Message from Mayor Cyril Kleem

During this unprecedented national emergency, I want to assure you that the City is doing whatever it can to keep you safe while maintaining basic services.

The circumstances change daily and often hourly and we are following Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Ohio Department of Health guidelines.

Measures we have taken include closing the Berea Recreation Center and the Active Senior Network indefinitely. City Hall is open and is cleaned daily. After the commercial cleaning crew leaves, the Berea Service Department sanitizes the building further. The Jitney is cleaned after rides. Smith School is cleaned daily and sanitizer is used on surfaces.

Additional safeguards and closings may happen as the situation develops.

We are our brother’s and sister’s keepers. Those of us who are least vulnerable to COVID-19 or better able to fight it and survive it have a duty to protect the most vulnerable among us. For example, if you go to work, work out, socialize with friends, you may have had contact with someone who is a carrier or someone who has just started to have symptoms. You use precautions, wash your hands, but some of the virus may have lingered on your clothing. Then you visit grandma and grandpa – the most vulnerable among us. You may be OK. They are not.

I have often said that Berea is a community and the most important part of that word community is unity. We are in this together. Residents are donating non-perishable food items for students who rely on the school breakfast and lunch programs. We are stocking the Little Food Pantries. We take care of our neighbors.

Government can only do so much. But the community – the churches, civic organizations and our friends and neighbors working together with the City – can do a lot to make this very trying time bearable.

As we enter this holy season of Easter and Passover, please know that my family and I are praying for all of us.

Dave Pusti moved to Berea in 1978, following his new bride who got a job teaching art at the Strongsville Schools.

“We wanted a small town with a good school system,” he said. “I met a lot of people through the Jaycees,” he added, “and that drew me into volunteering.”

Four decades later, Pusti has accumulated a laundry list of volunteer stints from coaching youth soccer to serving on the Berea Board of Education.

Those accomplishments have garnered him the Berea Chamber of Commerce’s Grindstone Award as an outstanding citizen.

Pusti grew up in the W. 123rd and Harvard Avenue neighborhood of Cleveland, graduating from Cleveland Central Catholic High School in 1970. He went on to graduate from Kent State University in 1975 with a degree in architecture. He now is president and managing partner of Makovich & Pusti Architects Inc., which was founded in 1986. The firm moved from Park Street to its current location at 111 Front St. in 2000. The firm bought the vintage 1897 building and extensively renovated it, keeping the historic feel as much as possible.

His work has been mainly local, designing renovations for Baldwin Wallace University’s student union, working on Guidestone’s Reinerberger Chapel, for example, as well as projects for local hospitals, including the VA’s Louis Stokes Medical Center, Marymount Hospital, South Pointe Hospital, UH St. John Medical Center, UH Cleveland Medical Center and St. Vincent Charity Hospital.

In between all this, Pusti coached soccer and Little League Baseball, supported Berea Arts Fest, served on Berea Planning Commission, served on the Little Red School House Foundation board, member of Kiwanis, President of the Berea Chamber of Commerce, active in PTA, treasurer for the Education Foundation for five years and member of the Board for 10, member of the Berea Board of Education for 13 years, member of the Polaris Career Center Board of Education and lector at St. Mary’s Church for 25 years, just to name a few.

He and wife Joanna raised three children amid the busy schedule and now have six grandchildren. “I did my best to make the time” for all these activities, Pusti said. Joanna passed away in 2012. He has established an endowment grant through the Education Foundation in her memory. Pusti remarried three years ago to wife Mary.

Pusti said he is very proud of all of his affiliations but counts his time on the Board of Education and the Education Foundation as especially meaningful to him. “The school board was a major commitment,” he said, “the time involved and the financ-

Now it’s time to step back a bit. He plans to retire from Makovich & Pusti in December and “continue part time for a while.”

“I’ve been doing this for 34 years. It’s time for someone else to take over.”

His commitment to Berea remains strong. “I am a product of the community,” he said. “This has been a nice family place to be a member of.”

The Berea Chamber of Commerce’s Grindstone Award Dinner will be in late September at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Middleburg Heights. Details will be announced later.

Our Facebook, Twitter & Instagram page name is: City of Berea, Ohio

www.cityofberea.org
LEGAL LINES
(Information in Legal Lines is supplied by the City of Berea Law Department)

The Ohio Attorney General’s office has launched a new consumer protection campaign #JUSTDON’TANSWER in response to the enormous volume of robocalls that Ohio citizens receive every day, month and year.

Robocalls are auto-dialed calls that deliver a prerecorded message. While some are legal, such as calls from your child’s school or your doctor’s office, others are illegal because you have not consented to them and they generally try to get you to pay for something or provide personal information.

The recommendation from the Attorney General’s office is to just not answer the call. Let the call go to voicemail and then either choose to listen to it or not and do research, if necessary, to determine if it is a legitimate call. Do not press any numbers if you do pick up.

You can report illegal robocalls by texting the work “ROBO” to 888111, or by visiting the Ohio Protects portion of the OAG’s web site at https://www.ohioprotects.org/. At this link, you also can watch videos about robocalls, read about robocall basics and review the robocall also can watch videos about robocalls, read about robocall basics and review the robocall.

Educate yourself in order to protect yourself.

Mailing address for water payments has changed

The mailing address to remit water/sewer bill payments has changed. The new address will be included in the next bill. If you mail your Berea water bill payments each quarter, please send the payments to:

City of Berea
P.O. Box 933539
Cleveland, OH 44193

Payments also can be made online at cityofberea.org, placed in the locked payment box at the entrance to City Hall or paid in person at the Building Department in the basement of City Hall.

Berea named one of Safest Cities

Berea has been named one of Ohio’s Top Ten safest cities by the National Council for Home Safety and Security. Berea ranked No. 9 out of more than 2,000 Ohio cities. No. 1 was Olmsted Township. The council reviewed the most recent FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics and data for 2,831 law enforcement agencies to determine the rankings. For more information, go to www.alarms.org.

City earns financial award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) award-
ed a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the City of Berea, for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended Dec. 31, 2018. The Certificate of Achievement is a prestigious national award, recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government financial reports. The City has received the Certificate of Achievement for the last 15 consecutive years.

Registration for Safety Town

begins in April

Safety Town for children entering kindergarten in the fall will be June 16-26 at the Berea Recreation Center, 451 Front St. There will be two sessions – 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-2:30 p.m. Registration opens in April. Contact the Rec Center at (440) 526-5890.

Sign up for plots

at Community Garden

It’s time to sign up for plots at the Berea Community Learning Farm. Register at www.bereacommunitylearningfarm.org and select a plot size. There will be several orientation meetings at the farm and growers are asked to be familiar with the plot rules. Call Farmer Joe at (440) 668-5947 with any questions. The farm is located at 224 Emerson Ave. on the site of the former Riveredge School.

Yard waste collection

begins on April 17

Republic Services will pick up yard waste at curbside beginning on Friday, April 17.

Grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste should be placed in brown paper yard waste bags, which are available at discount, drug and hardware stores. Yard waste also can be placed in specially marked garbage cans. The bags and cans should not weigh more than 40 pounds when fully loaded.

Yard waste in plastic bags should be placed in the blue trash container.

Leaves should not be raked to the curb.

Cut small branches to no more than 4 feet in length and bundle them with string. Place them at curbside alongside the yard waste bags and cans. Do not place yard waste in the green recycling containers.

Questions, call Republic Services at (800) 433-1309.

Telephone scams

target seniors

The Ohio Department of Insurance is warning seniors about two new telephone scams. One scam seeks Social Security Number information and the other asks for personal information to set up a pre-paid funeral.

Medicare beneficiaries are receiving recorded calls that appear on Caller ID as coming from the Social Security Administration. The message says that the Social Security account has been suspended and to press 1 for more information. Pressing 1 gets you to a scammer who asks for personal information. The SSA will not call unless the beneficiary requests it.

In the second scam, Ohio Public Employee Retirement System members are receiving calls from a scammer claiming to be from VIA Benefits. The caller asks for personal information to set up a pre-paid funeral account. The real VIA is not making such calls.

Call the Ohio Department of Insurance fraud hotline at (800) 686-1527 to report suspicious calls.

Historical Society

to open new exhibit

“Berea’s Influential Women” will be the new exhibit featured at the Berea Historical Society this year. The display will formally open 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, May 17. The Historical Society is located in the Mahler Museum, 118 E. Bridge St.
Safety News You Can Use

(Information provided by the Berea Police Department)

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Distracted driving is anything that diverts your attention from driving, including texting or talking on your phone, talking to people in your vehicle, changing the music on your radio, inputting addresses into your navigation system, or anything else that takes your attention away from the roadway.

According to the National Safety Council, using a cell phone while driving results in 1.6 million crashes per year. One out of every four car accidents in the U.S. is caused by texting while driving, an activity that is six times more likely to cause an accident than drunken driving.

Although teens are the focus in many distracted driving campaigns, just like so many other things, parents need to set the example and be responsible while driving with their children. Parents also need to have conversations with their teens about the dangers of distracted driving.

Be careful in school zones
Drivers are asked to observe the 20 mph speed limit in school zones. Flashing lights on Race Street indicate when students and buses are arriving and departing from Grindstone Elementary School. Crossing guards are stationed at the corner of Race and West streets and at the bus entrance to Grindstone. They often must stand in the street to allow children to use the pedestrian crosswalks and to allow buses to safely enter and exit the parking lot. Drivers should use caution when approaching crossing guards, who are members of Berea’s Veterans Security Team, as they aid children on their way to and from school.

Also, remember that Race Street is one-way from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and from 3:30-4:30 p.m. while students are arriving and departing the school.
Spring is clean up time
You work hard to keep yourself and your family healthy. Spring is a good time to make sure your house is healthy too.

Berea’s Exterior Maintenance Office recommends homeowners walk the property and take a survey of what damage winter and cold temperatures might have done to the yard and the outside of the house. There are six areas homeowners can take a close look at as the weather starts to warm.

- **Yards**: Missing ground cover or bare spots; debris from stumps, trees or trash; animal waste.
- **Foundations**: Shifted or cracked blocks or bricks; loose or missing mortar.
- **Porches, patios & decks**: Broken or deteriorated floor boards, posts or railings; broken concrete or bricks; flaking paint.
- **Exterior walls**: Broken or deteriorating siding or brick; fading or peeling paint; rusted metal.
- **Foundations**: Loose connections; rust; missing or broken sections.

A complete list of suggestions is available from the Exterior Maintenance Office at Smith School, 535 Wylieswood Drive.

Yard waste pickup by Republic Services begins on Friday, April 17. The City of Berea also offers free brush pickup. Call the Berea Service Department at (440) 826-5816 to arrange for pickup. You also can schedule pickup at the City’s web site, www.cityofberea.org.

A crew of inspectors from the Code Enforcement Division will begin their rounds of residential neighborhoods. If they notice an issue or a violation of the Exterior Maintenance Code, they will leave an inspection report that explains the violations as well as the corrections to be made. Homeowners are urged to contact inspectors for further information and assistance.

Communication is the key so it is important to call us, said Jim Brown, administrator of operations and supervisor of the Exterior Maintenance program. Call (440) 826-5800 ext. 4402 or email jbrown@cityofberea.org. For more information, visit www.cityofberea.org.

HEALTHY HOUSING TIPS

SCHOOL NEWS

**Berea Midpark High School’s Cheerleaders**

Heather Zirke, president of Berea-Midpark High School PTA, has been named an equity fellow with the Center for Family Engagement for the next year. The fellowship is part of National PTA’s efforts to improve diversity, equity and inclusion. Zirke was one of five PTA leaders selected from across the country.

**Athletic Boosters sponsor mulch sale**

The Berea-Midpark Athletic Boosters are conducting a spring mulch sale. Prices are $26-37 per yard delivered or $41-52 per yard delivered and spread by BMHS athletes, coaches and parents. Athletes will be available to spread mulch on these weekends: April 25-26, May 2-3, May 9-10 and May 16-17. Four types of mulch are available and will delivered through Three-Z Inc. of Valley View. Order by May 8 at https://bmhsathleticboosters.us19.

**Ohio Lottery raffle tickets benefit cross country team**

The BMHS cross country team will be holding Ohio Lottery raffle tickets as a fundraiser to cover the cost of attending camp this summer. Winning raffle tickets will have numbers corresponding with the Evening Ohio Lottery Pick 3 numbers throughout April. Tickets are $10 and the payout is $100. Purchase tickets by sending hstings.sarah@gmail.com.

**Cheerleaders win conference honors**

Seven Berea-Midpark High School cheerleaders from the competition team have won All-Southwestern Conference honors. Mackenzie Haney, Baylee Medvedz and Megan Robertson were named to the First Team. Lauren Carver and Kaleigh Ternovak won Second Team honors. Christina Bachie and Cheyenne Laney won Honorable Mention.

**Polaris students place 4th at auto show**

Two Polaris automotive technology students Alex Gee and Logan Jones of Berea-Midpark High School placed fourth in the 28th annual Greater Cleveland Automobile Dealers’ Association Automotive Technology Competition at the 2020 Cleveland Auto Show. The team had to trace, diagnose and fix problems in a vehicle by instructors from Cuyahoga Community College. Gee and Jones will each receive a $1,600 scholarship.

**Teen Space - Grades 6-12: Quick and easy crafts, fun activities, and mini service projects. Share your ideas of how to make the library a better place. 4 - 4:45 p.m., Wednesday, April 15**

**FOR CHILDREN**

Weekly Children’s Storytimes run throughout the month of April. Call (440) 234-5473 or visit cuyahogalibrary.org for specific times and ages. Storytimes are available for children from birth through age five. Registration is not required for weekly storytimes.

**Music & Movement (Ages 19 months – 5 years with a caregiver)**

Join us for stories, songs and a craft with a Berea Firefighter. Learn how these local heroes help to keep us safe. 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 17

**STEAM Team: Zany Zip Lines**

Learn about the science of zip lines and make your own zip line carrier. 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 21

**People In Your Neighborhood: Firefighter Storytime**

Join us to celebrate Earth Day with a special storytime and hands-on activities. 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 17

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Coronavirus Information
Southwest General Health Center has set up a 24-hour hotline to answer your questions and concerns about COVID-19 (coronavirus). That number connects directly to an emergency room nurse. The hospital also has established some restrictions on visitors. The flier is reprinted here.

Albert Matyas, vice president of ambulatory operations & business development at Southwest, issued this statement:

“At Southwest General, the health and well-being of our patients, visitors and staff are our first priority. With the recently diagnosed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) throughout the state of Ohio, please be assured that we are actively monitoring the situation and working closely, on a daily basis, with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Additionally, at this time, we have enacted a strict visitor restriction policy to limit the number of people entering our facility, and have canceled all on-site group events as well as any community health and wellness events.

We are prepared, and equipped, to handle any suspected cases of COVID-19. However, we urge the public to practice everyday preventive actions (see the CDC website for additional information – www.cdc.gov) to help prevent the spread of infection. For questions regarding COVID-19, contact Southwest General’s COVID 19-24 hour hotline at (440) 816-8962. We appreciate our community’s deep support of the hospital as we make our way through this challenging time.”

HOTLINE NUMBERS
Southwest General Health Center
(440) 816-8962
(Open 24 hours a day, every day)
Ohio Department of Health
(833) 427-5634
(Open 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., every day)

VISITOR RESTRICTIONS
These restrictions are in place to protect our patients, our community and you. We appreciate your understanding and assistance.

• Visitors with flu-like symptoms are not permitted to visit.
• Symptoms include cough, sore throat, aches and fever.
• It’s okay to visit if you are healthy. But please follow these guidelines:
  • Wash your hands before and after you visit a patient, and after coughing or sneezing
  • Cover your cough with a tissue or your sleeve
  • Two visitors at a time aged 18 or older.

Berea Youth Works begins
April 27
Berea Youth Works will begin its spring and summer program on April 27.

Sponsored by the North End Foundation, Berea Youth Works provides jobs for Berea-Midpark High School students. The Foundation is accepting student applications now. Call the office at (440) 243-2985 or email berea1@gmail.com.

Students have the opportunity to work at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds with Berea’s National Rib Cookoff over the Memorial Day weekend and other such events. Students also are hired to do yard work, clean out garages, paint fences and decks, among other chores at local homes.

Customers can call (440) 243-2988 or email berea1@gmail.com to receive quotes on projects. The average cost of lawn mowing is $35. This includes edging and bagging of grass clippings.

The Berea City Club funds the mowing program for seniors. The Club will pay a portion of the costs. Berea seniors approved for the program can call (440) 243-2988.

City honors Model UN students
Taking part in Model United Nations “really grew my public speaking skills,” said Berea-Midpark Middle School student Ellie Connor. “I had to think on my feet.”

Connor and 10 of her classmates were recognized by Berea City Council for winning top honors at the Junior Model UN conference at John Carroll University. The conference is sponsored by the Cleveland Council on World Affairs.

Faculty adviser Stacey Jennings, who began the program seven years ago, said students were assigned to represent various countries on committees. They debated real world issues such as human trafficking and the use of children as soldiers.

Connor and her partner Emma Escalier represented North Korea, a daunting challenge, Jennings said. Connor won the Gavel Award, the highest honor Model UN can present. It meant she had to “know the country’s policies, understand parliamentary procedures and exhibit confidence in public speaking,” Jennings said.

Connor said she was “a bit stressful representing a country that is not popular but she was grateful for the experience. She credited Escalier “for the team effort.” The two said they had but one ally – Russia.

Other winners were Elizabeth Chen and Sophia Savchenko (UNICEF – Japan), Best Position Paper.

Nate Barrett and Henry Maxwell (UNICEF – Sweden), Owen Dettmer and Quinn DiCillo (Security Council – Poland), Hannah Elsehaly and Aubrey Trzebuckowski (Environment – Haiti), Honorable Mention.

Christina Calvis and Alexa Daulton (Refugees – South Africa), Excellent Delegation.

“Means a lot to have the community recognize our students,” said Jennings, who added that the program has returned to Berea-Midpark High School after an absence of several years.

Annual Golf Fundraiser, Brunch and Auction
May 17, 2020
TopGolf Cleveland
5820 Rockside Woods Blvd. N
Independence
$50 golf and brunch*
$20 non-golfer brunch*
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
*payments due by May 1st
($60 and $25 day of event)

TO REGISTER:
Electronic/Online registration:
1. Email golfer names, contact info, and golfers/attendees name for whom payment is being made to tbidirector@aol.com
2. Visit www.HansonHouseBerea.com and pay by clicking on donate button through Network for Good. Your full payment will go to HansonHouse

Mail in registration form with check to HansonHouse, 173 Front Street, Berea, OH 44017

Your full payment will go to HansonHouse.

Mayor Cyril Kleem presents a Resolution to team advisor Stacey Jennings and the Berea-Midpark Middle School students who won honors at the Model UN conference in January.
Berea to hire new trash hauler

Kimble Recycling and Disposal Inc. is the City’s new trash hauler.

Kimble was the low bidder of three companies that submitted bids, which were opened on March 3. Service Department Director Paul Anzalone said the firms were given 16 options. Anzalone said he studied all of the bids on those options and said Kimble’s was the lowest, most responsible and most responsive.

Other bidders were Republic Services, the City’s current trash hauler, and Rumpke.

Kimble’s bid for the first year of the contract is $1,275,300. It includes five-day automated trash and recycling collection with weekly bulk pickup. Yard waste will be picked up weekly all year long but will not be recycled. Anzalone said including yard waste in the recycling would have added another $156,000 to the contract. Yard waste will be included in bulk pickup.

Kimble will receive a five-year contract with options for three additional years. The rate increases each year with the cost going to $1,449,240 in Year 5.

The City will be divided into five zones with Kimble picking up trash in each zone once a week. Details will be announced later this year when Kimble takes over trash collection from Republic Services. The City’s current contract with Republic dates from 2012 and will expire on Aug. 31. Kimble will begin trash collection on Sept. 1. Republic will collect its trash and recycling bins, which will be replaced by Kimble’s.

Kimble is based in Dover, Ohio. Its fleet of vehicles has been converted to compressed natural gas, which the company says returns a cleaner discharge into the air.

Berea’s Board of Control voted to accept the bid on March 16. City Council must now approve the contract. Anzalone said he consulted members of the Ad Hoc Trash and Recycling Committee and all were in favor of the contract. Members of the committee are Mayor Cyril Kleem, City Council President Jeff Dettmer, and Council Representatives Chris McManis (Ward 2), Jim Maxwell (Ward 3) and Kim Smith (Ward 4).
Veteran Spotlight

William “Bill” Douglass graduated from Berea High School in 1959 and spent the next few years painting houses. He took an ad in the Berea News where Berea Mayor Quackenbush spotted it. That was Douglass’ first painting job – Quakenbush’s house on South Rocky River Drive.

Then the Vietnam War heated up and Douglass joined the Navy. He served from 1962-1965. He was a personnelman with Fighter Squadron VF-24 that flew F-8 Crusaders off the USS Midway. His unit was transferred to the U.S. Hancock where he spent two tours in Vietnam. The Hancock was the most decorated carrier in the Vietnam War.

Bill used the GI Bill to graduate from Kent State University in 1969. He became a bank examiner for the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and retired several years ago as a commercial lender for Middlefield Bank.

His wife Lynda passed away in 1994. He has a son, Rob, and daughter-in-law, April.

Bill is a member of the Board of the Berea High Alumni Association and volunteers with Berea’s Veterans Outreach Office where he visits nursing homes and assisted living facilities and takes part in flag programs at Grindstone Elementary School.

“I grew up in the military service,” Bill said “It made me what I am today.” He is committed to helping our community. “It’s time to give back,” he said.

Free tax preparation
The AARP Tax-Aide site in Brook Park is offering free tax preparation services.

The Tax-Aide site is located at Brook Park United Methodist Church, 6220 Smith Road, Brook Park. The site is open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursdays through April 9.

Appointments are required. Call (216) 6776-4738 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays. Taxpayers should bring with them last year’s federal and state returns, Social Security cards or other official ID for themselves and all members of the household and all W-2 and 1099 forms.

The tax returns are prepared by AARP volunteers and e-filed with the IRS.

RECRUITING VETERANS SECURITY TEAM MEMBERS

Veterans are trained by the Berea Police Department to supplement Police and Auxiliary officers at city events.

During the school year, they work as school Crossing Guards.

Requirements:
- Honorably Discharged Veteran.
- Finger prints/background check.
- Trained by the Police Department.

For more information or to apply contact: Veterans Outreach Office at (440) 973-4567 or wspringer@cityofberea.org

Veterans do not need to be a resident of Berea to apply.

Veterans Breakfast Club
with Chaplain Willie
City of Berea, Veterans Coordinator
Meets Once a Month
Next Meeting: May 16
10-Noon
Berea Rec Center: Senior Room.
451 Front Street
Egg Wraps/Hash Browns/
Muffins/Coffee/ Donuts
(Donated by Café Ah Roma)
A place for Veterans to connect.
No Veteran Walks Alone
Residents should have received in the mail a notice from the U.S. Census 2020 asking them to fill out the official Census form. The notice includes a Census ID number, which people can use to fill out the questionnaire online at my2020census.gov, by April 1. For those who may prefer a paper version, the Census Bureau will send a paper questionnaire in a few weeks when residents do not complete the online form. It is possible that door-to-door interviewers will also canvass neighborhoods.

If you need help filling out the form, you can call toll free, (844) 330-2020.

The Census is conducted by the U.S. Department of Commerce every 10 years. It is used to count every person living in your household. The results are used to allocate federal funds to states and communities and to determine the number of representatives state voters may elect to Congress. When populations decline, states lose representatives. When populations increase, the states gain representatives.

The questionnaire takes on average about 10 minutes to complete. It is available in 13 different languages. The information you provide is protected by law. You are required by law to complete the Census form. The Census is conducted every 10 years as required by the U.S. Constitution.

For more information, call (844) 467-2020 for Telephone Display Service (TDD).