown of improvements the city has been considering with council during its Dec. 19 meeting.

To simply slow the deterioration of the receiving vault – a historic building once used to store remains over the winter for burial in spring – would cost \$10,000 and \$15,000. Fencing has been installed around the structure for now to keep cemetery visitors at a distance due to its structural vulnerability.



To restore the building as it was originally designed would cost approximately \$208,648 to \$282,064.

"I know that is a shocking price and that it's a small structure, however, the workmanship that went into that structure would have to be duplicated in this time and age and it is quite expensive," Jordan explained.

Transforming it into a chapel or into a mausoleum, which could be sold to an individual or family to recoup costs, is estimated between \$217,916 to \$297,252.

As for the fence being considered between the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church and the eastern end of the cemetery, a stretch of approximately 720 feet, preliminary costs are estimated in a very broad range: anywhere between \$50,000 and \$200,000, depending on plans, materials and landscaping which have not been pinpointed.

There is, however, an issue with this component.

Jordan told council there are currently 6,890 plots total. Some of the unused plots, approximately 261 plots, have been covered over by cemetery improvements making them unusable or restricted. There are 786 plots available. Installing the fence could mean having to remove the mature trees that line Royalton Road and currently act as somewhat of a buffer between the cemetery and road. However, avoiding the trees could mean losing more plots. To complicate matters further, some of the graves are already quite close to the site.

Mayor Bob Stefanik said officials will have to weigh the fence component heavily.

He suggested possibly abandoning the fence altogether and instead creating a wrought iron archway entrance with brick pillars that still enhances the cemetery and adds signage, currently lacking, without disrupting trees.

"That's something we are struggling with," Stefanik said, referring to the trees. "It is a nice buffer from the cemetery to the street, maybe possibly putting just an arch with a sign in the driveway. The design is very difficult, we have utilities too. Maybe it's something to do (the fence) in 20 or 30 years when the trees start dying."

Ward 1 Councilman John Nickell said sometimes people plant trees without foresight.

"If a tree is taking up lots, eventually we'll need these lots for revenue too," he said.

"That's why we hire outside folks to look at it," Jordan said, referring to the firm Behnke. "I think we are doing it in a thoughtful and professional manner. Let's get the facts together so we can make an informed decision ... the cemetery was neglected for a lot of years."

"We made huge strides the last 10 years but what we put into it the last 10 years, we're talking almost half a million dollars," Stefanik reminded.

A master landscaping plan is being developed by Behnke to better avoid encroaching on lots moving into the future, and its design and any installation of landscaping within the interior of the cemetery is estimated at upwards of \$60,000.

In total, depending on what council decides, the cemetery enhancements could cost upwards of \$580,000. Everyone was in agreement to seek state funding for the full amount through a capital appropriations request, the same avenue the city used to fund its Chippewa Creek Headwater Park and wetland trail near the North Royalton Family YMCA.

"For now it would be our intention to apply for all of this work to the state using state capital improvement funds and that if we are unsuccessful in all or part of it that we would be back to council and that you would prioritize what you would like done," Jordan told council.

"There's no harm going for it all that's for sure," Council President Larry Antoskiewicz added.

The city's funding request was due Jan. 3.

Jaime Anton