



Shaker
Life

Shaker
Schools:
Celebrating
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Achievement



Shaker
Police:
A New
Mission

SPRING 2017



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IN SHAKER HEIGHTS**

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Inside Shaker Life

3
Top Picks

4
@ShakerOnline:

Shop Shaker

9
Moreland Rising

16
NewsREAL

18
Tweets and Posts

20
Van Aken On Track

22
@ShakerSchools

26
@ShakerLibrary

62
Work. Live. Shaker.

70
Venture Out

79
Scene in Shaker

80
Advertiser Index

ON THE COVER: Shaker Schools Superintendent Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr. celebrates at the 2016 commencement. Photo by Kevin G. Reeves



36

A FORCE FOR CHANGE

The Shaker Heights Police Department is working to build positive relationships throughout the community.



BABIES NEED BOXES

Ohio ranks near the top in the national infant mortality rate. Five Shaker Heights women have taken the first step to help reduce that catastrophic statistic.

48



MAKING THE GRADE

Despite what the State Report Card says, the Shaker Schools offer one of the best K-12 public education systems in Ohio.

54

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Letters may be edited for publication.

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Top Picks

Tweets & Posts

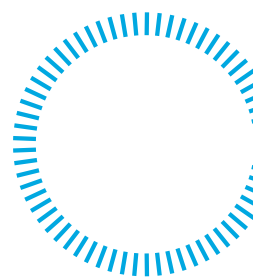
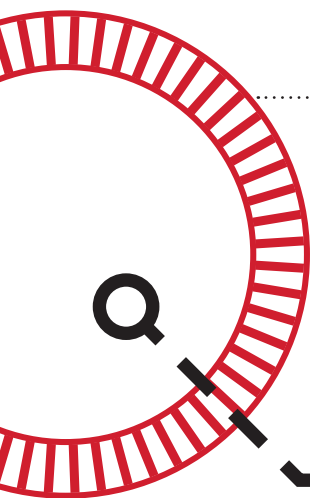
"That's another great
thing about Shaker."

p18



Van Aken On Track

Connections Plan sets priorities. Biking, walking, landscaping, signage, and a cohesive overall look. p20



Work. Live. Shaker.

Master Marr's
Family Taekwon-do Center
makes discipline and hard work
worth the effort.
p62

Scene in Shaker

It's coffee, cake, and community
at Gimme Java.

p79





Southerly Park Shapes Up

We shaped up so you can shape up! Now that the weather is warmer, consider moving your exercise routine outside to take advantage of the newly refurbished fitness equipment at Southerly Park.

Sixteen new pieces of equipment have been installed, including a chest press, rowing machine, chin-up station, and recumbent bike. The equipment is in a centralized, well-lit location in the park, creating an outdoor fitness facility.

Renovations on the 1.5-mile walking trail start later this year, making it possible for a complete workout all in one place. Director of Recreation Alex Nichols says, "Upgrading Southerly Park with state-of-the-art fitness equipment provides residents another way to be healthy, stay active, and have fun while enjoying this beautiful green space right here in Shaker Heights."



IN MEMORIAM | D. Scott Lee, former Shaker Heights Chief of Police



Former Shaker Heights Chief of Police D. Scott Lee died December 28, 2016, following a brave battle with brain cancer. He was 57.

Chief Lee was a long-time public servant for the City of Shaker Heights, joining the City in 1986 as a police officer and then serving as deputy chief from 1999-2007. In 2008, he was named chief of police. Last October, Lee was named Police Officer of the Year at the annual Shaker Rotary Police and Fire Awards.

"Scott was the consummate professional. He was as comfortable in a police uniform as in a business suit. He was smart, dedicated, caring, and very pleasant to work with," says Councilman Rob Zimmerman, who participated in Lee's selection as chief. "He will be very much missed."

Mayor Earl M. Leiken met Lee in 2000, when Leiken began his first term as a council member. "Chief Scott Lee provided exceptional leadership to the Shaker Heights Police Department. His capacity to inspire confidence, his dedication, business judgment, and ability to communicate with our residents and institutional and business leaders were unparalleled," Mayor Leiken says. "It was a privilege to work with him, and he will be sorely missed."

Lee, a Marine Corps Reserve veteran and a Kent State graduate, is survived by his wife, Geri, and his adult children, Amber and Ryan. Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Brain Tumor Association, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 550, Chicago, IL 60631 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Color the World Cancer Free at the Ribbon Run on May 27

Mark your calendars for the Shaker Heights Ribbon Run, Saturday, May 27 at 9 am. The 5K race/2-mile walk -- sponsored by the Shaker Heights Police Department, the City of Shaker Heights, and benefiting University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center -- begins and ends at the Green Road RTA station.

The first 300 registrants receive a complimentary performance t-shirt. Cost: \$25 through May 21, \$30 after; \$15 for University Hospitals employees. For more information and to register, visit hmapromotions.net.



Law Firm Relocates to Shaker

Shaker welcomes Wilson Lawyers, LLC, who recently moved offices from Pepper Pike to Shaker's Chagrin Corporate Center, 20820 Chagrin Boulevard, Suite 301. The firm has three attorneys and one office manager/paralegal, and specializes in business transactions, business litigation, real estate, creditors' rights and collections, construction contracts and litigation/arbitration, employment, and family law. Find Wilson Lawyers online at wilsonlawyers.com or call 216-342-4138.

New Owners Purr-fectly Suited for Shaker Animal Clinic

Walk in to Shaker Animal Clinic at 3612 Lee Road and you'll be greeted by cats so friendly you could mistake them for small dogs. The warmth of their greeting is consistent with the coziness of the entire business, which has the look and feel of a typical Shaker Georgian home.



It was that feeling and the long history of the Clinic that convinced Dr. Jeremy Welsh and his wife Lisa to purchase the business in late 2016.

For more than 40 years, Shaker Animal Clinic occupied the same building, running its comprehensive veterinary services from exam rooms on the first floor and offices on the second. For the last 12 years, it was owned by Dr. James Prueter, who will continue to see clients and offer his specialty services for another 3-5 years.

The new owner, Dr. Welsh, is a 2011 graduate of the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He also holds a

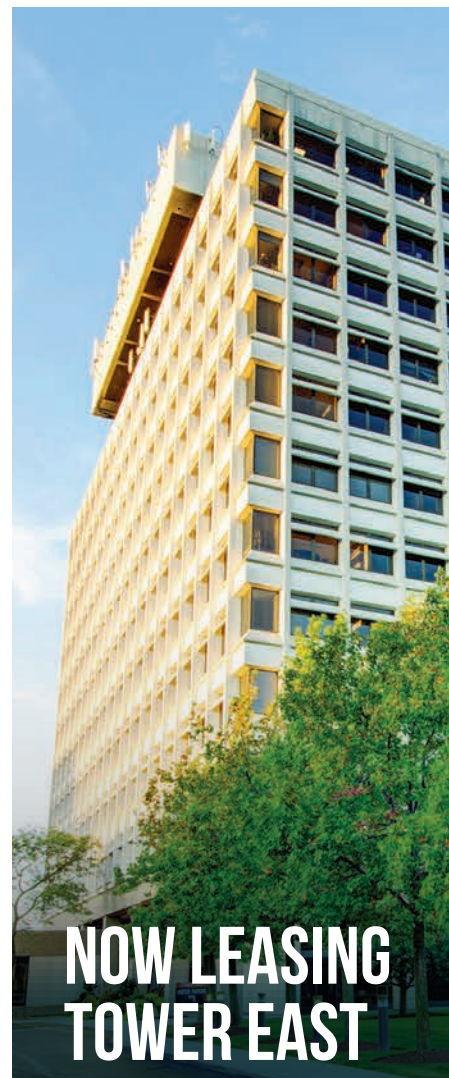


master's of Public Health/Veterinary Health from OSU, and was on staff at two veterinary hospitals, making him well qualified to treat your furry friends.

In addition to high quality care, he is focused on open, clear communication with clients and being involved in the larger community.

"I love the historic feel of Shaker and how proud people are to be here. We look forward to being a part of that, too," says Dr. Welsh. The Clinic offers comprehensive veterinary wellness services, advanced diagnostic technology, and surgical services at affordable prices.

Dr. Welsh, Lisa, and their young son, Liam, live in Richfield along with their dogs Abraham, Lincoln, and Addison, and cats Sebastian, Patrick, and Sabrina. To learn more about the Clinic's services, visit shakerheightsanimalhospital.com. **SL**



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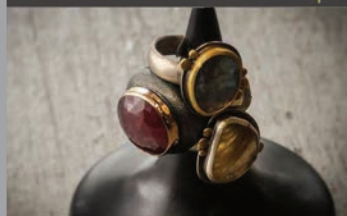
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Moreland RISING

Shaker Design Competition Winners Open the Door to Noteworthy New Homes



M SHAKER DESIGN COMPETITION

As the jurors poured over the details of the 12 Shaker Design Competition submissions at The Dealership on a rainy day in January, palpable energy buzzed in the room.



Optimism about the future of the Moreland neighborhood inspired jurors to carefully consider how each proposal would enhance the neighborhood's momentum.

The competition challenged architect-builder teams to design innovative, energy-efficient, middle-income housing for specific vacant lots in the southern Moreland neighborhood. Teams were invited to submit groundbreaking designs demonstrating an understanding of the current challenges and opportunities.

The goal: to entice a new generation of homeowners to Moreland.

All photos on this page by Angelo Merendino

Three teams won the top prizes, received awards of recognition, and are qualified to enter into development-and-use agreements for construction in Shaker Heights.



Renderings were placed around the conference room at The Dealership for jury review. They revealed a wide range of concepts and responses to the challenge. Some designs felt familiar, some seemed otherworldly, others offered reinterpretations of traditional Shaker architecture or referenced more modern styles from recent decades. Some embraced the street with large windows, while some were more inward-facing.

What became clear was that all submissions ensured that the tradition of architectural excellence in the City of Shaker Heights is secure, and that the Moreland neighborhood will be home to some of the most progressive, noteworthy designs being built anywhere in the City.

Three teams, one international, one national, and one local won the top prizes, and received recognition at an awards ceremony in February at The Dealership.

Winners earned a cash prize and are qualified to enter into development-and-use agreements for construction in Shaker Heights. Winning designs are considered concepts that will inform the final product. Stay tuned for details on the construction timeline.



The team of Donnelly Eber Architects (New York City) and **Simcon Homes** (Cleveland) are the first-prize winners. Their proposed design reinterprets the rhythm and pattern of the existing exterior architecture and introduces an interior that is a distinct departure with its open, loft-like feel. This proposal includes an accessory space above the garage, a nod to the City's traditional carriage houses.

To learn more about the Shaker Design Competition and to view the submissions, visit shakerdesigncompetition.com.

The team of Decent Goodfellow Architects LTD (London, U.K.) and Blossom Homes LLC (Cleveland) earned the second prize. Their design distills the lines of the classic gable roof, balconies, and porches found throughout the neighborhood into their simplest forms. Large, contemporary windows punctuate the spare exterior elevations and complement the minimalist façade. The naturally lit interior offers flexible space that can be configured to accommodate live/work options.



Shaker Design Competition and the Moreland EcoDistrict



1 21st Century Shaker Hingley Single family, two family, and townhouse configurations provide diversity in housing options and provide a contribution to the richness of the community. The research-based design is a design plan for the neighborhood, addressing the challenges in the area for neighborhood and city engagement, creating a vision for an office, and sustainable vision.



2 Appropriately Sustainable: All of the houses are designed to the Passive House goals, including airtight, heating/cooling the space through the space of the building. Construction is designed to be sustainable and green, including the use of sustainable materials, energy efficient lighting, and energy efficient appliances.



Moreland Collaborative, a team of Shaker and Northeast Ohio architects, planners, designers, and builders, won third prize. Their holistic submission offered a highly energy-efficient design, coupled with a broader vision for an EcoDistrict. The flexible designs for the housing component include single-family and distinctive mews-style townhouses that are a modern take on classic design, and offer the benefits of Passive House, among the highest standards in energy-efficient building.



Lee Road Businesses Get a Facelift

Updating an aging storefront isn't just cosmetic, it's good for business. It gives owners the confidence that what the customer sees matches what the customer gets. And it can spur neighboring business owners with buildings in need of some TLC to follow suit and do some sprucing up, too.

With that in mind, City economic development staff applied for \$50,000 in 2015 from Cuyahoga County to fund the Lee Road Storefront Renovation Program. The program specifically targeted businesses in the half-mile section of Lee between Chagrin and Scottsdale boulevards, and enabled them to make façade, signage, awning, and landscaping improvements. Participants paid for about half the renovation costs and a grant from the Storefront Program matched the balance (up to \$16,000). City funds covered design costs.

Three buildings (*opposite page*) – Discount Cleaners (3601 Lee), Silas Buchanan's State Farm office (3605 Lee), and the former Shaker Heights Teachers Credit Union (3581 Lee) – were beneficiaries of the program. In addition, the newly renovated Protém Homecare building (3535 Lee), was able to purchase new signage (*below*).

The City's Economic Development Department hired a design specialist to help property owners determine the scope of their projects. "Most of these buildings are outdated by modern retail and office standards," explains Economic Development Specialist Katharyne Starinsky. "Just a simple exterior change may help draw more of the 23,000 or so drivers who travel this section of Lee Road on the average day."

Discount Cleaners owner Lenny Ratner agrees. "Anything positive will help improve the area," he says. The dry cleaner now features new front windows, two new side windows, new signage, and a canopy over the front door.

Pete Ina, who owns the former credit union building, is optimistic about the program's overall effect on the area. "It's true that a lot of these businesses need updating, but look at what's happened in places like Kamm's Corners, Cleveland Heights, and Lakewood," he says, referring to successful storefront renovation efforts in those communities. For years, Ina used the building as a warehouse for his Sunoco station next door, but now that the space has a clean, fresh look, he hopes to lease the space to a service industry tenant.

"This has been a wonderful opportunity. And it's important that the City took the lead on this and invited business owners to join them," says Silas Buchanan, whose State Farm office has a new entrance, windows, and updated landscaping. "We, as business owners, care. We're not going anywhere and we hope it's a call to action for other businesses to follow our lead."

Protém Provides Quality Healthcare to Homebound Patients



Ada Nworie began her home healthcare business, Protém Homecare, more than 11 years ago as the company's sole employee with one patient. Today, Nworie has a network of more than 300 caregivers who provide home healthcare services to patients throughout Cuyahoga County. She also has a newly renovated, two-story home base at 3535 Lee Road (at the corner of Lee and Lomond Boulevard). Currently, Nworie and 13 employees work there, overseeing business operations.

Nworie's staff includes skilled nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, medical social workers, and certified home health aides. Protém prides itself on providing customers with high-quality personal care service – a company-wide value based on Nworie's own experience.

"When I finished nursing school, I did home care and I really saw the difference I could make in people's lives," Nworie says. "Patients will often listen to their nurses before they listen to their doctors. That means nurses can really build some special relationships with patients."

Protém Homecare's Lee Road office is its second office in Shaker. The first office was located on Warrensville Center Road, but was demolished as part of the Van Aken District renovation project. Nworie's decision to stay in Shaker was easy. "Shaker is centrally located for me and our employees," she says. "And the City has been very supportive of my business."

Learn more about Protém Homecare online at protemhealth.com, or call 216-663-8188.



Shaker Makers: We Make Things



Cleveland Makers' Alliance...

Located in the back of The Dealership, the Makers' Alliance is open to the public on Tuesdays from 7-10 pm and occasionally on Saturdays. Membership is \$30/month or \$50/month for a household. Members have 24/7 access to the space. Learn more about the Alliance at makersalliance.org or email info@makersalliance.org.

Visit the Makers' Alliance exhibit at Shaker Makers where enough materials to create 100 kazooos will be ready and waiting. Make one to form a kazoo band in the Memorial Day Parade. See you at Shaker Makers on April 22!

Makers make things. What things? Almost anything. Things from metal, wood, paper, yarn, plastic, electronic parts, light, sound, food, motors, spare parts, broken parts. Big things and little things. Things you use, things you eat, things that make other things, things that move...or don't. It's technology. It's art. It's both. Makers are tinkerers, creators, DIYers, innovators, and builders, and they learn by doing. Are you a maker? We have a place and an event for you!

Makers are having a moment. In fact, they are having a movement... a big mash-up of people who like to make things, and collaborate, and be social so that ideas are ricocheting off each other and something really cool gets made.

Shaker Heights is full of makers. In fact, it's kind of in our DNA. The Shakers, who settled here in the 1800s, could be considered the originators of the makers' movement. The Shakers worked together to make and invent things: chairs, brooms, a version of the circular saw. It was a collaborative community of DIYers.

It seems only fitting then, that the Cleveland Makers' Alliance, one of only a few northeast Ohio makers groups, is housed right here in Shaker Heights at The Dealership, 3558 Lee Road. It's the place to get your hands on a Tektronix 434 Oscilloscope or an HP 1901A Pulse Generator, or build an Arduino-compatible microcontroller board, explore a MaxNC CNC machine, or tinker with the MIDI interface and sound card for a Raspberry Pi computer. How about making a bathtub car (they did this) or a tool from the 3-D printer (they did this too)?

If just hearing about these things turns your crank (even a little bit) then you might be a maker, and the Makers' Alliance may be the place and community for you (see sidebar to the left for more information).

And, that's not all. We have an event for you, too.

Riding the wave of maker enthusiasm, The Dealership, in partnership with the City, Library, and Cleveland Ingenuity, will host Shaker Makers, an interactive maker event that is free and open to all ages, interest levels, and abilities. It will be held on Saturday, April 22 from 10am-5pm (see sidebar to the left for more information). Showcasing

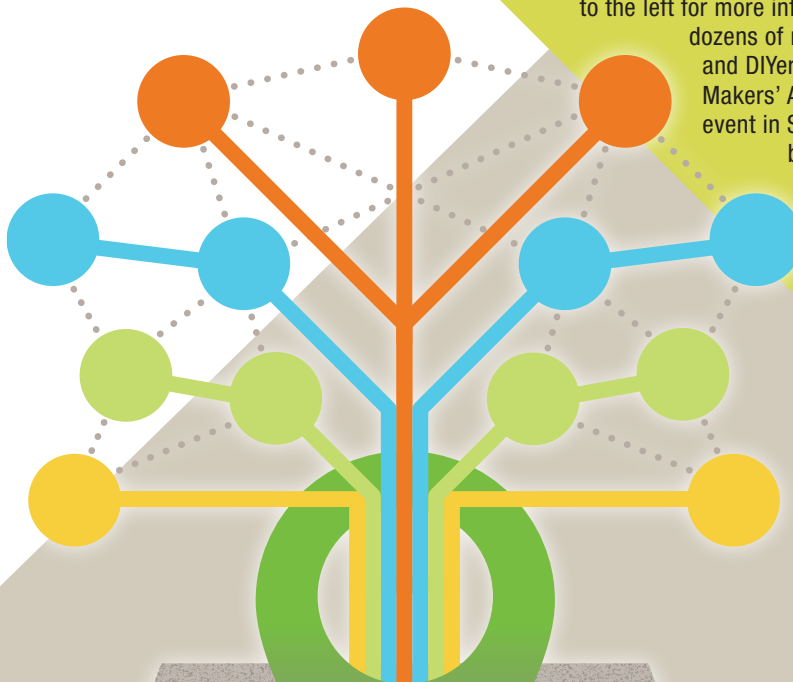
dozens of makers, thinkers, tinkerers, and DIYers, including members of the Makers' Alliance, this first-of-its-kind event in Shaker is sure to generate big and small ideas, and DIY projects from the simple to mind boggling to the super tasty. We know it will delight or uncover the maker in you.

A Makers Event SHAKER MAKERS:

A Different Take on Make

When: Saturday, April 22,
10 am – 5 pm

Where: The Dealership,
3558 Lee Road
All ages welcome.
Free.



The Dealership Gains Traction with New Partnership

The Shaker Heights Development Corporation (SHDC) and the Economic Community Development Institute (ECDI) formed a new partnership to expand the offerings at The Dealership, a hub for entrepreneurial activity located at 3558 Lee Road.

The Dealership, a co-work, event, and office space for entrepreneurs, freelancers, creatives, and small businesses, offers members short or long-term desk space, office rental, high-speed fiber internet, 24/7 building access, and conference and training rooms. Its new partner, ECDI, offers services to go with those amenities that are specifically tailored to help small businesses develop and grow, such as one-on-one technical assistance, networking events, and access to capital services. As Ohio's largest nonprofit economic development organization, their expertise is expected to draw even more entrepreneurs to The Dealership.

"We are thrilled to partner with ECDI at The Dealership. They bring a proven track record of serving and working with small businesses and entrepreneurs in all stages of the business life cycle," says Nick Fedor, Executive Director of SHDC. "ECDI will be a great resource for current tenants, future tenants, and the broader small business community."

Carrie Rosenfelt, Executive Director of ECDI's Northern Ohio Region says, "This partnership presents an opportunity to create a vibrant hub of small business activity in Shaker Heights. Our goals for the partnership include strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem, and increasing economic prosperity and sustainable economic growth."

For information regarding office space, contact Nick Fedor, 216-491-1425 or nick.fedor@shakerdevcorp.com. For information regarding the co-work space or events, contact Alexis Coffey at 216-912-5655 or acoffey@ecdi.org. **SL**





Let the Heritage Home Program Lend a Hand (or Cash) for Home Improvement



The next time your Shaker home needs some TLC or updating, consider reaching out to the Cleveland Restoration Society.

The Society's Heritage Home Program offers a range of services to help repair, maintain, and rehab older homes, while retaining architectural features and increasing a home's value.

Shaker homeowners who live in a home that is at least 50 years old are eligible to receive technical assistance – including site visits from construction specialists, maintenance and repair recommendations, advice on energy efficiency, and more – and low-interest financing through KeyBank and Third Federal Savings and Loan. For more information, visit Cleveland Restoration Society online (clevelandrestoration.org) and learn more about the Heritage Home Program.



HERITAGE
HOME
PROGRAM

Financial Assistance Programs Available for Home Maintenance



Now that spring is here, home improvement season is in full bloom. To lend a hand, the Economic Development Department periodically has grant funds available to assist homeowners in maintaining their properties.

If your home is located in the Ludlow, Moreland, Lomond, or Sussex neighborhoods, you may be eligible. Grant funds are also available Citywide (regardless of neighborhood) to residents who are over the age of 62, or who are permanently disabled.

Construction projects can include health and safety upgrades and the correction of exterior code violations cited by the Housing Inspection Department. Eligible properties must be owner-occupied and homeowners must meet income guidelines.

The availability of these funds varies throughout the year, but homeowners are encouraged to contact Colin Compton, neighborhood and housing specialist, to discuss specific details. For those who do not qualify for grant funds, Compton can provide information on additional financial resources offered by outside agencies. For more information, contact Compton at 216-491-1333 or colin.compton@shakeronline.com. **SL**

Tweets



Onaway Association

● **Neighbor #1** Thank you to Shaker Heights Police, Fire, Mayor Leiken and everyone at city hall for showing Onaway's 3rd graders such a great time today! Colleen is still talking about it. Proud to be a part of this great city! #shpd #shfd #cityofshakerheights



Posts



Photograph by Janet Century



Living in Shaker Heights

■ **Neighbor #1** Shout out to the Shaker sanitation worker who took the poop bag I was carrying back from my run with the dog this morning. After a big smile and, "Hello," he held out his hand and said, "Here, I'll take that!" Now THAT is going above and beyond!

■ **Neighbor #2** Similar thing happened to me last week. I was walking my dog on trash day, pushing my toddler in the stroller and he drove up, waiting for me to pick it up and said "toss it in, I'll take it" – I love those guys!!

■ **Neighbor #3** Now that's great service! ■ **Neighbor #4** So sweet!

■ **Neighbor #5** The Shaker sanitation workers are completely amazing. We are incredibly fortunate to have them in our wonderful community. ■ **Neighbor #6** Yup, same thing happened to me. Made my day!

■ **Neighbor #7** Happened to me too. Several times the trash pick-up guys have gone out of their way for me. Another thing that's great about Shaker! **SL**

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Van Aken On Track

MAKING THE CONNECTION; ACTIVATING THE PLACE

Out with the old and in with the new. The Van Aken Center buildings are gone, site prep is underway, and new buildings will start rising from the ground this spring. By January 2018 finished spaces will be handed over to tenants for build out, and by summer 2018 phase one will be open!

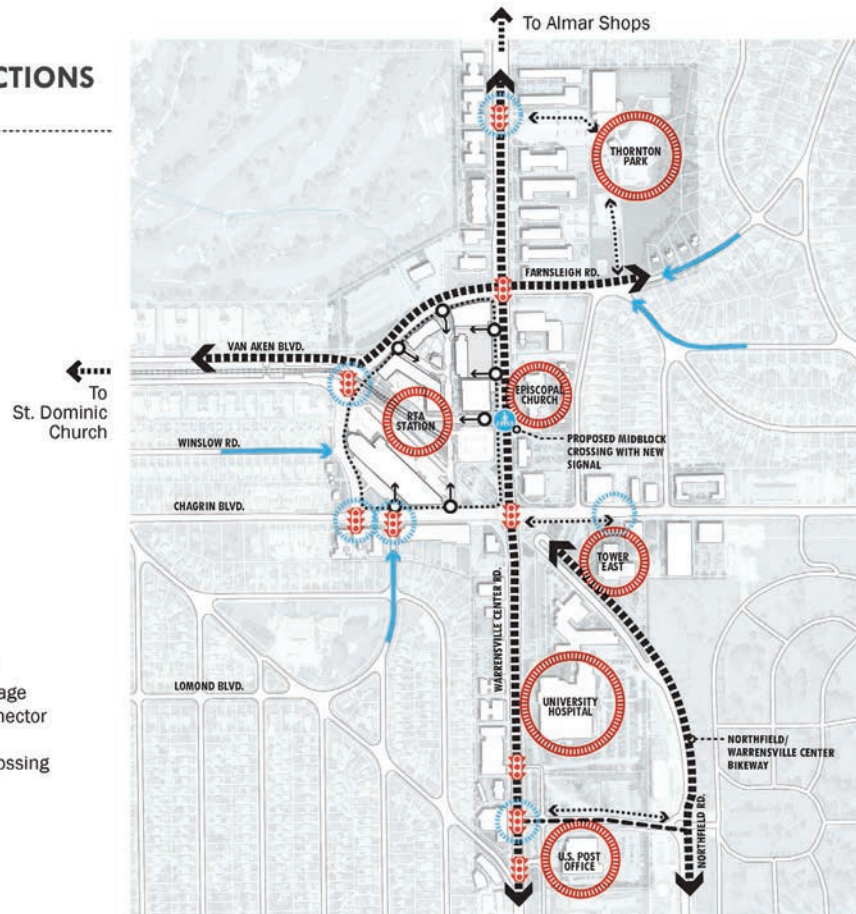
Those are the “big” things, but there are many smaller things that will truly stitch together the District, the surrounding neighborhoods, and the larger City. The connections – biking and walking paths, landscaping, signage, and a cohesive overall look and feel – require careful planning and attention to detail. These are the things that elevate a development from being just new buildings, to becoming a vibrant, cohesive, and well-used downtown seamlessly connected to the neighborhoods surrounding it.

Ever mindful of the importance of the connections, the Planning Department has refined a plan, over many years and with input from two public meetings for residents and stakeholders, to address these critical elements. The final plan, developed in conjunction with consultants, was funded through a \$75,000 grant with \$60,000 coming from Northeast Areawide Coordinating Agency’s Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative and matching funds of \$7,500 each from the developer, RMS, and the City.

DISTRICT CONNECTIONS FRAMEWORK

KEY

- Multi-Use Path
- Community Connector
- On-Street Bicycle Signage
- Primary Sidewalk Connector
- Pedestrian Connector
- Proposed Midblock Crossing
- Gateway
- Community Anchor
- Signaled Intersection



THE GOALS:

- Develop a shared vision for the appearance, feel, and sense of place
- Establish a unique identity and promote a sense of place
- Create a dynamic pedestrian environment
- Support bicycle travel
- Activate and beautify public/civic spaces
- Create a vibrant mixed-use environment

The future development of the larger Van Aken District will be guided by the following:

FRAMEWORK PLAN

- Proposes three 10-foot-wide multipurpose paths to connect key community anchors and neighborhoods on all sides of the District and key gateways
- Sharrows
- Bikeway (coordinated with the County) on Northfield Road

STREET TYPOLOGY PLAN

- Classifies streets according to how they are used and their adjacent developments
- Assigns design elements such as landscaping, signage, special pavement to each street

DESIGN ELEMENTS PATTERN BOOK

- Provides an aesthetic and functional foundation for the District
- Provides a vision for creating a harmonious public realm
- Provides a menu of design elements appropriate for specific locations including:

Landscape and green infrastructure

Hardscape such as decorative pavement and crosswalks

Lighting

Furnishings

Bicycle elements such as bike racks, bike share, and repair stops

Signage and wayfinding for vehicles and pedestrians

Public art

A thoughtful connections plan strengthens the livability and quality of life in the District and surrounding community and enhances its economic viability. The Planning Department will submit grant applications to implement key recommendations over the next several years as redevelopment of the Van Aken District continues. **SL**

For more information on the Van Aken District, please visit thevanakendistrict.com and follow on Instagram @thevanakendistrict, Twitter @vanakendistrict, and Facebook @thevanakendistrict.

Van Aken DIST.



Photo by Jason Miller

Sign up for Summer Exploration, Learning and Fun (SELF)

Last summer, more than 800 Shaker students took part in the District's Summer Exploration, Learning and Fun (SELF) program. This summer, SELF returns with even more offerings for students in grades 1-12. In addition to world languages, ceramics, hands-on science, and creative writing, students can take part in creating adaptive toys, jewelry making, sustainable agriculture, and ACT/SAT prep courses.

Courses will be led primarily by Shaker teachers and will be located at Mercer Elementary School, Shaker Middle School, and the High School. Community partners include the Shaker Historical Society, Shaker Heights Public Library, and Shaker Heights Recreation Department. Programs are fee-based, with scholarships available based on financial need. Bus transportation is provided.

SELF is structured into two sessions, each with a variety of offerings:

SESSION 1 runs June 12-28, Monday through Thursday; registration deadline is May 31.

SESSION 2 runs July 10-21, Monday through Thursday; registration deadline is June 27.

For more information or to register online, visit shaker.org/SELF.aspx.

District Forms Equity Task Force

Superintendent Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., has appointed The Rev. Colin Jones and Lisa Vahey as co-chairs of a newly created Equity Task Force. In accordance with the District's Five-Year Strategic Plan, the task force will study issues related to equity in education for all Shaker students, and will recommend ways to remove barriers that may exist due to such things as race, socioeconomic status, or special needs.

"The Shaker schools have always been pioneers of equity in education, so this work is not new," says Hutchings. "Rather, we are building upon and refining what has come before. The only way this work can be done is through engaging the entire community."

Jones is pastor of the Shaker Heights Community Church in the Sussex neighborhood and serves as a hospice chaplain for the City of Cleveland. "Creating opportunities and advocating for youth and adults to improve their overall quality of life is what motivates me to do the work of equity,"

says Jones. "One person can't do everything, but each of us can do something."

Vahey is a Shaker parent who has been involved in equity work as a classroom teacher, District leader, and volunteer. She has also worked as a consultant to other school districts that are members of the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN).

Says Vahey, "Talking about and committing to work on racial equity, among other equity issues, requires trust, active listening, and finding the right ways to use your voice. I look forward to working with our community members, teachers, principals, and students on this journey."

The task force is comprised of approximately 18 members, one-third of whom are appointed by the superintendent. The remaining members are chosen from among Shaker Schools staff members and from the community by application, with a two-year minimum commitment required.

Kindergarten Registration has Begun

Parents and guardians of children entering kindergarten this fall are invited to attend a special Open House to learn about Shaker's kindergarten program, meet the principal, teachers and fellow parents, and begin the registration process.

Unable to attend the session for your designated school? Feel free to attend another building's event to begin the registration process and learn about the curriculum. Registration personnel will be available 30 minutes before event start times.

FERNWAY: April 19 at 9:30 am

ONAWAY: April 21 at 9:30 am

BOULEVARD: April 19 at 6:30 pm

LOMOND: April 20 at 7 pm

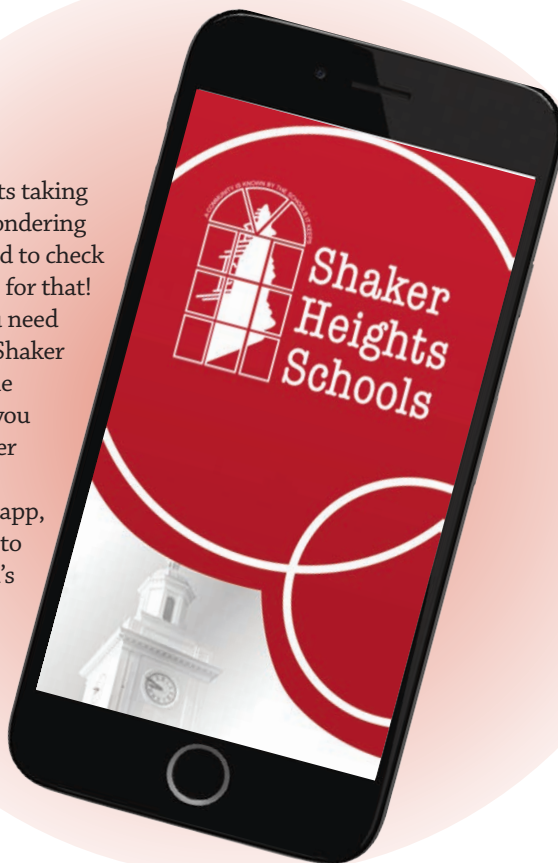
To begin the process, please call 216-295-4321 to set up an appointment.

NOTE: Mercer's Kindergarten Open House was held in March. However, incoming Mercer kindergarten parents and their students are invited to attend "Muffins in the Morning" at Mercer on April 20 at 8 am. Registration personnel will not be available at this event.

Introducing the Shaker Schools App

Want to stay in the know about events taking place at your child's school today? Wondering what's for lunch in the cafeteria? Need to check your student's grades? There's an app for that! Get all the news and information you need on your mobile phone or tablet. The Shaker Schools app is free and available in the App Store, Google Play, or wherever you download apps; just search for "Shaker Heights Schools."

Once you have downloaded the app, you can customize your preferences to receive notifications from your child's school, view the District calendar, and browse a streamlined version of the District's website. You'll also find quick links to PayForIt, ProgressBook, Naviance, and other handy resources for parents and students.



We Want to Hear from You

The District welcomes input from our parents, students, staff, and community stakeholders. Have you visited one of our buildings lately? We invite you to fill out a customer satisfaction survey at shaker.org/customer.aspx to let us know about your experience or interaction with our staff. You can also submit questions or share feedback and suggestions directly with a specific department at any time at shaker.org/feedback.aspx.

STAY INFORMED

For the latest news and info about the Shaker Schools, visit shaker.org. Follow us on [facebook.com/ForShakerSchools](https://www.facebook.com/ForShakerSchools) or Tweet us @ShakerSchools

Building “Beloved Community” in Honor of MLK Jr.

More than 600 Shaker students and family members turned out for the first districtwide MLK Day of Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Attendees participated in a variety of projects serving the homeless and home-insecure of Greater Cleveland to help build what Dr. King called the “beloved community.” Participants knotted fleece blankets, assembled personal care and hygiene kits for teens and adults, collected warm socks, and wrote heartfelt messages of caring for the recipients.

The event was sponsored by the Shaker PTO CommUnity Builders and Shaker Schools Foundation in partnership with HandsOn Northeast Ohio and Bellefaire JCB’s Homeless and Missing Youth Program.



Photos this page courtesy David Vahey



Designing a STEM Career

Shaker parents who work in STEM fields shared their talents at the Middle School's Design Day in January to talk about real-life applications for science, technology, engineering, and math. In addition to learning about STEM careers, the students participated in fun hands-on challenges presented to them by an architect, financial planner, industrial engineer, graphic designer, consumer brand manager, nutritionist, landscape architect, civil engineer, and physician, among others. To share your STEM skills for the next Design Day, email Gretchen Witt at lauerwitt@sbcglobal.net.



33 Seniors Earn National Merit Honors

Thirty-three members of the Shaker Heights High School Class of 2017 have been named Semifinalists and Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

This year's National Merit Semifinalists from Shaker are Zachary Brown, Rachel Brunot, Edith Duncan, Karissa Huang, Samuel Katz, Nicholas Masso, Andrew Maytin, Rose McCandless, Declan O'Connor, Nora Spadoni, Harry Steinberg, Aishwarya Suresh, and Isabel Wang. They will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarship awards that will be offered next spring, and will be candidates for other scholarships as well.

The National Merit Commended Students are Joseph Berusch, Nathaniel Crowley, Amelia Gingras, Harrison Glasser, Benjamin Harper, Blake Himes, Austin Hise, Trevor Hunter, Brian Johnson, Srivishnu Kasturi, Edward Love, Sarah Manuszak, Hadas Marcus, Jordan Pazol, Nicole Pollack, William Raddock, Sheila Scanlon, John Sullivan, Benjamin Wasman, and Kathleen White. **SL**



Photo by Kevin G. Reeves

Updates

Brian Gleisser Named President of Library Board

Brian Gleisser has been named president of Shaker Heights Library Board of Trustees for 2017. Michael Bertsch is vice president and Troy Meinhard is secretary.

A Mercer resident, Gleisser is director of Head Start Operations at the Council for Economic Opportunities. He has more than



25 years' experience managing nonprofit agencies and programs. He has a BA from Northwestern University, a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Harvard, and a law degree from Cleveland State University. He served as a member of Shaker

Heights City Council for 14 years (1999 through 2013), serving as the City's vice mayor in 2004 and 2005. He has been on the Library Board since 2014.

"It is an honor and privilege to serve as president of the Library Board of Trustees," Gleisser says. "The Board recognizes the importance of the Library's many programs and services for the Shaker Heights community. We look forward to improving our accessibility and services, both online and at our two buildings, as the Library moves into its 80th year of serving Shaker Heights. I am honored to be working with a Board and Library staff that is dedicated and committed to providing the level of high-quality services that Shaker's residents have come to expect."



Local Cable Access Digitization Project Receives Generous Grant

Thanks to a generous grant from Shaker residents Sara and Brian Sullivan of Second Story Productions, matched by the William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation, the Library will begin work on the digital conversion of over 100 U-Matic tapes containing dozens of locally produced "Shaker Life" programs and other local cable access programming from the 1970s through the 1990s.

"Shaker Life" was produced by the City's Department of Public Affairs and was conceived, written, and directed by Douglas Drake, a Shaker resident and former WKYC reporter, until his death in a car accident in 1983. His widow, Nola Drake, donated many of the tapes. The program's episodes provide a window into the City's past, spotlighting many of the institutions and activities in Shaker Heights, such as the Shaker Schools Plan of voluntary busing and a day in the life of the Shaker fire fighters.

Brian and Sara Sullivan graduated from Shaker Heights High School and Hawken School, respectively, and live in town with their two children. Both are active in the William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation, and have served on the boards of the Center for Families and Children, the Cleveland Sight Center, and the Cleveland Play House.

They co-founded Shaker-based Second Story Productions in 2005. The award-winning video production studio has produced several Shaker-focused projects, including the Centennial community sing-along, "Shaker Sings 'Simple Gifts.'"

The Library is also fortunate to partner with NOBA, the Northeast Ohio Broadcast Archives at John Carroll University, to complete this project. NOBA will convert the "Shaker Life" tapes from the almost obsolete U-Matic format to digital files. Shaker Library will then make the programs freely available online to the public.

Library Engages with the Community

While traditional library services remain a key part of what the Library offers, an important focus is to build successful, collaborative relationships with community organizations and individuals. The Library continues to support local institutions and businesses, and to raise awareness of its civic engagement and responsibility.

Gabriel Venditti, the Library's community engagement librarian, was hired to support important community goals and to collaborate with key stakeholders. He has been active in Moreland Neighbor Nights and has worked with The Dealership, among other initiatives.

Maggie Killman recently transitioned from her role as a children's librarian to community engagement librarian for youth services.

Library Director Amy Switzer has been busy getting to know the community and listening to what folks have to say. The Library's role is to support City and school priorities, as well as those of other organizations. She has been spending time meeting with people and listening, and is focused on working to expand the ways Shaker Library can serve the Shaker Heights community.





What's New at the Local History Collection

Residents are urged to take advantage of the resources in the Local History Collection. From the history of Shaker homes to books by local and national authors who have a Shaker connection, residents will enjoy learning about their town. Recent donations to the Local History Collection include:

A collection of fragile paper and on-skins building plans of 35 1920s-1930s homes in Shaker Heights and neighboring communities, designed by architect Walter Harrison Smith, donated by John Truden.

Samantha Baskind, Shaker resident and CSU professor of Art History, donated two of her books written as catalogs for a recent show at The Galleries at CSU: *Archie Rand: Sixty Paintings from the Bible*, and *Archie Rand: The Book of Judith*.

Ina Hamilton Hart donated a copy of her book, *Enscribing the Heavens from This Side: Cronechronicler, 2014-16*.

Shaker native Jonathan V.L. Kiser, now living in Virginia, donated two books co-written with his two sons, William and Grant: *Solving National Park Issues in the West* and *Litter Crisis in Our National Parks*.

Shaker resident and Cleveland Institute of Art Chair of Ceramics Seth Nagelberg donated his book, *Batch Manufacturing for Ceramics: Models and Molds from Process to Product*.

Shaker resident Janet Neary donated two copies of the book *Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights, 1916-2016: A Family Scrapbook*.

Plymouth Church donated two copies of the book *Plymouth Church: the History of a Congregational Community Church in Shaker Heights, Ohio*, by Thomas M. Daniel.

Shaker resident and local educator Tim Tibbits donated his novel for young adult readers, *Playing Possum*.

Shaker resident Nancy Newton West donated a copy of her book, *All' Anno Prossimo: An American Woman's Twelve-Year Love Affair with Florence*.

Shaker native Bob Gries donated a copy of his family history, *Five Generations: 175 Years of Love for Cleveland*.

Recent Local History acquisitions made possible through the generous support of the Lawson and Baumoel Family Funds include the following books:

I Will Find You: A Reporter Investigates the Life of the Man Who Raped Her by Shaker resident and former Plain Dealer reporter Joanna Connors.

Juniper Lane, an LGBTQ novel by a Shaker resident writing under the pseudonym of Kady Morrison.

Princess Cupcake Jones and the Dance Recital, the latest installment of the Princess Cupcake books by 1996 SHHS graduate Ylleya Fields.

A Race Anthology: Dispatches and Artifacts from a Segregated City. This collection of essays and poetry by local writers on race relations in Cleveland past, present, and future was edited by Shaker resident and CEO of the City Club of Cleveland, Dan Moulthrop, and local artist, writer, and owner of Guide to Kulchur Press, R.A. Washington.

Story of My Life: A Workbook for Preserving Your Legacy. A genealogy workbook for use in the Library, by Sunny Jane Morton, a popular presenter at the monthly African-American Genealogical Society meetings.

They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore, and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement, and written by Washington Post reporter and 2008 SHHS graduate Wesley Lowery, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning database of police brutality.

Three-Way Street: Jews, Germans and the Transnational, an edited collection containing articles by Shaker residents Jay Howard Geller and Alan T. Levenson.

Shaker Authors Collection

The Local History Librarian has been updating and sharing her list of Shaker authors with the Shaker Heights High School library, which is developing their own collection of local writers. We are always eager to learn about authors in Shaker Heights, those who grew up here and those who have just arrived. For information or to make a donation, please email localhistory@shakerlibrary.org.

Spring Book Group Opportunities

Just finished your book and you're aching to talk about it with someone? New in town and looking to make friends? Recently retired and now have time for yourself? The Library's book clubs could be your answer. Whether you are a morning, afternoon, or evening person, the Library has a book discussion that will fit your schedule and give you your dose of literary discussion with a group of other book people.

Cook the Book Read-and-Taste Discussions are held from 7-8:30 pm the first Wednesday of the month at Woods Branch and are led by Branch Manager Lynne Miller. Books can be picked up from the Reference Desk at Woods Branch a month before the discussion.

Wednesday, April 5: *Baking: From My Home to Yours* by Dorie Greenspan.

The 300 recipes in this volume will seduce a new generation of bakers,

whether their favorite kitchen tools are a bowl and a whisk or a stand mixer and a baker's torch. Even the homiest recipes are special in this award-winning cookbook.



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Wednesday, May 3: **400 Best Sandwich Recipes: From Classics and Burgers to Wraps and Condiments** by Alison Lewis. This book offers sandwich recipes for every occasion that are both scrumptious and simple to prepare.

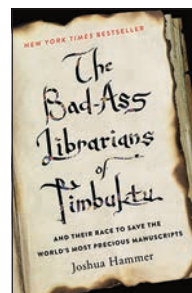


Wednesday, June 7: **Weber's Way to Grill: The Step-By-Step Guide to Expert Grilling** by Jamie Purviance. With tips and insights for getting better every step of the way, this book is a master class in all aspects of outdoor cooking. Color photographs accompany confidence-building recipes.

Book Buzz Discussions are held from 10-11:30 am the second Tuesday of the month at Main Library and are led by Stacie Anderson. Books may be picked up at the Reference Desk at Main Library one month before the discussion.

Tuesday, April 11: **The Secrets of Midwives** by Sally Hepworth. Readers will delight in this intelligent and thoughtful tale of secrets, both hidden and revealed, told from the distinct perspectives of three generations of midwives in Providence, Rhode Island.

Tuesday, May 9: **The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu** by Joshua Hammer. This fast-paced narrative reports the heroic effort to preserve Mali's cultural heritage in the form of more than 350,000 ancient Islamic and secular manuscripts after Al Qaeda captured Timbuktu in 2012.



Tuesday, June 13: **Commonwealth** by Ann Patchett. A chance encounter sets in motion the dissolution of a marriage and the evolution of two American families blended over five decades, creating a humorous and affecting collage of parents, children, step-children, siblings, and step-siblings.

Mystery Book Discussions meet from 7:30-8:30 pm the second Tuesday of the month at Main Library and are led by Pam Tidwell. Books may be picked up at the Reference desk at Main Library one month before the discussion.

Tuesday, April 11: **Invisible City** by Julia Dahl. Rebekah Roberts, an aspiring young reporter in New York City, is sent to investigate the murder of a Hasidic woman. She is drawn into the case because her own

mother abandoned her as a baby to return to the Hasidic community. Rebekah's name gains her access to this reclusive community where she sorts through the lies and secrets to get to the truth about the murder before it's too late.

Tuesday, May 9: **Another One Goes Tonight** by Peter Lovesey. Two police



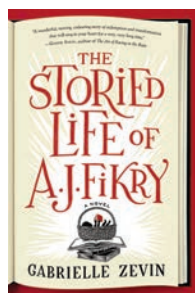
officers respond to one last call when their patrol car spins out of control, killing one cop and landing the other in critical condition. Detective Diamond is sent to investigate and finds that a civilian involved in the crash has been left unattended. He calls for an ambulance and

administers CPR immediately. After a while he becomes suspicious and wonders if he saved the life of a serial killer.

Tuesday, June 13: **Past Crimes** by Glen Erik Hamilton. Van Shaw left his grandfather, Dono, and the criminal life in Seattle to become a U.S. Army Ranger. When his grandfather beckons him home after ten years of silence, Van arrives and finds him shot in the head. To solve the crime and clear himself as the prime suspect, Van must step back into Seattle's underworld and reconnect with his grandfather's old cronies.

Fourth Tuesday Book Discussions meet from 2-3:30 pm at Main Library the fourth Tuesday of each month and are led by retired librarian Janis Williams. Books may be picked up at the Reference Desk at Main Library one month before the discussion.

Tuesday, April 25: **Our Souls at Night** by Kent Haruf. This beautiful story of second chances and love in old age is Haruf's final novel and as beautifully written and wise as his previous stories of Holt, Colorado.



Tuesday, May 23: **The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry** by Gabrielle Zevin.

A.J. Fikry, owner of Island Books, has recently hit a bit of a rough patch. His wife has died, sales are waning, and his most prized possession: a rare collection of poems by Edgar Allen Poe has been stolen. When a mysterious package arrives on his door-

step, it gives him a new perspective and a second chance at life.

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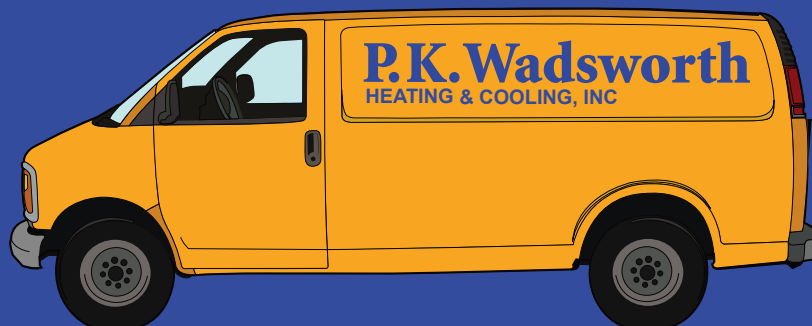
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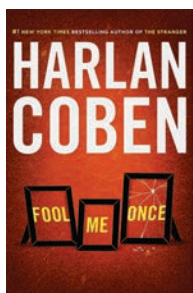
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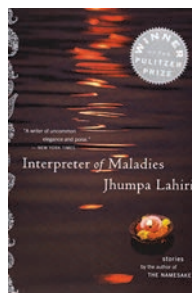
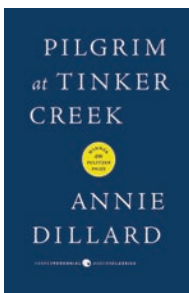


Tuesday, June 27: **Fool Me Once** by Harlan Coben. Home from the war and suffering from PTSD, Army pilot Maya Stern is with her husband, Joe, when he is brutally murdered by a robber in Central Park. Watching her daughter through a nanny cam two weeks later, she sees her playing with Joe. What can she believe?

Award Winner Book Discussions meet from 2-3 pm on selected Saturdays at Bertram Woods Branch and are led by Branch Manager Lynne Miller. Books may be picked up at the Woods Branch Reference desk one month before the discussion.

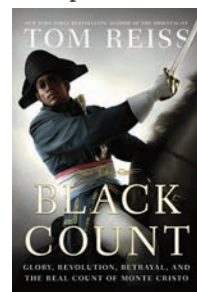
Saturday, April 22: **Pilgrim at Tinker Creek** by Annie Dillard. In her 1975 Pulitzer Prize winner for Nonfiction, the author writes in the form of a journal, trying to understand God by chronicling the seasons along Tinker Creek in the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains, exploring the paradoxical coexistence of beauty and violence.

Saturday, May 20: **Interpreter of Maladies** by Jhumpa Lahiri. Navigating between their Indian



traditions and a baffling new world, the characters in Lahiri's touching stories seek love beyond the barriers of culture and generations. The book won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

Saturday, June 17: **The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo** by Tom Reiss. Winner of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Biography, this is the story of Alex Dumas, father of the renowned author, Alexandre. Born to a black slave mother and a fugitive white French nobleman in what is now Haiti, Dumas made his way to Paris where he was schooled as a member of the French aristoc-



racy. After his service as Napoleon's cavalry commander, Dumas was captured and cast into a dungeon, beginning a harrowing ordeal, which was the inspiration for one of the world's classic works of fiction.

PubReads meets from 7-8:30 pm the second Monday evening of each month at The Academy Tavern, 12800 Larchmere Boulevard, and are led by Rachel Wilyhote. Books can be picked up at the Reference Desk at Main Library one month before the discussion. If it's a beer and a book that you're after, then PubReads is right up your alley.

Monday, April 10: **The Girl on the Train** by Paula Hawkins. This mystery thriller is told through the eyes of an alcoholic divorcee who becomes involved in a missing persons' investigation.

Monday, May 8: **The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy**



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League by Jeff Hobbs. This true story of a young African-American man struggling to navigate between his Ivy League university and his crime-ridden neighborhood of Newark is written by his former roommate. Through examination of his classmate's complicated life, the author explores the issues of race and class in America.



Monday, June 12:
The Painted Girls by Cathy Marie Buchanan. Inspired by the real-life model immortalized in Edgar Degas's "Little Dancer Aged Fourteen," this is the story of two sisters from the slums of lower Montmartre,

who seek success with the Paris Opera Ballet, but fall victim to the desires of their wealthy benefactors.

Friends of the Shaker Library Spring Book Sale

Friends of the Shaker Library has been busy sorting books for its Spring Book Sale to be held on the second floor of the Main Library April 19 to 23. The Friends Preview will be held from 4-8 pm Wednesday, April 19. If you are not a Friend, you can join at the door for \$20.

The sale continues from 9:30 am to 8 pm Thursday, April 20 and from 9:30-4:30 pm Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22. The popular Bag Sale is held from 1:30-4 pm Sunday, April 23 when all bags of books cost \$6 and items in the Specials Room are half-price.

Friends welcomes volunteers to help set up and sell during the sale. Volunteer forms are available at the Circulation desks.

Shaker Reads Returns!

Our popular Adult Summer Reading Program begins June 2. Join in the fun of reading and sharing what you've read. Register online at shakerlibrary.org or sign up at the Information desks at either library.



Poetry in the Woods

Poetry in the Woods has returned from its winter hiatus and will feature poetry read by well-known regional poets from 7-8:30 pm Mondays, April 24 and May 22 at Woods Branch.

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Programs for Adults

Introduction to Intellectual Property 101



Atossa Alavi will cover the basics of patents, trademarks, and copyrights from 7-8:30 pm Tuesday, April 11 at Main Library. Learn what they are, what value they bring, when and why you should use them, and which one is most

appropriate for you. Alavi's discussion will offer an insider's view of the relevance of intellectual property for individuals and businesses.

Alavi is In House Counsel at AlphaMicron, Inc., a leading liquid crystal technology company in Kent, Ohio, and adjunct faculty member at Case Western Reserve University's School of Law specializing in patent prosecution, and patent and business strategy. She began her legal career as an associate with Jones Day and later joined the Intellectual Property team at Calfee, Halter & Griswold.

Space is limited. Register at shakerlibrary.org or by calling 216-991-2030.

Joe "The Coupon Guy" Daugirdas Offers Tips to Make Travel Affordable



Travel can be difficult and expensive. So before you book that trip, come to the Main Library from 7-8:30 pm Tuesday, April 25 to meet Joe "The Coupon Guy" Daugirdas and get tips on how to make your trip more affordable.

Find out how to get the best deals on flights, cruises, lodging, transportation, and car rentals. Learn where to find a two-dollar round-trip bus ticket to Chicago, a cruise for 80 percent off or more, free flights, the best places to travel economically, and travel-saving tips. Daugirdas will also offer suggestions on how to save money on entertainment and dining once you arrive at your destination. Space is limited; please register at shakerlibrary.org or by calling 216-991-2030.

Cuba Today: An Inventory of Unexplored Possibilities

Many Americans are eager to visit Cuba before it changes, while many Cubans are very eager for that change. Join Damaris Pinales-Alpizar from 7-8:30 pm Tuesday, May 2 for an exploration of what the future may hold for Cuba.

Pinales-Alpizar is associate professor of Hispanic Studies (Cuban and Caribbean) at Case Western Reserve University. She has a BA in Journalism from the University of Havana, and advanced degrees in Hispanic Literature from the University of Iowa. She has worked as a journalist in Cuba, Belize, and Mexico.

Since 2010, she has worked at CWRU where she teaches courses on literature, film, Caribbean and Latin American culture, and literary theory. She currently serves as director of the study abroad program in Cuba at CWRU.

Register in advance online at shakerlibrary.org or by calling 216-991-2030.



Nonprofit News



"When the idea came up (Newman's Own) I said, 'Are you crazy? Stick my face on the label of salad dressing?' And then, of course, we got the whole idea of exploitation and how circular it is. Why not, really, go to the fullest length, and the silliest length, in exploiting yourself and turn the proceeds back to the community?" – Paul Newman

Starting a nonprofit takes a big heart, but the process can be confusing and challenging. Anita Fitch Khayat, an experienced business executive and SCORE counselor/mentor to entrepreneurs with SCORE, will offer two workshops

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at Main Library for those seeking to start a nonprofit organization.

From 7-8:30 pm Tuesday, May 9 she will speak on **How to Set Up a Nonprofit**. This session will address the requirements and how to recruit and orient board members as well as provide suggestions to ensure success.

From 7-8:30 pm Tuesday, May 16, she will speak about **How to Obtain Grants for Nonprofits**. Learn how to search for grant opportunities, how to assess whether you meet the eligibility requirements, and if so, how to approach writing an application.

Space is limited. Register at shakerlibrary.org or by calling 216-991-2030.

Creative Container Gardening with Master Gardeners

Whether you have a big yard, a small yard, or no yard, Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County will show you how to garden using containers when they visit the Library from 7-8:30 pm Thursday, May 11 at Main Library.

Learn all that you can grow in containers, including herbs, vegetables, annuals, and perennials. Master Gardeners will explain what you need to know to get started and successfully garden in containers throughout the year.

Please register at shakerlibrary.org or by calling, 216-991-2030.

Genealogy Programs at Main Library

The African-American Genealogical Society holds its monthly meetings the fourth Saturday of the month at Main Library. The meetings begin at 9:30 am and are immediately followed by a program, which lasts until 1 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend and no registration is required.

From 9:30 am-1 pm Saturday, May 27 Chris Staats presents **Genealogy: Power Platting - Technology Tools to Create Pictures from Property Descriptions**.

This presentation focuses on tools to help you plat property descriptions using software.

Staats is a Cleveland-based professional genealogical researcher, presenter, and writer. He has written articles for



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Family Tree Magazine, Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly, and other publications. He is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, chapter representative for the Great Lakes APG chapter, and Seminar Chairperson for the Western Reserve Historical Society's Genealogical Committee.

From 9:30 am-1 pm Saturday, June 24, join in the online presentation **Genealogy:**

I've Done My DNA. Now What? by Nicka Smith. Set the record straight in your family by learning how DNA can be used in combination with genealogy to break through centuries-old brick walls. Learn the basics of genetic

genealogy, how to read your results, and the skills needed to narrow down relations among your matches.

Smith is a professional photographer, speaker, and documentarian with extensive experience in African-ancestored genealogy, reverse genealogy, and family reunion planning and execution.



Programs for Seniors & Caregivers

How to Recognize and Avoid Elder Financial Exploitation



Seniors are often the target of medical identity theft, financial scams, fraud, and abuse. Robin

Jones, financial empowerment coach with Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People, will present a senior financial education workshop from 11 am to 12:30 pm Wednesday, April 12 at the Main Library.

The workshop, **Money Smart for Older Adults**, is developed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and is designed to raise awareness among older adults (62 and older) and their caregivers on how to prevent, identify, and respond to elder financial exploitation, plan for a secure financial future, and make informed financial decisions. Register early at shakerlibrary.org or by calling 216-991-2030.

Healthy U: Six Weeks to Better Health

The Library and the City of Shaker Heights will cosponsor a six-week series of classes on managing chronic disease that meets from 2:30-5 pm Wednesdays, April 26 to May 31 at Main Library.

This chronic disease self-management program, developed and licensed by Stanford University, is an interactive, six-week workshop for adults living with

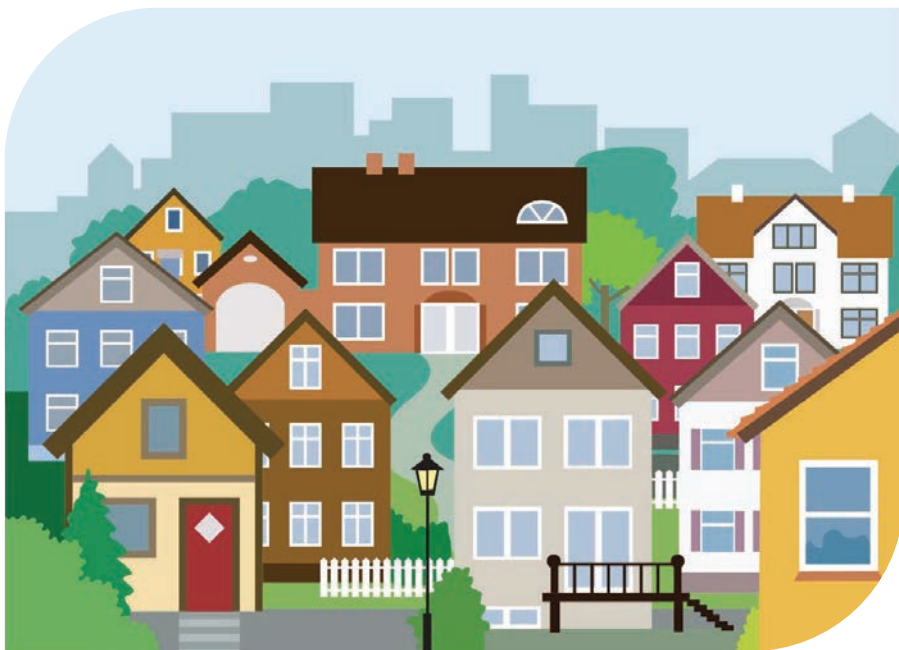
a chronic disease (high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, etc.) who want to improve their health and learn ways to do so.

Workshops are led by trained leaders from Fairhill Partners. Participants will learn how to eat healthfully, exercise, reduce stress, and how to talk with family and doctors.

All participants will



April is National Fair Housing Month



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take home a free relaxation CD and the book, *Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions*.

Fairhill Partners is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Programs are made possible in part by an Older Americans Act Grant from Ohio Department of Aging through the Western Reserve Area Agency On Aging, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Cleveland Foundation Encore Cleveland Initiative, gifts to the Fairhill Annual Fund, and Fairhill Partners' volunteers.

This series is limited to 10 to 15 adults and advance registration is required. Register online at shakerlibrary, or by calling, 216-991-2030.

Adult Classes & Enrichment Opportunities

Monday Morning Jump Start: 10 am-noon Mondays at Main Library. Career Transition Center offers an opportunity for job seekers to get together to network and discuss job searching strategies and successes.

ABLE/GED Class: 10 am-1 pm Mondays through Thursdays at Main Library.

Cuyahoga Community College offers free basic education classes to help students ages 16 and older to acquire the necessary skills to be successful in post-secondary education, training, and employment. Classes offer help with math, reading, and writing, and assist with GED® test preparation. Advanced registration is required online at tri-c.edu/able-ged-esol or by calling, 216-371-7138.

Chess Club: 6-8 pm Mondays, April 10 and 24, May 8 and 22 at Main Library.



@ Shaker Library cont. on page 61

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You may have noticed our trucks brandishing the new AAA Advanced Plumbing & Drain logo are hard at work maintaining the sewer lines and catch basins on Shaker city streets. Our name may have changed, but our commitment to the community hasn't. With 89 years of experience, we have been in more homes in Shaker, than any other plumbing contractor. No matter what your plumbing or sewer issue is, we can help.

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The advertisement for Neubert Painting is a vertical rectangular graphic. It features a large circular frame on the left containing a photo of a two-story house. The text "THE NEUBERT PAINTING ADVANTAGE" is written along the bottom curve of this circle. On the right side, there is another circular frame containing a photo of a staircase. The text "NEUBERTPAINTING.COM" is written along the top curve of this circle. The background is a mix of white and blue. The company name "Neubert PAINTING" is at the top in red and blue. Below it, the text "Serving Northeast Ohio Homeowners since 1975" is in black. A call to action box in the center contains the phone number "216-529-0360" and "Call us at" and "for a Free Consultation!". Below that, "Quality Painting." is in blue, followed by "THAT'S ALL WE DO!" in red. At the bottom, the address "Neubert Painting 12108 Madison Ave. • Lakewood, Ohio 44107" is listed.



A Force for Change



These pages, clockwise from top left: (l-r) Dispatchers Lisa Forgach, Karen Cendrowski, and Jodi Granda in the SHPD Communications Center; Officer Laura Iague; (l-r) Sgt. Marvin Lamielle, Juvenile Detective Jessica Page, and Keith Langford, coordinator of Family and Community Engagement for Shaker Schools; (l-r) Ouimet Smith, director of Student Affairs for Shaker Schools, Sgt. Marvin Lamielle, Chief Jeffrey DeMuth, and Commander Mike Rowe; McGruff the Crime Dog takes a bite out of crime with Shaker school children (photo courtesy SHPD); The firing range in the basement of SHPD.



The Shaker Heights Police Department is working to build positive relationships throughout the community. Its goal is to make sure residents can see and feel that connecting with the community – in everything from hiring new recruits to interactions with youth – is at the heart of police work in Shaker.

By Jennifer Kuhel | Photography by Angelo Merendino except where noted





When Shaker Heights Police Chief Jeffrey DeMuth was sworn in last year, he did so against the national backdrop of a growing anti-police sentiment and waning confidence in law enforcement.

He knew that Shaker Heights wasn't immune to those feelings. "If someone called the police and then had a bad experience, that experience sticks in their minds," DeMuth says. "We accept responsibility for that."

He also understands that the first step to improving a relationship and rebuilding trust is to confront issues honestly and to engage in the often uncomfortable conversations that demand listening and open-mindedness from both sides. It's hard, but necessary, he says.

And it's what's driving DeMuth and the police department towards something better for the community and for police: adopting a mindset that values customer service and emphasizes communication, cooperation, and legitimacy over commands, compliance, and authority.

The department's goal is to ensure residents can see, feel, and know that connecting with the community -- in everything from hiring new recruits to social media postings to interactions with youth -- is at the heart of better police work in Shaker.

A New Mission

Last fall, DeMuth assembled the department's supervisors and asked them to help him draft an updated mission statement. "The old one was very long. No one knew it, lived it, or understood it," he explains. "We wanted to create one that was impactful and memorable."

In the new mission statement, the words "partnership with the community" are front and center. The emphasis on education and development for officers is unmistakable. By the end of last year, the mission statement was printed and hung in poster-sized frames all around the department.

Making sure everyone in the department understood and internalized the mission was the first step. The next step was to craft a hiring process that attracted applicants who were simpatico with that mission.



Opposite page, upper left: (l-r) Ouimet Smith, Sgt. Lamielle, Chief DeMuth, Commander Rowe; This page, top right: Chief DeMuth with Ouimet Smith, Victor Ferrell, the High School's safety and security director (shaking hands); above right, Executive Assistant Soley O'Malley.



These pages from upper left: Dispatcher Granda confers with Jailer Robert Williams; Sketch artist Detective Walter Siegel and Commander John Cole at work; Officer Peter Stockhausen practices his marksmanship at the firing range.

The Right Hires

All sworn Shaker Heights police officers (and Fire Department employees, with some exceptions) are hired and promoted by the City's Civil Service Commission, a three-member commission whose members reflect the diversity of the City. Each member is appointed by the mayor to a six-year term. Current commission members are Ronald Fountain, Sandra Kiely Kolb, and Lee Trotter.

The hiring process begins with a public announcement of openings. Applicants must bring their completed applications in person to City Hall. The City accepts the first 50 completed applications and submits that list to the Civil Service Commission for approval. Approved applicants are tested and ranked for hiring, based on their scores.

Historically, these tests weren't always as helpful as the police department had hoped because they evaluated cognitive abilities, without assessing the emotional intelligence required of good police officers. The tests failed to give a complete picture of an applicant and presented a considerable obstacle to the department's desire to hire



the most diverse, multi-skilled police force possible.

So last year, DeMuth reached out to the City's Human Resource Manager, Sandra Middleton, for help in finding a test that would provide a better measure of a candidate's emotional maturity to handle police work.

"An applicant might be good at math, but that's not always a skill that will translate to being a good police officer. We wanted to learn about an applicant's practical police skills," explains Middleton. "We need quick thinkers, critical thinkers, and applicants who could make good decisions under pressure. And they needed to have solid communication skills because we want officers who can engage with the community."

After a month-long search, Middleton found a company that offered a structured interview format in which a specially trained, three-person panel of community stakeholders, residents, and police officers would ask applicants the same seven pre-scripted questions, many about race relations. The test was labor intensive, with an interview time of 30 minutes per applicant, which meant 25 hours of interviews. However, the upside was clear: Questions on the test would provide the interview panel with a better idea how an applicant would respond to a situation encountered as an officer in Shaker.

Middleton and DeMuth presented the test option to the Civil Service Commission last September and it was approved, making the SHPD the first police agency in the state to use a structured interview test for new officer candidates.

The police department announced a call for applicants in November and was hopeful the new test would provide better insights into the candidates. About 75 applicants responded to the call, many of them lining up at City Hall at midnight on the day applications were accepted.

"We were getting people in the door, but we didn't know if we had the right people taking the test," DeMuth says.

The department assembled the interview panels, which included residents, Shaker Schools officials, and police officers, trained them on the process, and set off to answer the Chief's lingering question.

Jim Norris, a 30-year Shaker resident and graduate of the Citizens Police Academy, served as a citizen panelist. (All citizen panelists are members of the Shaker Heights Citizens Police Alumni.) Norris recalls one applicant in particular who was pleasant and bright. "But after the interview, I wasn't sure that he could handle the types of confrontations he might see on the force. He certainly may be able to develop those skills, but he doesn't have them yet."

Christine Bretz, who participated in five interviews and is the Citizens Police Academy liaison to the City, said the interview process was well-defined with good results. Despite the time the interviews took, "we achieved the goal of getting the candidates we wanted," says Bretz. "I applaud the fact that SHPD wanted citizen involvement because, after all, we're the end-consumers of their service."

With a ranked list of passing applicants in hand, Middleton says that last November's candidate pool submitted for approval by the Civil Service Commission was among the most diverse in recent years, ensuring that the force would be made up of men and women from a range of races and ethnicities, just like the community itself. She concedes the process is rigorous, especially when compared to other communities, but adds that it's necessary if the police force is going to reflect the values and demographic makeup of Shaker's residents. "This is the Shaker way," Middleton explains. "We want top-notch officers."



(Social) Media Savvy

A 2015 social media survey by the International Association of Chiefs of Police revealed that 96 percent of all participating law enforcement agencies utilize social media. The most common use: assistance in criminal investigations. SHPD is no exception. Last year alone, more than half of all crime-related SHPD Facebook posts led to tips that helped solve the posted crime.

SHPD created its Facebook page in 2014, under the direction of late Police Chief D. Scott Lee. Lee wanted to use social media as a tool to fight crime, educate residents, and more importantly, to put a human face on the force. He appointed Sgt. Marvin Lamielle, who also leads the Adult Investigative Unit, to create and populate the page.

Since then, Lamielle has grown the number of followers on the SHPD Facebook page to more than 3,400 and adds an estimated 30 new followers weekly. In the year since Lamielle took over the department's Twitter account, he's also increased the department's followers to 850, from fewer than 400. "Social media is here to stay. Now,



These pages left to right: Dispatcher Forgach; Sgt. Lamielle, who handles the department's social media.



it's a matter of finding a way for it to fit into our community and then developing engagement around it," Lamielle says.

Scroll through the posts from the Department's Facebook page and there's a mix of photos of officer visits to schools, alerts that inform residents on crime prevention, and requests for crime-solving tips.

"With social media, we can reach a much larger and more diverse community," says Commander John Cole, who oversees the Investigative Bureau. "And it enables us to be much more transparent and far more reachable. In law enforcement, there are sensitive issues that require discretion – certain things we can share and certain things we just can't. Being a professional as well as progressive agency, we are determined to find that happy medium."

So far, resident response has been largely positive and enables police to interact with residents in ways not previously possible.

"We're humanizing our police officers," says Uniform Patrol Commander Mike Rowe, "But we're also throwing in messages that educate our customers because the better educated they are, the less crime we have. They're more eyes and ears for us."

Facebook Posts >

From the SHPD:

August 12, 2016: **Friday night deals!** Patrolman Ward noticed a lemonade stand on the corner of Lomond and Latimore tonight. Obviously he was going to share this great find with some of his friends. We have been told that the girls had to close shop for tonight, so we wonder which one of these two ate all their cookies! Hopefully you can check out their great deals again this weekend!

August 27, 2016: **As if eating ice cream and meeting new friends wasn't enough to pull some of our officers away.** Learning to play the Djembe drums with Sister Yvetta was an extra cool treat! Thanks for the invitation to the Sutton Road Ice Cream Social! Officers Evans and Cacic had a great time.

September 18, 2016: **If we were paid by smiles, these kids would make us rich!** The Huntington Road block party was a great time for us too! Thanks for having us over!

September 21, 2016: **On May 28, 2016, we held our first annual Shaker Heights Ribbon Run.** The Ribbon Run represents the fight against all forms of cancer, with 100% of all proceeds going to local cancer research.

October 2, 2016: **Several of our officers joined fellow police officers from neighboring agencies for a "coffee with a cop" event in Shaker Square.** We are happy we could join the other officers to meet and talk with local residents!

From Residents:

I would like to thank the officer who [saw] my mom struggling to get her footing due to the icy conditions. He got out of his car to help her through the ice... I'm very grateful for that! Thank you!
– Mike Weaver, February, 2015

Last night at our casual Friday night block dinner on Ardmore a Shaker policeman [Dave Emlaw] stopped by with his police dog Boch and spent a wonderful half hour talking to us all about his dog and answering questions about the dog and how they worked together. He was great with the (20 or so) kids....We all loved it. We are so lucky to have such caring professionals in our community.
– Shelli Blank Zasa, July 2016



A meeting among police officials, Shaker Schools representatives, and Shaker students in January. This page: (top) Keith Langford; (bottom) Commander Rowe. Opposite page: (l-r) Detective Eric Conwell, City Prosecutor Randolph Keller, Strike Force Sgt. Timothy Grafton, Sgt. Lamielle, and Commander Rowe. All photos by Kevin G. Reeves.

Connecting with Youth

Last fall, members of the Police Department met with officials from the Shaker Heights School District to discuss development of a joint police-Schools program called Police Awareness and Student Safety (PASS). PASS fosters relationships and improves interactions with students, faculty, and staff at all levels, but with a particular focus on high school students.



Keith Langford, coordinator of Family and Community Engagement for the District, hosted an open conversation at the high school in January, inviting all students to a discussion with school officials and police on building a stronger relationship.

“We understand in our City that there’s a real divide between the police department and younger people,” says DeMuth. “We want students to share their feelings and we want them to talk to us. To keep that communication open, we need to be less intimidating and more approachable.”

The discussion was a success, with more than 50 students of different grade levels and 10 police officers in attendance. Most of the students submitted questions anonymously on notecards or asked in person. “We had terrific engagement from both the students and police,” says Langford. “I think both parties came away with a better understanding of how each can improve the relationships moving forward.”

Many of the questions revealed students’ concerns with current events, including use of force and the Black Lives Matter movement. “We were able to see things through their eyes,” DeMuth says. “Part of our job was to dispel some of the myths about law enforcement generated by the media, and some of it was to acknowledge what’s been happening. But for an hour-long discussion, it was a great first step. We really want to continue to meet with a cross-section of students so that we can build these relationships and tear down any walls.”

Next, Langford has plans to start a PASS student advisory committee. He says about 20 students at the January meeting took applications to be on the advisory committee. The committee will work with SHPD and the Schools to bring about change that will make for a better relationship.

This page: Juvenile Detective Jessica Page addresses the student audience at the January meeting. Photo by Kevin G. Reeves. Opposite page: Citizens on Patrol: Margaret Hamilton, John Herrick, Jr., Allison Hart, Chris Ramsay, and Nancy Cockley.



Civic Duty, Civic Pride

The Shaker Heights Police Department's first true partnership with the community began in 1994, when the Citizens Police Academy convened for the first time. Its purpose has always been to give residents a behind-the-scenes look at police work in Shaker, including classroom lectures and visits to the field.

A year later, members of that first class formed the Shaker Heights Citizens Police Academy Alumni (SHCPA), which provides its members the opportunity to not merely help the police in building bridges to the community, but to become part of the bridge itself through the Police Partners program.

"The members of the SHCPA epitomize community values such as volunteerism, civic duty, and civic pride," says Chief of Police Jeffrey DeMuth. "I have said this many times and will say it here – we are a much better police department because of

Moving Forward Together

DeMuth says that noticeable change for residents is going to occur over time. While much of it involves intangibles, like improved relationships, some of it can be seen already. For example, all new police vehicles ordered are silver, not black and white. "It's softer and more approachable," he explains. "And it's a visual cue that tells people we're not like all other police departments. We want people to see that we're doing things differently."

If this all sounds like marketing, DeMuth says that's exactly what it is, but it's hardly smoke and mirrors. The department is committed to delivering a product that's better for residents.

"We understand that our message isn't always going to hit a resident directly," says the chief. "But if it starts at the top and we live and breathe our mission, vision, and values, and it works its way through the ranks, then the folks who need to experience it are going to see that change." **SL**





the existence of the SHCPA.”

John Herrick, Jr., president of the SHCPA, says, “We have a vested interest in the Citizens Police Academy because that’s where our members come from, but there is a distinction between the two organizations.”

The primary distinction is hands-on volunteer work for the SHPD, some of which requires special training.

The Citizens Police Academy is the first step toward that. The Academy is a free 10-week program sponsored by Shaker’s Police and Fire departments. It’s open to Shaker Heights residents and those who work in the City full-time. The weekly three-hour sessions cover topics such as criminal investigation, response to threats, the K-9 Unit, and tactics. Class size is limited to approximately 18 people.

On the other hand, the SHCPA is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to provide ongoing support and volunteer services to the police department. Membership in the Alumni is open only to graduates of the Citizens

Police Academy. The Alumni’s current membership is 65. (Herrick says that of the 11 graduates of the 2016 Citizens Police Academy, nine signed up for the Alumni.)

The SHCPA offers a variety of volunteer activities through the Police Partners program. Some activities are open to all active members. Others are offered through the Operational Support Group, which requires a formal application, interview and selection, background check, and a training period. Specialized activities include weapons cleaning, which speaks for itself, and Citizens on Patrol, where volunteers cruise Shaker streets in unmarked police cars on four-hour shifts.

“About two-thirds of our members do volunteer work,” Herrick says. “We logged about 3,500 volunteers hours in 2016. We log about 3,000 hours a year typically, but we had some extra hours last year because of the Republican National Convention.”

“Around the nation, the most progressive police departments are looking for ways to engage with the residents,” says Chief DeMuth. “Our department and SHCPA have been approached by numerous people attempting to start up similar organizations in their cities. They recognize our CPA as the model to follow.”

For detailed information on the Citizens Police Academy, the Citizens Police Alumni, and the Police Partners program, and how you can get involved, go to shakeronline.com.

The 2017 Citizens Police Academy

Since the Citizens Police Academy began in 1994, there have been 25 classes with more than 370 graduates. The 2017 Citizens Police Academy begins Thursday, September 7. Classes are held from 7-10 pm at the Police Department, 3355 Lee Road, each Thursday. There is no class on Thursday, October 12. Contact Debra Messing at 216-491-1240.

Helping **BABIES** Survive

By Beth Friedman-Romell



From left | Ellen Loughan, Sarah Garver Megenhardt, Elizabeth Dreyfuss, Celina Cunanan, Lily Dreyfuss, Blair Barnhart-Hinkle

Photograph by Greenstreet Studio



Ohio ranks near the top in the national infant mortality rate, especially among African Americans. Five Shaker Heights women have taken the first step to help reduce that catastrophic statistic.



How long does it take to start a non-profit organization?

About a month, if you've got a great idea and a group of dedicated, accomplished Shaker moms to work on it.

Blair Barnhart-Hinkle, Celina Cunanan, Elizabeth Dreyfuss, Sarah Garver Megenhardt, and Ellen Loughan gave birth this past October to Babies Need Boxes Ohio, which provides safe sleep spaces and childcare products to expectant mothers whose babies may be at risk of sleep-related death. Their goal is to reduce infant mortality while providing support to new parents.

The program is modeled on Finland's Baby Box tradition, which successfully reduced the country's infant mortality rate from one of the worst in the 1930s to one of the best in the world today. BNB Ohio was the second program of its kind in the U.S., after Twin Cities-area resident Danielle Selassie introduced the concept to Minnesota in 2015.

The need here is great. In 2015, Ohio ranked 45th in the nation for infant mortality, with an overall rate of 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. Moreover, there is a large racial disparity between white babies (5.5) and black babies (15.1). That means that in 2015, a black infant born in Ohio in 2015 was more than three times as likely to die as a white one. Tragically, the rate in the City of Cleveland is even worse – 20 deaths per 1,000 births in 2015, according to the Ohio Department of Public Health.

Hathaway Brown Early Childhood Educator Elizabeth Dreyfuss, and her 10-year-old daughter, Lily, wanted to help make a difference for some of these young families.

Lily recalls being excited at the idea of making change. "That's a big thing for me. It would help lives. Maybe it seems like infant death doesn't happen a lot, but my mom tells me it does."

Lily's mom continues, "I had heard back in graduate school about how Finland supports infant development and parents, and I had also seen the BBC article 'Why Finnish Babies Sleep in Cardboard Boxes.' I believe that a society that supports all mothers and children is going to thrive and do well."

Since 1937, the Finnish government has given all expectant mothers a maternity package consisting of clothing, outdoor gear, bathing products, bedding, and a small mattress. It's packed in a lightweight, safe, recyclable, portable cardboard box that becomes baby's first bed. The baby box is designed to give all children in Finland, regardless of background, an equal start in life, and Finnish families love it.

Dreyfuss suggested that Lily make a pitch to fund a Baby Box program at a girls' giving event last summer. When the group decided to fund a different charity, Lily was crushed.

At that point, Dreyfuss contacted Selassie in Minnesota, to find out what would be involved in starting a chapter in Cleveland.

"Danielle said, 'Get a board of trustees, get a collection space and storage space together, and let me know.' A lot of people call her, but very few follow through. We did it really fast, thanks to the most exceptional group of women I've ever seen."

An All-night Drive



A robust network of Shaker neighborhood friendships and the power of social media allowed Babies Need Boxes Ohio to coalesce as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in a matter of weeks. The impetus for such haste was Selassie's request that the group coordinate their first box distribution with a distribution she was planning for Minnesota on November 15 last year.

"That's what's so great about living in Shaker," says Dreyfuss, who grew up in and still resides in the Onaway neighborhood. "Within a week, we had a director of midwifery, someone with non-profit management experience, an MBA, a lawyer, and an early childhood educator, all a purse-throw away from each other."

Dreyfuss' sister, Ellen Loughan, was immediately sold on the idea, and soon recruited friends Sarah Garver Megenhardt, Blair Barnhardt-Hinkle, and Celina Cunanan to the board.

As a senior manager at Ernst and Young, Loughan offers organizational and business-practices expertise to the group. Non-profit expert Megenhardt has coordinated the group's social

media and fundraising efforts, along with securing storage space and creating their volunteer database. Barnhardt-Hinkle provides experience in government relations, grant writing, and non-profit management. She says that her role as director of Government Relations for the Cleveland Clinic allows her to combine her personal and professional interest in the issue.

Clinical expertise is the specialty of BNB Ohio board member Celina Cunanan, who directs the Division of Nurse-Midwifery at University Hospitals MacDonald Women's Hospital, and is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Case Western Reserve University. She also runs the CenteringPregnancy program at UH, which provides education and group support to expectant moms and their partners. Cunanan also facilitates BNB Ohio's connection to several community-based maternity care programs.

Executive Director Dreyfuss has been the main liaison with the Minnesota headquarters. Each of these busy working mothers donates many hours per week to the fledgling organization.

"Everything is volunteer-run," says Megenhardt. "It's a good number of hours, maybe five or 10 per week, more around the time of an event."

The group's first distribution event almost didn't happen. The women discovered that there had been a delay shipping the boxes from Minnesota. Celina recalls, "I had 20 moms and dads coming to the Centering Program for boxes – and no boxes coming. So I got on the phone with Danielle [Selassie], just to see if there was anything we could do. Danielle apologized, got off the phone, and then almost immediately texted me, 'I'm gonna drive them to you.' I texted, 'Oh, no, you're not'; she texted back, 'Oh, yes, I am!' She drove all night, got them here the day before the distribution, then turned around and drove back. That's dedication."

The distribution went off without any further glitches, on the same day as the distribution in Minnesota – November 15. It was held during a CenteringPregnancy session at UH's MacDonald Women's Hospital in University Circle.

Photo courtesy BNB Minnesota

It's Not Just About The Box



Babies Need Boxes Ohio's long-term goal is state-funded, universal box distribution.



Helping babies is an easy sell. BNB Ohio's Facebook page got 20,000 views in its first three days. The organization already has 40 names in its volunteer database, representing folks eager to help out putting together boxes, raising or donating money, and/or collecting items to augment the basic supplies. Megenhardt says that a fundraiser at Ben & Jerry's made more money than one of their best regular days. One of Dreyfuss' colleagues at Hathaway Brown is knitting baby caps for the boxes. The Children's Book Bank has agreed to donate culturally appropriate baby books, and the Northeast Ohio chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives has designated BNB Ohio as its charity recipient this year.

But the baby box is more than just nice swag. In order to receive her box, each mother completes an educational component about parenting, childcare, and safe sleep, either through a centering pregnancy program or on-line at Baby Box University, an education module offered free by the Baby Box Company, the exclusive supplier of the boxes.

According to Dreyfuss, the California-based Baby Box Company's business model is "profit with a purpose." In addition to their on-line retail business, the company donates boxes and basic supplies to Babies Need Boxes chapters in Ohio and Minnesota. The non-profit groups supplement the contents, and arrange for storage and distribution.

The basic box comes with diapers, books, a thermometer, a mattress and sheet, sleep sack, information packet, breastfeeding support items, and access to Baby Box University online. BNB Ohio supplements the box with more baby care products, teething rings, and postpartum care supplies. They try to tailor the contents to the individual families involved. For example, the group is currently collecting information packets and children's books written in Arabic for several Syrian refugee families.

For such a young organization, the board is already dreaming big. Dreyfuss hopes for Ohio-wide distribution. The long-term goal is state-funded, universal box distribution. "We'd like to supply boxes for anyone that has the need," says Dreyfuss.

Cunanan believes our society falls far short in post-partum care. "Some women are under so much stress. There may be violence in their community, they may lack food or have poor living conditions...there's no childcare, no breastfeeding support. As midwives, we're always wanting to do more."

Megenhardt says, "That post-partum period, especially for the first child – it doesn't matter how much support you have, it's still hard."

"It's not just about the box," says Selassie. "It's about education, parental support, lowering infant mortality. Everybody's raised up."

Organizationally, BNB Ohio plans to expand its partnership with other community organizations, and diversify the board to reflect the various communities they serve. Appreciation for diversity and altruism are values each woman mentioned as reasons why they choose to live in Shaker. Loughan concludes, "Truly, people are what holds a community together. We have some of the most amazing, talented, interesting, caring, diverse people right here in our backyards." **SL**

The Baby Box



Safe Sleep 101

“That's what's so great about living in Shaker. Within a week, we had a director of midwifery, someone with non-profit management experience, an MBA, a lawyer, and an early childhood educator, all a purse-throw away from each other.”

~Elizabeth Dreyfuss

The top factors contributing to infant mortality are prematurity, birth defects, and unsafe sleeping arrangements. The Baby Box and its contents conform to the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines for safe sleep for infants, which include:



Infants should sleep on their backs until they are a year old.



The sleep surface should be firm.



Keep soft objects and loose bedding out of the sleep area (i.e., no bumpers, stuffed animals, blankets, etc.).



Infants should sleep near their parents/caregivers on a separate surface designed for infants, for at least the first six months.



No wedges, supports, or positioners.



No swaddling.

In other words, do things completely the opposite of how we were raised, and baby will be fine. For complete recommendations, go to: aappublications.org/news/2016/10/24/SIDS102416

For information on how to get involved with Babies Need Boxes, contact Elizabeth Dreyfuss at elizabethdreyfuss@babiesneedboxes.org.

A Shaker Heights Schools education has never been better. You wouldn't know it from the State Report Card.

By Scott Stephens

Photos by Kevin G. Reeves, except where noted

Photo this page by Lewis Burrell

For the Shaker Schools, these are the good old days.

The District, a beacon of educational excellence for more than a century, continues to raise the bar for student success. Shaker's graduation rate is on the rise, and the achievement gap among groups of students is narrowing. ACT and SAT scores remain significantly above state and national averages. Last year, Shaker grads were accepted at every Ivy League school.

Shaker is one of just eight districts in North America to embed the prestigious International Baccalaureate at every grade level, and the District offers more advanced courses than any area school system. All elementary students are taught to speak Mandarin Chinese. Shaker students dominate competitions for the most elite scholarships, including Presidential, Gates Millennium, and National Merit scholarships.





Making the Grade



Academics aren't the only area in which Shaker students excel. The marching band, the state's largest, has appeared in concerts from China to Spain. The Chamber Orchestra was one of a handful of high school ensembles to appear at Lincoln Center in New York City. Routinely, Shaker students dominate regional art, drawing, and photography exhibitions. The student newspaper, *The Shakerite*, continues to garner state and national journalism awards. Last year, two Pulitzer Prize winners were Shaker Heights High School graduates.

But the rich, well-rounded education Shaker's families value doesn't translate well to the State Report Card, the Ohio Department of Education's annual statistical analysis of how the state's 610 school districts are performing. That contradiction is frustrating to Shaker administrators, teachers, parents, and civic leaders, who find themselves defending the District against mediocre report card "grades."

"The Shaker Schools have made significant gains in the past 10 years, especially in the past three years," said Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Superintendent of Schools. "It's very clear that a Shaker education provides students an educational environment that prepares them for the real world. Unfortunately, the State Report Card doesn't capture that excellence."



WHY

The State Report Card
Doesn't Measure
What Matters

ACHIEVEMENT

FACT: Academic achievement cannot be measured by a single data point taken on a single date. No district with more than an 18 percent poverty rate received an A on Indicators Met. Only two districts in the state received an A on the Performance Index Score.

GAP CLOSING

FACT: Shaker's Five-Year Strategic Plan identifies achievement gaps and has put strategies in place to close those gaps, such as developing a District-wide curriculum, building high-quality instruction through professional learning, the Innovative Center for Personalized Learning, and Shaker's First Class.

K-3 LITERACY

FACT: All Shaker third graders were promoted to the fourth grade, based on the state's own standards.

GRADUATION RATE

FACT: Shaker's graduation rate has risen steadily from 83 percent in 2011-12 to 90.6 percent in 2015-16.

PREPARED FOR SUCCESS

FACT: In 2016, Shaker grads were accepted at top colleges and universities – including all Ivy League colleges – and scored well above national averages on SAT and ACT exams.



Much of the disconnect stems from the fact that Ohio's report cards are based on standardized tests, a single data point taken each spring. Research shows that standardized tests track closely with a district's level of poverty. About a third of Shaker's students are identified as coming from low-income households, based on federal free and reduced lunch standards. While poverty should not be used as an excuse for academic failure, educators agree poverty is a significant barrier to successful learning. Shaker, however, is working diligently to minimize and remove that barrier.

An analysis conducted last fall by Kyle Newton, superintendent of the Warren Local School District, seems to drive home that point. Using state data, Newton found that no school with more than an 18 percent poverty rate received an "A" on Indicators Met. In Ohio, 524 school districts and 83 percent of the schools have poverty rates that exceed 18 percent. Only two districts in the state received an "A" on the Performance Index Score. One of those districts has a zero percent poverty rate; the other has a poverty rate of nine percent. None of the 100 poorest schools, based on property valuation, received above a "D" or an "F" on Indicators Met.

"Testing doesn't measure intelligence, it measures wealth," says State Board of Education member Meryl Johnson, whose district includes Shaker Heights. "We know good things are happening in our schools, and the State Report Card does not reflect that. It's driving the public away from our public schools, and I think that's dangerous and unfair."



Strength in Diversity

John Morris, a high school English teacher and president of the Shaker Heights Teachers Association, said the vast majority of teachers are deeply troubled by the State Report Card. Morris says teachers do not believe the grades represent the unique talents and abilities that their students possess.

“Many teachers find that the State Report Card favors districts with more homogeneous ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic school communities that teach more directly to tests and that do not value the diversity of student populations and educational experiences in the ways that Shaker does,” Morris says. “We know that diversity presents its challenges, but ultimately it represents the strength of our district. The State Report Card does not reflect this reality.”

Educators also complain that the test on which State Report Card grades are based has been changed for three consecutive years, as have the state’s learning objectives and benchmarks. Research shows that when a test is changed, scores almost always go down.

Former State Board of Education member Roslyn Painter-Goffi says it is important to put the State Report Card in its proper context. Painter-Goffi, whose tenure on the state board ended last year, said the report card is “just one snapshot” of a school district’s performance and quality.

“Our whole testing system environment over the past three years has been in a state of flux,” Painter-Goffi told *The Plain Dealer* in September. “These endless changes make it difficult for districts to compare results from previous years. It is by no means the only indicator of how well a district is doing.”

State education officials acknowledge that the report card is complicated and – with many educators – unpopular. When current report cards were released last

fall, Paulo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction, needed a 32-slide PowerPoint to explain how the document worked.

“There will likely be a lot of frustration expressed as a result of this release,” DeMaria said at the time. “It’s difficult when schools are working hard and seeing improvement locally but not yet seeing that growth reflected on the State Report Cards.”

Some superintendents fear the nuances of the measurements are lost on some of the general public, many of whom use the document to assess whether to move to a community and purchase a home.

“It’s our most public document,” says Linda Reid, superintendent of the South Euclid-Lyndhurst School District. “It’s what Zillow and real estate agents look at. That’s our reality.”

It Just Adds

UP

How Does Shaker Measure Up?

A comparison of area high schools.

	Shaker	Beachwood	Chagrin	Orange	Solon
AP Scholars with Distinction	84	39	*	62	220
AP Scholars with Honor	37	12	*	20	55
Presidential Scholars 2016	1	0	0	0	0
National Merit Winners 2016	3	0	0	0	2
National Merit Winners 2015	6	0	1	0	1
Gates Millennium Scholars 2016	1	0	0	0	0
Coca-Cola Scholarship Winners 2016	1	0	0	0	0
Number of Athletic Teams	29	23	22	22	27
SAT Average Class of 2015	1804	1883	1762	1788	1791
IB Diploma Offered	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Number of AP and IB courses combined	66	27	23	22	23

* Data recorded differently



True Accountability

Virtually all educators favor some kind of accountability system – they’re just not so sure that computer-based testing, the descendent of filling in bubbles with a No. 2 pencil, is the best way to get there. The most popular alternative assessments include student portfolios, projects, performance-based assessments, observations, or self- and peer-evaluations. These kinds of assessments measure a student’s ability to think critically, solve problems, and work with others – skills the state itself identifies as essential for success in the global, 21st century workplace.

“I believe students should have some choice of how they demonstrate mastery of a subject,” Hutchings says.

Shaker monitors the progress of its students three times a year through the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), which adapts to each student’s learning level and precisely measures student progress and growth for each individual.

“MAP is a tool that is not bound by political whims,” said Dr. Terri L. Breeden, Shaker’s Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. “It doesn’t just give you a number, but instead gives you a personalized prescription of next steps for each child.”

Last year, a Shaker Schools Task Force of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the new federal education law, recommended that the state use multiple measures, rather than a single standardized test, for report cards for schools and districts. It also recommended that districts accredited in research-based programs with high standards – such as Shaker’s International Baccalaureate framework – should be eligible for waivers in some state accountability measures.

The District is also in the third year of a Five-Year Strategic Plan that covers all areas of District work, including academics. As part of that plan, the District last fall established its own set of metrics designed to improve teaching and learning in every classroom.

“Accountability is fine, but there also needs to be some way the State Report Card records what the good districts are doing,” says Johnson, a teacher for 40 years before being elected to the State Board of Education. “As it is now, it’s causing parents and the community to lose faith in our schools.” **SL**



@ *Shaker Library* cont. from page 35

Teens and adults of all skill levels are invited to join a fun chess club moderated by Mike Reeves, a long-time instructor with Progress with Chess and the Shaker Heights High School Chess Club. No registration is required.

English as a Second Language: 7-8:30 pm Tuesdays at Main Library. Carolyn Steiner moderates ESL, a free program for those seeking to learn to read and speak English, which meets at 7 pm every Tuesday on the second floor of Main Library. No registration is required.



Knit Mornings: 10 am-noon Wednesdays, April 5, May 3, and June 7 at Main Library.

Knit Nights: 7-8:45 pm Wednesdays, April 19, May 17, and June 21 at Bertram Woods Branch.

Bring a project and get or give help at these creative mornings at Main Library moderated by Elfriede Heaney or evenings at Woods Branch moderated by Fern Braverman. No registration is required.

Coffee & Conversation: 10:30-11:30 am the first and third Thursdays at Main Library.

This is an informal opportunity to enjoy coffee and share information about mutual interests. Each session includes a presentation on a topic suggested by a participant followed by conversation. No registration is required.

Coloring Club for Adults: 10:30 am-noon Saturdays, April 15, May 13, and June 10 at Main Library. Adults are rediscovering the calming and creative pleasure of coloring. We'll provide coloring pages and colored pencils on a different theme each month. You're also welcome to bring your own sheets, books, or coloring supplies. Refreshments will be

served. No registration is required.

Life Writing: 2-3 pm Saturdays, April 1, May 6, and June 3 at Main Library.

Everyone has a story and the Life Writing class provides the incentive for you to write it. The Library provides the instructions, you provide the words. Write as little or as much as you like. No registration is required.

NEW! Mah Jongg for Beginners: 2-3:30 pm Saturday, May 13 at Main Library. This popular game requires skill, strategy, and calculation. Bring your friends and learn the basics of American-style Mah Jongg using the Library's set, which is also available to use anytime in the Library. Advance registration is required; register online at shakerlibrary.org or by calling, 216-991-2030.



@ *Shaker Library* cont. on page 66

A Shaker Heights Business



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Photography by Kevin Reeves
Interview by Jennifer Proe

Who: James Marr and Elaine Bayless

Where: Boulevard neighborhood

Business: Master Marr's Family Taekwon-do Center. The couple opened the center in 2014 after renovating a space on Chagrin Boulevard across from Shaker Town Center. They operated a successful Taekwon-do school in New Jersey for 11 years before moving to Shaker Heights to be closer to family.

Mission: To help each student reach his or her full potential, both mentally and physically, through the art of Taekwon-do, emphasizing the traditional values of discipline, consistent practice, hard work, and focus. We strive to give students a solid foundation for all aspects of life, ultimately promoting good citizenship.

What I Love About My Work: James: My best days at work are when we see the thriving community that we helped create. We have people from all walks of life and from many different backgrounds all working, practicing, and playing together. Our students make friends that they would never have met if not for our Taekwon-do school. ¶ Elaine: Most of all I love the people, particularly the kids. To see their self-confidence grow and watch them develop into leaders is very satisfying. I also enjoy a job that keeps me active. I'd be miserable stuck behind a desk all day.

Personal Background: Elaine: James and I met in New York City, where we were both theatre stage managers. That's an exciting job when you're young and single, but as a parent, it's really challenging with long hours, mostly evenings and weekends. Once our kids were in school, we felt like we rarely saw them. James decided to leave the theatre and follow his other passion of Taekwon-do. He ran the first Taekwon-do school solo for two years until we could afford for me to join him.

¶ James: I was pretty sure I didn't belong in Nebraska, where I grew up, and after a year at Bowling Green State University I moved to New York City to intern at The Juilliard School, which jump-started my theatre career. I met my Taekwon-do teacher, Grandmaster SJ Kim, in 1993 and knew he was the teacher for me. I met my future wife in 1994 and knew instantly that she was the one for me. From then on my path was set. The decision to open a Taekwon-do school was easy to make but hard to execute – as was the decision to move to Shaker. Leaving behind the school and community that we built was really hard, but I visit often and life in Ohio is great.





On Working and Living in Shaker Heights: James: I think Shaker Heights and Cleveland are fantastic. I love that we can go hear the Cleveland Orchestra and be home by 9 pm. I love that I can pick up the Rapid a block from my house and take it to an Indians game. I love that my children are in a good school that has far more opportunities than what was considered the “best public school” within an hour of NYC. And I love that when people in Shaker ask you how you are doing, they really want to know. ¶ Elaine: We moved here to be closer to my parents after my dad was diagnosed with cancer. We also wanted a strong school system for our children, Amelia and Duncan, then 15 and 12. My sister, Jean Bayless Albrecht, had lived here for over a decade and been singing Shaker’s praises, so we followed her lead. I love the North Union Farmer’s Market at Shaker Square, and the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, both of which are walking distance from our house. I’m at Heinen’s grocery store every other day (conveniently located across from my work), and our favorite lunch spot is J. Pistone’s.

Contact:

Master Marr’s Family Taekwon-do Center
16706 Chagrin Boulevard (parking off Kenyon Road)
(216) 921-KICK (5425) or marrtkd.com

Get Your Kicks in This Summer!

Master Marr’s Taekwon-do Summer Camp is a great way for beginners to “kick start” their training, and for experienced martial artists to hone their skills. ¶ Choose from two sessions for ages 5-14: June 5-9 and August 7-11, from 9 am to 12:30 pm or 9 am to 3 pm. Younger children come for a half-day of martial arts practice, age-appropriate conditioning, and challenging games. Older children stay after lunch for more training and to prepare a demonstration for friends and family. ¶ Breakout sessions allow instructors to individually tailor drills for each level, and campers with more experience will act as role models for newer students. ¶ Activities take place in an air-conditioned studio, as well as outside when weather permits. Campers will be physically and mentally active for much of the day, and should come prepared to work hard, make friends, and have fun! ¶ For more information or to register, call (216) 921-KICK (5425) or e-mail marrtkd@gmail.com. **SL**

Programs for Children, Teens & Families



Library and City's Tree Advisory Board present
the Fourth Annual Poster & PoeTREE Contest

*"It is a surprising and memorable,
as well as valuable experience,
to be lost in the woods any time."*

– Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), *Walden*

This year is the bicentennial of the birth of Henry David Thoreau, a great American philosopher who wrote about nature and its relationship to man. Children and teens are encouraged to use their imaginations to create a poster or write a poem about what trees mean to them and why they are valuable to our community. Poems may be typed or handwritten clearly on letter-sized paper. Poster entries should be completed on 11x17-inch poster paper or card stock.



Poster paper will be available in the Children's Room at both libraries from March 27-April 13 for those who wish to create posters in the Library.

Entries are due by 9 pm Thursday, April 13, 2017. Winners will be acknowledged at an awards presentation at 4:15 pm Thursday, April 27 at the Main Library.

Prizes include award certificates and native species trees donated by Gali's Florist and Garden Center. Entry forms are available at both libraries and at Gali's.

Art at the Library

The 18th Annual Barbara Luton Art Show is on display on the Main Library second floor Art Wall through April 29. Enjoy the talented artwork of your friends and neighbors. Art is available for sale and a portion of the sales benefits the Library's Endowment Fund.

The opening reception for **Art Exposed VIII**, an eclectic display of art created by students in the Shaker Heights High School Art Department, will be held from 6:30-8:30 pm Friday, May 5 at Main Library. Gallery goers will have the opportunity to purchase original jewelry created by the students from 7:30-8:15 pm. The exhibit will be on display through May 23.

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Anne Frank Writing Contest

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the publication of *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*. To mark that event, the Library and Friends of the Shaker Library, in conjunction with the Anne Frank Moral Courage Project, present the Anne Frank Writing Contest for youth in grades 3 through 12.



The Anne Frank Moral Courage Project is a nonprofit organization founded by Fern R. Levy, a Cleveland-area Jewish educator who specializes in Holocaust history. She is on the adjunct faculty at John Carroll University, where she teaches in the Tim Russert Department of Communication and Theatre Arts, and at Cuyahoga Community College, where she consults with students in the Writing Center on two of the campuses.

Entry forms and writing instructions are available online at shakerlibrary.org. Entries are due at either library by 5:30 pm Friday April 7. Winners will be announced at a reception at 4:30 pm Friday, April 21, at Main Library.

Prizes will be awarded in four different categories: grades 3 and 4, grades 5 and 6, grades 7 and 8, and grades 9 through 12.

Read Down Your Fines

Are those pesky library fines blocking your library card and you've got no way to pay? Read down your fines! Teens ages 12-17 can present their own library card to earn "dollars" they can use to pay off current overdue fines on Shaker Library material just by reading at the Library.

Reading Pays Off from 3-5 pm Thursdays, April 13 and May 18 at Woods Branch and from 3:30-5:30 pm Tuesdays, April 4 and May 16 at Main Library. Drop in and read down!

Tutoring Help

Falling behind in math and reading? Have a test coming and you need help studying? Have an essay to write, but not sure how to begin? Need some additional one-on-one help with your homework? Students in grades 7-12 can drop in at the Teen Center for a free tutoring session from 3:30-6 pm Mondays and Thursdays through May 11. Sign up at the Teen Center. No registration is required.



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JUNE 12–AUGUST 4, 2017

For more information and to register, please visit LaurelSchool.org/Summer or call 216.455.0154.

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One Lyman Circle
Shaker Heights, Ohio

BUTLER CAMPUS
7420 Fairmount Road
Russell Township, Ohio

In addition to a full complement of story times for babies and preschoolers, after-school programs for kids, and drop-in activities for teens in the Main Library Teen Center, the Library offers some special events for teens, children, and families this quarter.

Five-Minute Poetry: *I came, I read, I passed.* What's your 6-word memoir? Join in the Teen Center fun from 4-5 pm Wednesday, April 5 when everyone is a poet and poetry only takes five minutes to create! Compose a 6-word memoir, a Blackout Poem, or a Haiku. Plus starving poets get snacks!

Monday Craft Club at Main Library (Ages 6-11), 4:15-5 pm Mondays, April 3, 10, and 17. Are your fingers itching to do some stitching? Can you barely show restraint when it comes to pens and paint? If you love everything crafty, come to the Library for some after-school crafting and creative fun.

STEAM Programs (Grades 1-3), 4:15-5 pm Thursdays, April 6, 27, and May 11 and 25. In this variety of exciting programs, children can explore the nature of light by creating luminous, reflective patterns. They will learn about the layers of the ocean with a fun project, test their building skills using everyday objects, and make art using colorful circles based on the Fibonacci number sequence.

Wii Tuesdays at Main Library (Ages 6-11), 3:30-5 pm Tuesdays, April 11 and 25, May 9 and 23. Are you a Mario maniac? Super Smash superhero? Test your Wii skills against your friends and show off your skills.

Read to a Dog at Main Library (Grades K-6), 4-5:30 pm Thursdays, April 20, May 18, and June 15. Our doggy listeners are certified with Therapy Dogs International and love to listen to stories.

Register in person, online, or by phone beginning two weeks before each program.

A Color of His Own Sensory Play at Woods Branch (Ages 1-5), 10 am Thursday, May 18. All animals have colors of their own – except for chameleons! Join us for a special story time, when we will read Leo Lionni's *A Color of His Own*, then engage your senses in play to find your own special colors. Prepare to get messy! A change of clothes and plastic bag are recommended. For children 1-5 years.

A Shel Silverstein Scavenger Hunt: April 1-30. Follow the sidewalk to the end and into a marvelous, miraculous mystery. Long-Leg Lous and Short-Leg Sues alike will light up their attics as they uncover new treasures in the Children's Room at both Main Library and Woods Branch.

Quarterly Closings

Friday, April 7: Both libraries are closed for a staff professional development day.

Sunday, April 16: Main Library is closed for Easter.

May 7 – October 1: Main Library is closed on Sundays.

Monday, May 29: Both libraries are closed for Memorial Day.

Friday, June 16: Both libraries will delay opening until 10:30 am for a staff meeting.



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Co-ed, ages 3 & 4

Broad Horizons

Girls, Kindergarten – Grade 5

Broader Horizons

Girls, Grade 6 – 8

HB.edu/summer

19600 North Park Boulevard, Shaker Heights



The Bookshelf: Children's Books that Celebrate Diversity

Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay by Susan Hood, illustrated by Sally Wern Comport. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016. Digitally enhanced collages illustrate the story of Ada, a child who learns to play violin when an ecologist and musician arrives in her small village atop a landfill in Paraguay and organizes the Recycled Orchestra. Also available in a Spanish version.

Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle, illustrations by Rafael López. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015. This vibrantly illustrated picture book was inspired by a real Chinese-African-Cuban girl who persevered in her desire to play drums despite being told that drums are for boys. This 2016 Pura Belpré Award winner will inspire readers to follow their dreams.

George by Alex Gino. Scholastic Press, 2015. George really wants to be Charlotte the spider in the school play, but the teacher says it is a role for a girl. Winner of a Stonewall Book Award, this important book introduces middle grade readers to transgender issues and to a character struggling to be herself.

The Grand Mosque of Paris: A Story of How Muslims Rescued Jews During the Holocaust by Karen Gray Ruelle and Deborah Durland DeSaix. Holiday House, 2009. The authors did extensive research to bring to life this little-known, fascinating story of Muslims who risked their lives to save Jews during World War II.

A Poem for Peter: The Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of The Snowy Day by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher. Viking Books for Young Readers, 2016. The Snowy Day, winner of the Caldecott Medal, was the first mainstream book to feature an African-American child. Told in collage verse with illustrations reminiscent of Keats', Pinkney describes the life of a visionary artist struggling to overcome anti-Semitism and pave the way for diversity in children's literature.

Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat by Javaka Steptoe. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016. This colorful, expressive biography won the 2017 Caldecott Award for most distinguished American picture book for children. It's an especially pertinent choice for local readers during the Cleveland Museum of Art's exhibition of Basquiat's notebooks through April 23.

Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey by Margriet Ruurs, illustrations by Nizar Ali Badr, translated by Falah Raheem. Orca Book Publishers, 2016. Rama and her family are forced to flee their Syrian village to escape the civil war. Unique stone creations by the artist powerfully illustrate the family's harrowing journey.

Things Too Huge to Fix by Saying Sorry by Susan Vaught. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016. Grandma Bean asks her granddaughter, Dani, to find a letter and a key and Dani ends up unlocking the past. Part historical fiction, part mystery, this middle grade novel takes readers through the tumultuous times of the riots surrounding the desegregation of Ole Miss.

Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie, illustrated by Yuji Morales. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016. Thunder Boy Jr. is named after his father but wants a name that is uniquely his. The first picture book by award-winning author and Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Indian Sherman Alexie celebrates a special relationship between father and son.

Worm Loves Worm by J.J. Austrian, illustrated by Mike Curato. Balzer + Bray, 2016. Worm and Worm encounter a few difficulties when they decide to get married, but love wins in the end and they learn that if the old ways don't fit the situation, change them! **SL**



Venture Out

M: a Moreland Rising initiative

APRIL

Through 4/29

Barbara Luton Art Show

Enjoy the artwork of your friends and neighbors at the 18th annual juried art competition. All art is available for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefits the Library's Endowment Fund.

Shaker Library
16500 Van Aken Boulevard
216-991-2030 or shakerlibrary.org

Through 7/21

Above Stairs: Domestic Service in Shaker Heights exhibit

Discover the shift in how Shaker Heights homes were maintained in the first half of the 20th century. Open during museum hours. Free for members \$5/non-members; \$3/children ages 6-12; free for ages 5 and under.

Shaker Historical Society and Museum
16740 South Park Boulevard
216-921-1201
shakerhistoricalsociety.org

Saturdays

8 am-noon

North Union Farmers Market

The market operates its outdoor season with weekly highlights including Chef at the Market, fresh and local produce, meat, and dairy products from Ohio farms, artisan breads and pastries, and crafts by local artists.

Shaker Square
216-751-7656
northunionfarmersmarket.org

Tuesdays

M 7-10 pm

Makers' Alliance

The Makers' Alliance provides a physical space, access to tools and resources, and shared knowledge for people with interests in science, technology, and art.

The Dealership
3558 Lee Road
makersalliance.org

4/7

6-9 pm Friday

Pestival

This annual cocktail-style reception features delectable dishes made from the invasive, non-native garlic mustard by celebrated chefs from local restaurants. The evening also features wine from CLE Urban Winery, beer, and a signature cocktail created by Portside Distillery. Tickets: \$90/person for Meet the Chefs hour at 6 pm; \$65/person for Open Tasting starting at 7 pm.

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
2600 South Park Boulevard
216-321-5935 or shakerlakes.org

4/10 & 4/11

9 am-5 pm Monday & Tuesday

Used Toy Donation

Pass on the puzzles, Play-Doh, and princesses to benefit Family Connections' piggy bank. No plush animals or car seats, please.

Shaker Family Center Gym
19824 Sussex Road
216-921-2023 or familyconnections1.org

4/12 & 4/13

6-7:30 pm Wednesday

9 am-noon Thursday

Used Toy Sale

Sweet repeats! Buy gently used toys for the kids at great prices. Adult shoppers preferred; accompanying children must be supervised.

Shaker Family Center Gym
19824 Sussex Road
216-921-2023 or familyconnections1.org

4/13

7 pm Thursday

Broadsides & Ephemera with Live Music

A spoken word showcase by and for local writers. A perfect environment for shaping, sharing, and improving your poetry, prose, song, playwriting, and performance art. Come one, come all!

Loganberry Books
13015 Larchmere Boulevard
216-795-9800 or loganberrybooks.com



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4/20

9:30 am-8 pm Thursday

Friends of the Shaker Library Book Sale

Browse and buy from among a great variety of books, CDs, and DVDs in well-organized categories at prices as low as 50 cents. The sale continues from 9:30 am-4 pm Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22. Fill a bag of books for \$6 from 1:30-4 pm Sunday, April 23.

Shaker Library
16500 Van Aken Boulevard
216-991-2030 or shakerlibrary.org

4/20

4:30-6 pm Thursday

Caring for Your Collection Kickoff

Don't miss this special event to kick off Preservation Week. Join Shaker Historical Society board member Jack Thalman for a fascinating discussion of piano care. Broken keys? Scratched wood? Never fear, piano preservation is one of Jack's many passions. Members free; \$20/non-members. To register, email kbenedict@shakerhistory.org

Shaker Historical Society and Museum
16740 South Park Boulevard
216-921-1201 or shakerhistoricalsociety.org

4/22

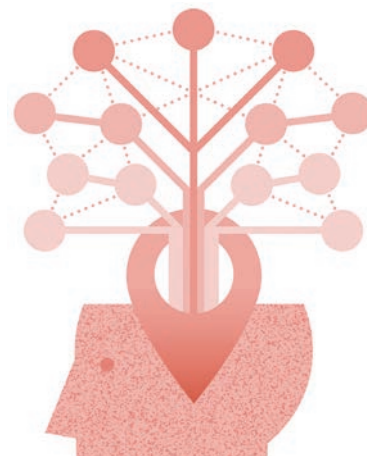
10 am-5 pm



Shaker Makers Event

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The Dealership
3558 Lee Road
216-589-9444 or shakeronline.com



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Grades 9-12, Gates Mills Campus

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440.423.2955 (Grade 9-12)

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4/25 & 4/28

1-3 pm Tuesday & Friday

Caring for Your Collection Workshops

During Preservation Week, learn how to care for your antiques, furniture, heirloom linens, and other treasures. Bring in one item from your collection on the day of your choice and learn about relevant conservation methods and home care. Each day will feature the care of a specific collection. Tuesday: general objets d'art, Wednesday: furniture and woodwork, Thursday: textiles, Friday: metalwork. Members free; \$20/non-members. To register, email kbenedict@shakerhistory.org

Shaker Historical Society and Museum
16740 South Park Boulevard
216-921-1201
shakerhistoricalsociety.org

4/25

6:30 pm Wednesday

Ice Cream Social and Band Concert

Strike up the band and scoop up the ice cream.

Shaker Heights High School
15911 Aldersyde Drive
216-295-4200 or shaker.org

May

5/2

Primary Election Day

Local Issue: Proposed Bond Issue and Tax Levy

Shaker Heights City School District

5/3

6-8 pm Wednesday

Altered Book Group:

Women, Words, Wisdom

Enjoy refreshments and conversation, and celebrate the work of the Altered Book Group with a show exploring women, words, and wisdom. Artists include Pat Pitingolo, C.T. Anson, Gene Epstein, Sarah Clague, Diane Britt, Phyllis Brody, and Anne Weissman. The show continues through June 4.

Loganberry Books Annex Gallery
13015 Larchmere Boulevard
216-795-9800 or loganberrybooks.com

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5/5

6:30-8:30 pm Friday

Art Exposed VIII

Shaker Heights High School art students display their talent. Enjoy the breadth and depth of the SHHS art program and purchase some original jewelry from 7:30-8:15. The show continues through May 23.

Shaker Library
16500 Van Aken Boulevard
216-991-2030 or shakerlibrary.org or shaker.org

5/5 & 5/6

7 pm Friday

1 pm & 7 pm Saturday

Annual Ice Spectacular

The Greatest Show on Earth! The City's annual ice show showcases the talents and skills of the Figure Skating Club and the Learn to Skate program.

Thornton Park
3301 Warrensville Center Road
216-491-1295

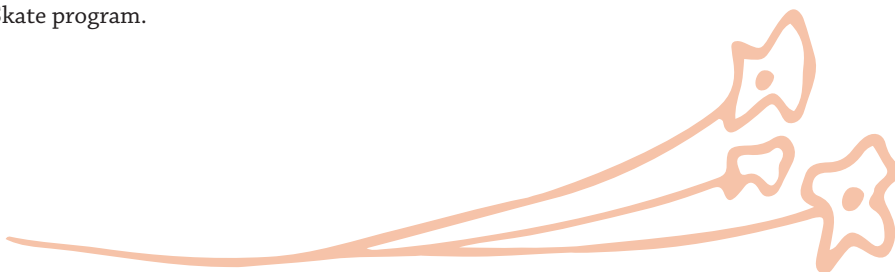
5/6

Noon-4 pm Saturday

Pioneer Day

Children of all ages are invited to learn about life on the American frontier. From hearth cooking to herbal medicines, share the experiences of Ralph and Laura Russell when they founded the North Union Shaker Community in 1822. \$20/person. Please register by May 1 by phone or email kbenedict@shakerhistory.org

Shaker Historical Society and Museum
16740 South Park Boulevard
216-921-1201
shakerhistoricalsociety.org



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5/13

9:30 am-1 pm Saturday

Plant Sale

Welcome spring with the Nature Center's 35th annual Plant Sale, which offers a variety of affordable herbs, vegetables, perennials, annuals, natives, and hanging baskets selected by experienced horticulturalists. Annuals can be purchased individually or in pre-arranged hanging baskets. The sale also includes the popular home-grown section, featuring plants grown and donated by local gardeners. Activities include a special Mother's Day kids' craft, refreshments, and vendors. Parking is available on nearby streets, and plant-carrying, curbside assistance is provided.

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
2600 South Park Boulevard
216-321-5935 or shakerlakes.org

5/19 & 5/20

4-8 pm Friday

9 am-noon Saturday

Shaker Heights High School PTO Flower Sale

Pre-order flowers by May 8; order forms are available at the SHHS PTO website at shaker.org, or email lmontenegro2418@gmail.com. Flowers will also be available to purchase on both sale dates. The PTO-sponsored fundraiser supports more than 40 student clubs and activities at the High School.

North Gym
15911 Aldersyde Drive
shaker.org



5/27

10 am-5 pm Saturday

Larchmere Boulevard Sidewalk Sale

Browse the boulevard for bargains, sales, and specials.

Larchmere Boulevard
216-229-8919

5/29

9 am Monday

Memorial Day Ceremony & Parade

Be part of Shaker's Memorial Day commemoration and ceremony at the flagpole in front of City Hall, then join friends and neighbors to watch the parade along Van Aken Boulevard to Thornton Park. To participate in the parade, register your group by May 2 at shakeronline.com or call Jeff Jacko, 216-491-2595. Volunteer servicemen and women are needed to carry flags from their branch of service, in uniform if possible. Call 216-491-1360 for more information.

216-491-2595 or shakeronline.com

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JUNE 6/2-8/12

Summer Reading

Sign up for summer reading fun at Shaker Library or Bertram Woods Branch. Don't let the summer find your reading sliding. The Library has a reading program for everyone.

Main Library
16500 Van Aken Boulevard
216-991-2030

Bertram Woods Branch
20600 Fayette Road
216-991-2421 or shakerlibrary.org

6/4

3:30 pm Sunday

Shaker Symphony Orchestra

Enjoy music performed by some of the area's finest musicians conducted by Allan Hinkle. Free.

Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Community Building
3450 Lee Road
216-491-1360 or shakeronline.com

6/5

6-8 pm Monday

Summer Reading Kick-off Party

Family fun for all.

Main Library
16500 Van Aken Boulevard
216-991-2030 or shakerlibrary.org

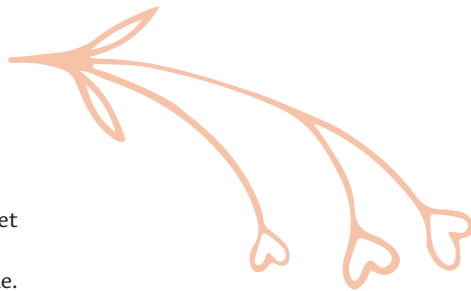
6/10

6-11 pm Saturday

Flyways not Highways, a Benefit for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

Join the Nature Center for a strolling street party filled with food, friends, and fun organized by co-chairs Meg DeGulis and Mity Fowler. Sponsorship Opportunities: Benefactor (\$10,000), Patron (\$5,000), Friend (\$3,500), Supporter (\$2,500). Tickets: \$275/person, includes a reserved seat and access to strolling stations and open bar; \$190/person, includes access to strolling stations and open bar.

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
2600 South Park Boulevard
216-321-5935 or shakerlakes.org



6/14

1-3 pm Wednesday

Senior Picnic

Enjoy a picnic among friends. \$9/person. Reservations are required by Wednesday, June 7. No refunds. For more information, call Andrea Jewett at 216-491-1351.

Colonnade
Stephanie Tubbs Jones
Community Building
3450 Lee Road
216-491-1360

6/17

1-10 pm Saturday

Porchfest

30 bands, 30 porches! Join in the fun of the annual Larchmere Porchfest, an event that celebrates community in a fun-loving summer way by bringing together musicians of all styles who will offer a sampling of their stuff on the various porches, driveways, balconies, and patios of those who live and work around Larchmere Boulevard. Bring a bike, or lawn chairs, and get a taste of Larchmere's upbeat vitality and offbeat charm.

Larchmere Boulevard
larchmereporchfest.org

6/18

7:30 am Sunday

15th Annual DadsDay Run

Dads are Rad! Meet at the Shaker Family Center for a 5.2-mile and 1-mile course through Shaker. Runners, walkers, and strollers welcome. Bring the kids for a free KidSprint. Awards to the top finishers plus refreshments. Register online at: www.hermescleveland.com. Registration/Check-in at 7:30 am. Race begins at 8:30 am.

Shaker Family Center
19824 Sussex Road
216-921-2023 or familyconnections1.org

6/18

Noon-5 pm Sunday

13th Annual Gracious Gardens of Shaker Heights Tour and Museum Open House

Rain or shine, take the tour of lovely gardens at select homes in Shaker, and then visit the Museum. Fun for all ages.

Shaker Historical Society and Museum
16740 South Park Boulevard
216-921-1201
shakerhistoricalsociety.org

6/19-8/17

Summer Outdoor Adventure Camp 2017

Children from 2 ½ years old to ninth grade will gain an appreciation for nature through hikes, games, crafts, and interactive learning.

Nature Center at Shaker Lakes
2600 South Park Boulevard
216-321-5935 or shakerlakes.org

6/26 & 6/30

11 am-3 pm Monday & Friday

Can You Dig It?

Shaker Archaeological Dig III

This week-long, co-ed camp for youth in grades 5-9 is offered in partnership with Master Teacher Rosemary Nemeth of Gesu School, Cuyahoga Community College, and Cleveland Institute of Art archaeologist Elizabeth Hoag. Who were the Shakers? Only their lakes, dams, and mill foundations remain, but what's under the ground? Drop off and pick up at the museum. \$40/day for members, \$50/day for non-members; or \$175 for the week for members; \$200/week for non-members. Please register by June 1 by calling, or email kbenedict@shakerhistory.org

Shaker Historical Society and Museum
16740 South Park Boulevard
216-921-1201
shakerhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming Summer Dates

7/4

Tuesday

Independence Day

Make a splash at Thornton Park Pool.

Thornton Park Pool
3301 Warrensville Center Road
216-491-1295 or shakeronline.com

7/10

7 pm Monday

PubReads

Join book lovers at the Academy Tavern for a bite and discussion of the book *Night* by Elie Wiesel.

Academy Tavern
12800 Larchmere Boulevard
216-991-2030 or shakerlibrary.org

Stay tuned...

Calling all Pedal Pushers!

Bike Shaker will ride again this summer. Tour dates are yet to be determined. Bring your bike or rent one. Watch the museum's website for details.

Shaker Historical Society and Museum
16740 South Park Blvd
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shakerhistoricalsociety.org **SL**



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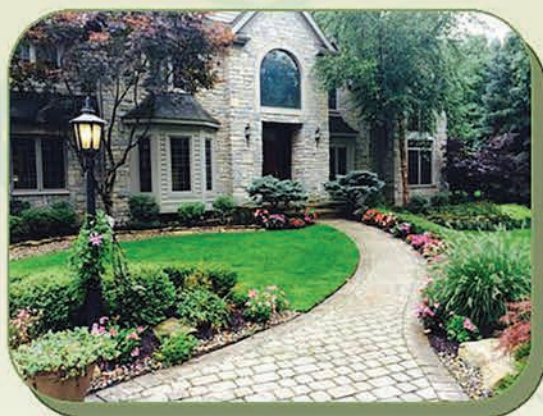
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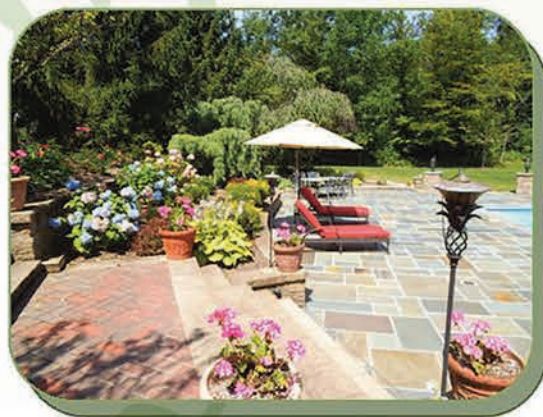
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Scene in Shaker



COFFEE | CAKES | COMMUNITY

By Beth Friedman-Romell • Photos by Gary Adams

Friends chatting animatedly.

Students poring over texts.

A man typing queries on his laptop.

Another stretched out by the fire
in a comfy chair, engrossed in a book.

Welcome to Gimme Java, the cozy cafe on the southeast corner of Van Aken Boulevard and Lee Road, described by regular Jody Weathers as “Shaker’s version of Cheers, only with coffee instead of alcohol.”

That’s just what proprietor Albert Plummer had in mind when he opened the business in October of 2013 with his sister, Vicki White, and fiancée, Shaker native Joann Dipasquale.

“Some folks been coming since Day 1. Every day. Money or not, here they come!” Plummer laughs.

Plummer’s boisterous laugh and exuberant personality set Gimme Java apart from the more corporate coffeeshouses he disdains. But the New Jersey native’s first career was quintessentially corporate – he was a Wall Street broker for 16 years, for the now-defunct firm Bear Stearns.

Plummer recalls that after the financial crash of 2008, “It was time for a change. I came to Ohio at the insistence of my sister. I was skeptical at first. But you know, I fell in love with the community.”

After a few years working in sales, Plummer felt ready to branch out on his own. He had once owned a bakery in West Orange, New Jersey and was searching for the right project to take on here. Then he met Joann Dipasquale, who had previously run her own nail salon in Bainbridge.

The two became partners in life and work as they implemented their vision. They found a space in the heart of Shaker, and transformed it by installing wood floors, increasing the amount of natural light, and selecting warm, inviting furniture and lighting.

Gimme Java soon began attracting the diverse clientele Plummer imagined, but a major setback occurred about six months after the shop opened, when a drunk driver crashed his jeep through a window during business hours. Miraculously, nobody was seriously hurt.

“I met the driver at the hearing,” Plummer says. “He was distraught at the time of the accident because his mom had just died. He drank too much. I told him I was glad nobody was hurt.” Then Plummer hugged him, to the astonishment of Shaker Heights Municipal Court Judge K.J. Montgomery.

Plummer’s huge heart makes customers feel as if they are in their own living room. He jokes, starts conversations, breaks into song [he had a brief musical career], and playfully chases little kids around the shop. Joann, who also has previous restaurant experience, says she is more comfortable running the “behind-the-scenes” aspects of the business.

Gimme Java is also a UPS access point for package pickup. Plummer explains that providing this service cuts down on theft of packages and generates business. But the social aspect of the shop is what matters most. “The coffee’s good; the conversation’s better,” he insists.

I can vouch personally for both, after sharing an afternoon of laughter and a great cup of coffee with the folks at Gimme Java. On my way out, I ended up in a long and thoughtful discussion about gun control with 2013 SHHS grad Ifeolu Claytor, now a senior at Miami University, who had dropped in to work on an online class. There’s something about the place that makes you want to stay and chat. **SL**

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