



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **“Zoar Levee: To Preserve and Protect” to Premiere on April 9**

*Western Reserve Public Media production documents  
historic community’s predicament because of failing levee*

NORTHEAST OHIO – Wednesday, April 4, 2012 – The historic village of Zoar, Ohio, is fighting a natural adversary — water. A levee built in the 1930s was intended to preserve the village. However, evidence now shows that the levee has the potential of failing, which could be disastrous for this community that is steeped in rich history.

Western Reserve Public Media presents **Zoar Levee: To Preserve and Protect**, which investigates the levee dilemma and how community members and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are addressing it. The production will air on Monday, April 9, at 10:30 p.m. and repeat on Monday, April 16, at 1 a.m. on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1). For additional air dates and times, visit [WesternReservePBS.org](http://WesternReservePBS.org).

Zoar is a community of approximately 75 families. Located in Tuscarawas County, it was founded in 1817 by about 300 German religious dissenters. They purchased 5,000 acres of land in eastern Ohio and started building a communal society, with everyone contributing to the good of all villagers. The Ohio Historical Society currently operates a portion of the town as a historic site and a number of Zoar’s buildings are restored and open to the public.

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Zoar sits at the base of a levee built in 1936 as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' water management program in the region. The levee is failing and the Corps by law must consider all options to fix the problem. The residents of Zoar fear that there are essentially three courses of action being considered:

- Fix the levee, at an estimated cost of \$100 million
- Move the village out of harm's way
- Destroy the village following purchase of it by the federal government

The final decision may be one of these options or a combination of several alternatives. **Zoar Levee: To Preserve and Protect** documents the Corps' review process and the beauty and historical significance of Zoar.

Following its premiere on Western Reserve PBS, the half-hour production will be available for free viewing on demand at <http://video.westernreservepublicmedia.org>. DVDs of the production will be available for purchase at \$19.95 each by calling Western Reserve Public Media at 1-800-554-4549.

## **About Western Reserve Public Media**

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population (4.9 million people) of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.9 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit [www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org](http://www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org) or call 1-800-554-4549.

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