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features + departments

on the cover:

A capital campaign is underway to renovate the auditorium where accomplished performing arts alumni got their start. »

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Arthur Cohen,
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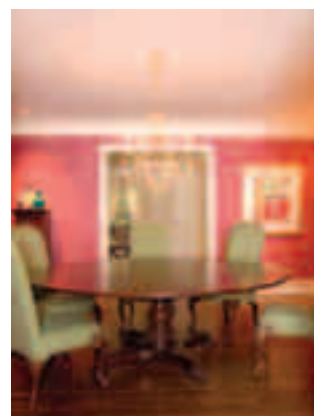


STRUTTING THEIR STUFF 40



TALES FROM THE URBAN FOREST 32

While some of us might tend to take our trees for granted, it takes money, work, and commitment to maintain them the Shaker Way.



THE \$2-MILLION MAKEOVER 26

Despite the renovation cost, the owners of this home avoided formality in favor of family friendliness.



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New Generation.

more departments:

City News 3
New basement
flooding policy.

Library News 16
Wanted: Input
from residents
re: Strategic Plan.

Out & About 63
Calendar of events.

Shaker Observer 76
Clover and Crabgrass
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APRIL / MAY 2007
VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

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Shaker Life does not accept unsolicited articles or other editorial material, but story suggestions from residents are welcome. Send suggestions by email or letter. Please do not call. We cannot respond to every suggestion or proposal but each will be given consideration. Freelancers: Please email the editor for guidelines.

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SHAKER LIFE is published six times per year by the City of Shaker Heights, Department of Communications & Outreach, and distributed free to residents of the Shaker Heights City School District.

For general City information, call (216) 491-1400 or
EMAIL: city.hall@shakeronline.com

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New Approach to Sewer Problems on Private Property Begins June 1

While basement flooding has affected a small number of residents – 200 of the 8500 single and two-family households in the City at most – the City’s response to those homeowners has taken a toll on all its taxpayers. When sewer crews respond to customer service calls about basement flooding, they are pulled from City-wide sewer prevention and maintenance duties in order to provide that relief.

For years, the City has responded to basement flood phone calls, day or night, without significant regard for whether the problem was private or public in origin. A small fee was assessed to resolve a private-side problem. The fees have done little to cover the cost of labor, especially for middle-of-the-night and weekend calls, or to free up sewer crews for the routine chores the total system requires.

To facilitate efficient and thorough maintenance of the City’s sewer system, new guidelines for response to sewer problems on the homeowner’s side of the property become effective June 1. A summary of those guidelines follows below. A more detailed version of the guidelines is available at shakeronline.com.

Sanitary and storm sewer lines, whether they exist individually or in a single (combination) line, travel underground from each house to the sidewalk/tree lawn area where they join the public sewer system (see illustration on page 4). This meeting point is called the test tee. Every homeowner should learn exactly where the home’s test tee is located. (See guidelines.) It is critical to determining the source of a basement backup problem.

Basement flooding may be the result of a blockage in the line, from tree roots or baby wipes, for example, or from heavy rain, during which the storm sewer becomes overfull and infiltrates the sanitary sewer, which is often located in the same trench. If the problem causing the backup occurs on the side of the line between the house and the test tee, that’s the private (homeowner’s) side of the system. If it occurs on the other side of the test tee, it’s the City’s responsibility.

Good news: Recent installation of newer, bigger, and better sanitary and storm sewer lines in several areas of the City will prevent basement flooding problems. Another sewer replacement project is scheduled to begin within the next twelve months.

Sewer crews freed from private property problem solving will be able to fully implement the City’s preventative maintenance program, which includes cleaning thousands of catch basins on streets and in parking lots and fields; jetting water at high pressure through over a million feet of sewer mains; catch basin repairs, manhole inspections and repairs, storm water outfall inspections; and root control.

In addition, there are measures residents can take to keep sewer woes at bay. (See sidebar.)

The City will no longer:

- Locate the test tee for the homeowner. Instead, a plumber and/or resident will be provided w/measurements, if available, from the customer service department. Otherwise, it is the homeowner’s responsibility to hire a contractor to locate it.

continued on page 4

Memorial Day Celebration: Thornton Park and Pool Grand Re-Opening

It won’t be business as usual come Memorial Day in Shaker Heights this year. That’s because Thornton Park, which re-opens on the holiday, has undergone a dramatic renovation. Don’t miss the fun, food and festivities planned to celebrate the event.

The frigid temperatures and snowfalls of winter may have kept residents indoors, but contractors swarmed over Thornton Park transforming it into a multi-purpose recreational facility.

Check out the rejuvenated 50-meter swimming pool with a new liner and shiny new stainless steel gutters; the current channel for lolling – grab a noodle provided for public use – or exercising; a brand new tot pool with a *sprayground*, a water enhanced playground for kids of (almost) all ages! Look for new pool decking and

continued on page 6

Rendering of Thornton’s new tot sprayground.



HOMEOWNER SEWER MAINTENANCE

- Have a qualified plumber inspect and provide regular snaking and preventative maintenance on your sewer lateral.
- Have the lateral inspected when purchasing a new home.
- Keep fats, oil and grease from drains and toilets. Build up can cause clogging in your laterals and City sewer pipelines.

To safely discard, put into a container, allow to harden, then include with trash.

- Do not flush paper towels or commercial wipes down toilets.
- Do not place trash, debris or grass clippings in catch basins.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste, such as pesticides, solvents, oils and paints, at County or City sponsored Round-Ups (see pages 6-7).

- Place a camera in the sewer to look for problems, i.e., “TV” the laterals on private property.
- Repair/replace test tees, with a limited number of exceptions.

During business hours, the City will respond to reports of sewer problems by going to the property to check for the problem, providing the test tee location is known (see first item, above). If the problem is found to be on the private property side, the City will refer the owner to a sewer contractor, though the owner may use any contractor. The owner is responsible for paying the contractor.

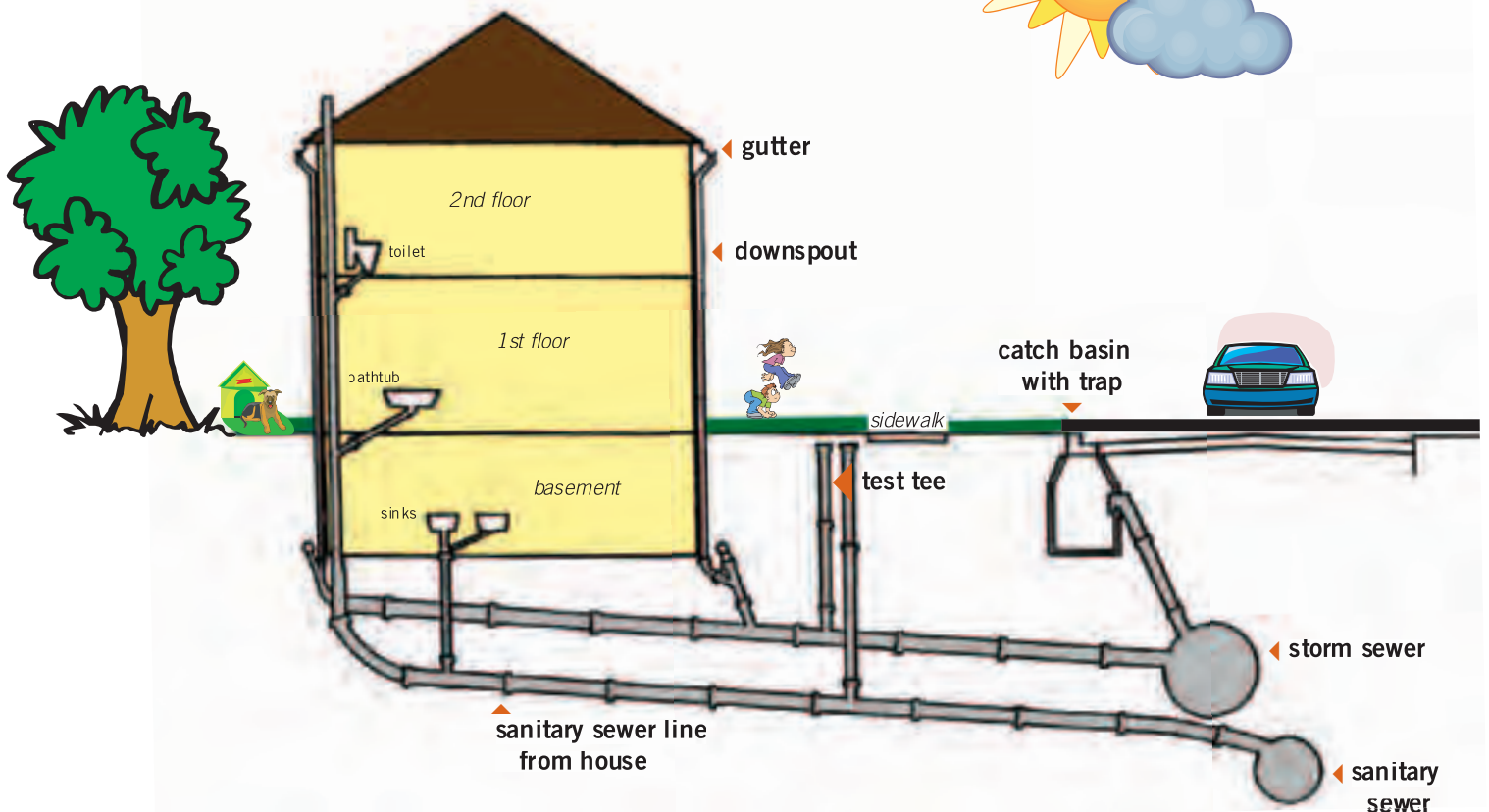
During non-business hours, the resident will be given a choice to wait until the next business day, when the City can check what the problem is, or to contact a private contractor at the owner’s cost.

Also during non-business hours, if the contractor finds the problem is on the City side, the contractor or homeowner may contact the City and the City’s representative will decide if an emergency situation exists. If it is not an emergency, the City will schedule a visit for the next business day.

If test tee/lateral work is needed on private property, the City will refer the owner to a sewer contractor.

The City’s list of contractors will be selected through a Request For Proposals (RFP) process. The RFP will seek contractors to provide basic services at a set fee(s) to any residents contacting them for a call in Shaker. The City will not pay anything to the selected contractors.

“SEWERS 101”



City Welcomes New Finance Director



John Lehman became the City's new Director of Finance last month. Lehman brings thirty years of experience in local government budget and financial management. Most recently he spent eight years as

the Director of the Department of Budget and Financial Management for the Portage County Board of Commissioners.

Since 2000, Lehman has also been an Associate Lecturer in Public Budgeting for the University of Akron's Masters of Public Administration (MPA) program.

Lehman earned his MPA in Urban Affairs from American University and his Bachelors in Community Studies and Sociology from MacMurray College in Illinois. Of particular interest to Shaker Heights is Lehman's recent experience as a project manager implementing the MUNIS financial accounting management information system. MUNIS is the financial system that Shaker will begin using in 2007.

The Ohio Government Finance Officers Association Innovations in Public Finance Award is among Lehman's professional awards. He also is a proven collaborator with a track record in leading and developing teams, both within his department and cross-departmentally. Lehman may be reached at 491-1420.

Remember our Fallen Soldiers on Memorial Day

Observance of the holiday is scheduled for Monday, May 28. City officials invite Shaker residents to join in the commemoration at City Hall, 3400 Lee Road, which includes placement of a wreath at the war memorial, and inspiring words from the day's special speaker. (Visit shakeronline.com a few weeks before the holiday to learn who will speak.)

The ceremony begins at 9 am and will be followed by a parade that leaves



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from City Hall and concludes at Thornton Park, where residents with ID swim free all day. Check shakeronline.com for updates on holiday plans. Please note that Thornton Park Grand Opening festivities will replace the Pancake Breakfast this year.

Thornton Park Re-Opening

continued from page 3

fencing. Plus, for easy access to those great French fries, the gate to the pool has been repositioned; visits to the snack bar can be made without paying a pool entrance fee. The new Thornton now hosts a 3,600 square foot skateboard park, a climbing wall, and an outdoor basketball court. And the park itself has a new main entrance and parking area located on Warrensville Center Road. All residents (please bring ID) swim free on Memorial Day. Your park awaits you!

Happenings at Thornton Park

Shaker's annual **Spring Ice Spectacular**, scheduled for May 4 and 5, is held at the Thornton Park Ice Arena. Details are still being worked out to make this show as memorable as in previous years. Check shakeronline.com to see what's in store. Tickets and time information: 491-1290.

Celebrate school's final days and the re-opening of Thornton Park at the **End of Year Party!** It's Thursday, June 14, from noon to 4 pm. Plan to enjoy a DJ, swimming, and plenty of fun. Regular pool admission applies.

Happenings at Shaker Community Building

South Pointe Hospital and the City of Shaker Heights invite you to **Spring into Health**, a community health and well-

ness fair, on Saturday April 14, from 10 am to 1 pm. Information on senior living options will be available and refreshments will be served. Free!

Enjoy a spring concert of musical selections from Gershwin tunes to Disney soundtrack favorites. **The Forest City Singers**, talented artists who perform throughout the greater Cleveland area, sing for you on Sunday, May 6, at 4 pm under the direction of Virginia Wieland Mast. Free!

Recycling Opportunities in April and May

Computer Round-Up

April 21, 22, 28 and 29

8 am to 4 pm

Public Works Service Yard

15600 Chagrin Boulevard

The following items are acceptable: computers, monitors, keyboards, software, printers, modems, and cell phones.

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April 28, 29, May 5 and 6

8 am to 4 pm

Public Works Service Yard

15600 Chagrin Boulevard

The following items are acceptable: propane tanks and gas cylinders, motor oil, antifreeze, batteries (lead acid, ni-cad, alkaline), tires, spray paint. NO LATEX PAINT.

Spring Cleaning:

Drop Off Large Items

April 1 to October 1

The Public Works Service Yard at 15600 Chagrin Boulevard accepts large items on Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. from April 1 to October 1. The drop off is available to Shaker residents only, who will be asked to present a driver's license and recent utility bill.

The following items are acceptable: appliances, furniture, building materials, and household items. The following items will not be accepted (see above recycling dates): paint, computers, insecticides/pesticides, yard/lawn waste, rocks, bricks, tires and recyclables.

Keep a Watchful Eye for Sudden Weather Changes

The welcome spring weather may also be accompanied by storms, including the possibility of tornados. Before you find yourself Oz-borne, the Shaker Heights Fire Department urges you to heed the warning signs of severe weather.

When conditions are favorable for dangerous weather, a **watch** may be issued for severe thunderstorms, flooding, or tornados. A watch means you have time to prepare. When severe weather actually occurs or is about to occur in the immediate area, a **warning** is issued.

Thunderstorms with high winds and lightening are common during spring and summer months. If a thunderstorm is approaching, seek shelter. A car with a hard top will protect you by virtue of its metal roof, not its tires, as is commonly believed. In the absence of shelter, stay away from taller trees and find



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lower ground. Do not use appliances, the phone, faucets or the shower.

Tornados commonly occur in the late afternoon from April through July, but they could happen at any time. Heavy rainfall and hail often precede a tornado, which may sound like an approaching train. The safest place is a basement, underneath something sturdy. If no basement is available, go to an interior room and stay away from any windows. If outside, immediately find a low area such as a ditch, but watch for rising water. Never remain in a car or try to outrun the storm.

Flash floods can be particularly dangerous, especially for drivers. Never drive into a flooded roadway. It takes a mere eight inches of water to float a car. Never let children play near streams or storm drains.

For additional information, visit the Red Cross at redcross.org or the National Weather Service at nws.noaa.gov.

Shaker News Briefs

- Shaker Heights was among six eastside communities granted nearly \$1 million by FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program for an emergency responder communications system. The award represents 80 percent of the cost to provide the communications system. The remaining 20 percent is provided by Cuyahoga County. The system enables first responders in the six communities to communicate on a single bandwidth during an emergency.

- Two new Firefighter/Paramedics joined the Shaker Heights Fire Department in late 2006. They are **Tony DeMeo** and **Steve Jurkowski**. The department also promoted Firefighter/Paramedic **Terry Cowoski** to Lieutenant.

- **Greg and Julia Meyer's** recent home remodeling, featured in the February issue of Shaker Life, won first place in the 2007 Professional Remodelers of Ohio competition for whole-house remodel under \$250,000. General contractor R.B. Schwarz, Inc. managed the renovation.

Mary Lou: A Step Above the Rest

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website:maryloumchenry.com
 email:mlmsmythecramer@aol.com

Seasonal Reminders

If it's Memorial Day in Shaker Heights, then it must be **BLOCK PARTY** season! With over ninety block parties each year, Shaker wears the block party crown.

City services for these events include: special brush pick-up and street cleaning beforehand, plus delivery of road barricades to block the street. When available, a police car or fire truck can be part of the fun. The Mayor and Council members are often available for impromptu Q&A sessions.

The key to securing what you need for your block party is to make your request **at least two weeks in advance** by either calling the City's Events Coordinator at 491-1354, or completing the online form at shakeronline.com.

This two-week cut-off is necessary in order to schedule staff and resources accordingly. Due to safety issues concerning police and fire routes through city streets, **ALL** block parties must be registered.

Bicycle Licensing: Licenses will be sold from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 14, May 5 and 19 in the Police Department lobby, 3355 Lee Road. Cost is \$5 (re-issued licenses are 50 cents); the owner's Social Security number will be recorded on the application.

Fire Hydrant Flushing: The Fire Department will flush hydrants from Monday, April 9 through Saturday, April 21.

Contractors: While the City cannot recommend contractors, lists of contractors registered with the City can be viewed at shakeronline.com. Lists are updated monthly.

Grass Ordinance: Grass may not be taller than 6 inches. Tall grass and weeds which are spreading or maturing seeds, or are about to do so, including ragweed, goldenrod, poison ivy, or poison oak are declared nuisances.

Landscaper Registration: Landscapers, tree maintenance and removal contractors must register with the Building Dept. (\$100 fee).

Picnic Permits: To reserve tables at Horseshoe Lake Park, call the Community Life Dept., 491-1295. ■



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REAL NUMBERS

Housing transfers between October 16 and December 31, 2006 appear below. The list includes only those properties that have had a prior sale within the last 10 years. Excluded are “quit claim” transfers as well as those resulting from foreclosure, in which the sale price is not reflective of the property value.

ADDRESS	2006 SALE PRICE	PRIOR SALE PRICE	ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST
3286 ABERDEEN ROAD	\$175,000	\$ 130,000 (2006)	\$24,000 (1951)
3134 ALBION ROAD	\$115,700	\$ 87,500 (1998)	\$10,000 (1945)
2820 BROXTON ROAD	\$460,000	\$ 435,000 (2002)	\$30,000 (1930)
23275 BRYDEN ROAD	\$190,000	\$ 180,000 (2005)	\$25,000 (1951)
3090 CHADBOURNE RD	\$344,500	\$ 229,000 (2003)	\$20,000 (1926)
3106 CHADBOURNE RD	\$287,000	\$ 235,000 (2002)	\$14,000 (1929)
3155 CHADBOURNE RD	\$329,000	\$ 255,000 (2001)	\$15,000 (1925)
3263 CHADBOURNE RD	\$229,000	\$ 210,000 (2000)	\$12,500 (1923)
18526 CHAGRIN BLVD	\$160,000	\$ 135,000 (2002)	N/A
3719 DALEFORD ROAD	\$135,000	\$ 91,500 (2002)	\$18,000 (1947)
3266 ELSMERE ROAD	\$280,000	\$ 296,000 (2002)	\$ 8,500 (1923)
3299 ELSMERE ROAD	\$223,900	\$ 254,000 (2004)	\$10,000 (1925)
2926 FONTENAY ROAD	\$585,000	\$ 375,000 (2001)	\$18,000 (1919)
3661 GRIDLEY ROAD	\$154,000	\$ 150,000 (1999)	\$ 8,500 (1939)
3585 HILDANA ROAD	\$ 78,115	\$ 66,667 (2005)	\$18,500 (1951)
3673 HILDANA ROAD	\$236,000	\$ 165,000 (2005)	\$11,000 (1926)
3534 INGLESIDE ROAD	\$179,500	\$ 127,000 (2001)	N/A
3620 INGLESIDE ROAD	\$152,000	\$ 110,000 (1997)	\$12,000 (1927)
3686 INGLESIDE ROAD	\$145,000	\$ 121,000 (2002)	\$20,000 (1953)
2558 KENDALL ROAD	\$123,000	\$ 97,000 (2000)	\$ 2,500 (1916)
3275 LANSMERE ROAD	\$128,000	\$ 146,000 (1998)	\$ 6,500 (1921)
3160 LUDLOW ROAD	\$125,000	\$ 126,000 (2005)	\$10,000 (1940)
3634 MENLO ROAD	\$ 83,800	\$ 75,000 (1997)	\$ 8,000 (1942)
3687 NORMANDY ROAD	\$150,000	\$ 112,500 (1996)	\$ 8,000 (1939)
14381 ONAWAY ROAD	\$276,000	\$ 115,000 (1998)	\$ 8,000 (1940)
16115 ONAWAY ROAD	\$459,000	\$ 290,000 (1998)	\$12,000 (1939)
2758 W PARK BLVD	\$636,000	\$ 685,000 (2000)	\$25,000 (1924)
17100 PARKLAND DR	\$900,000	\$1,015,000 (1999)	\$75,000 (1923)
3696 RAWNSDALE ROAD	\$222,800	\$ 211,000 (2001)	\$14,000 (1937)
3643 RIEDHAM ROAD	\$164,721	\$ 182,000 (2005)	\$12,000 (1930)
2895 SEDGEWICK ROAD	\$552,000	\$ 435,000 (2002)	\$30,000 (1923)
20100 SHAKER BLVD	\$580,000	\$ 415,500 (1998)	\$50,000 (1927)
3623 STOER ROAD	\$160,000	\$ 90,000 (1997)	\$ 8,000 (1945)
2681 WADSWORTH ROAD	\$430,000	\$ 429,500 (2006)	\$56,000 (1958)
22550 WESTCHESTER RD	\$230,000	\$ 217,500 (1997)	\$28,000 (1952)
23521 WIMBLEDON ROAD	\$250,000	\$ 252,500 (2003)	\$17,500 (1948)
17620 WINSLOW ROAD	\$225,000	\$ 220,000 (2004)	\$12,000 (1926)
2906 WOODBURY ROAD	\$260,000	\$ 237,500 (2001)	\$11,000 (1922)
20875 S WOODLAND ROAD	\$305,000	\$ 195,500 (2005)	\$12,000 (1941)

Information Source: First American Real Estate Solutions

Certified Shaker Properties

Certified Shaker is a program that recognizes rental properties that meet or exceed City standards of excellence, and encourages rental property owners to make their properties the best they can be.

Congratulations to the new Certified Shaker property owners, listed below. These listings represent some of the best rental properties the City has to offer. For a complete list of certified properties and to find out about vacancies, call 491-1332 or check the City’s website, shakeronline.com. To learn more about becoming certified, call 491-1370.

Rental Home

18224 Winslow (Ann Kieger)

Apartment

Almar Arms, 3261 Warrensville Center (owner, Kenneth Gee)

Help with Home Improvement Projects

’Tis the season for planning fix-ups and repairs. Remember that the City’s Housing Rehab Specialists are ready to help get those projects off the ground. Rehab Specialists provide experienced guidance and assistance with planning, financing, and contracting home improvements. Grants are available for qualified residents, including seniors. For more information, call 491-1370 or visit shakeronline.com under City Services, Home & Property Improvements.

continued on page 15

shaker neighborhoods

Boulevard

Fernway

LOMOND

Ludlow

Malvern

Mercer

Moreland

Onaway

Sussex



Lomond Blvd.

Year built: 1927

Square feet: 1669

Style: Colonial.

Cedar, shake siding with double-hung windows.



Scottsdale Blvd.

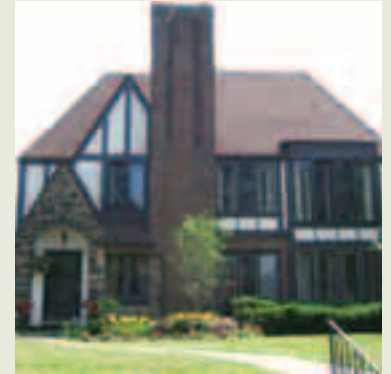
Year built: 1928

Square feet: 1850

Notable architect: Fox, Duthie & Foose

Style: French.

Steeply pitched hip roof; low set dormers. Brick walls and tower element.



Winslow Road

Year built: 1929

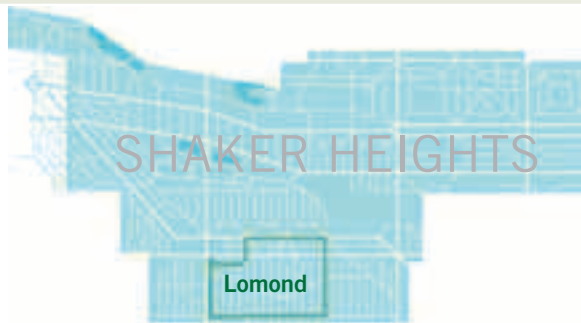
Square feet: 3730

Notable architect:

George Burrows

Style: English Tudor.

Two-family brick, stone, stucco, and half-timbering. Original leaded glass window in two different patterns. Decorative scrollwork over main entry.



Lomond neighborhood home values range from: \$160,000 to \$230,000.

Single Family home square footage ranges from: 1500 to 2700.

Looks like: A great place to find traditional

single family homes as well as truly unique two-family homes, many of which look just like their single family counterparts. You'll also find apartment buildings* with an architectural flair all their own.

Feels like: A family reunion at which the new generation finds itself alongside those with deep roots in the community. Lomond School events draw members of the greater neighborhood in addition to families of school children.

Walk to: Gridley Triangle park, Shaker Town Center shops and restaurants, and a number of Blue Line RTA stops.

Close to: Main Library, Shaker Community Building and several other Shaker neighborhoods – Lomond is centrally located.

Named for: Lomond Elementary, 17917 Lomond, built in 1928.

Community Association: Yes (check shakeronline.com for contact information).

* A neighborhood profile of rental and condominium units will appear in the December issue.



Traynham Road

Year built: 1939

Square feet: 2040

Style: Colonial.

Painted brick with decorative quoining (stone used to form an external corner) at the edges. Quoins are generally larger or of a different color than the rest of the wall. Slate roof.



Traver Road

Year built: 1928

Square feet: 2245

Style: French.

Brick home with wood shake roof.



Traver Road

Year built: 1928

Square feet: 2280

Notable architect:

George Burrows

Style: English.

Brick and stucco with case-ment windows wood shake roof. Decorative brick archway at main entrance.

Boulevard

Fernway

Lomond

Ludlow

Malvern

Mercer

Moreland

Onaway

SUSSEX

Sussex neighborhood home values range from: \$149,000 to \$245,000.

Single Family home square footage ranges from: 1600 to 3100.

Looks like: A guidebook of housing options including traditional single family homes, stunning new condominiums, apartments,* and some two-family homes.

Feels like: A hub of activity fueled by its walkability and regular neighborhood endeavors, such as the annual Ice Cream Social, the annual hanging of flower baskets from lampposts, or planting and tending a small triangle of public land.

Walk to: RTA Blue Line terminus; shops, banks and restaurants of the Warrensville/Van Aken district; Shaker Family Center.

Close to: Thornton Park; Tower East; bus lines and roadways to eastern suburbs, I-271 and I-480.

Named for: Sussex Elementary, 19824 Sussex, built in 1949 now Shaker Family Center.

Community Association: Yes (check shakeronline.com for contact information).

* A neighborhood profile of rental and condominium units will appear in the December issue.



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w/3,600 miles



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w/3,700 miles



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Classic



Saab

**2007
9-3**
2.0T
Automatic
moonroof

(#W7959)

courtesy unit
w/3,700 miles



39 mo. Lease*
\$2995
TOTAL due

**NOW ONLY:
\$269/mo.**

**2007
9-7x**
4.2i
all wheel drive
Leather
Moonroof

(#W7992)



39 mo. Lease*
\$2995
TOTAL due

**NOW ONLY:
\$359/mo.**

Classic SAAB

8490 Tyler Blvd. • Mentor • 440-255-6955

Plus taxes, title & license fees. Subject to credit approval. Lease includes 10,000 miles/yr, w/20¢/25¢ charge per mile extra. Prices subject to change due to publication's early deadlines. Please call for updates.

Promoting & Restoring Shaker's Gems on Thursday, April 26

Earn three State of Ohio approved CEUs attending this class for licensed agents or others interested in a guide to architectural styles, details and charm. Also learn about restoration, maintenance and related loan programs. Participants receive certificate and print materials. Class is from 9 am to noon. Non-refundable payment of \$25 is required in advance of class. Space is limited, so please register by April 19. For information about the class, call 491-1332.

To register, visit shakeronline.com (Arts & Leisure/Adults & Seniors) or call 491-1290. ■



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library news

Library Seeks Community Participation for Strategic Plan

The Library seeks residents' input for its strategic planning process and has scheduled a community meeting for 7 pm Thursday, April 12 at the Main Library. The meeting will be moderated by Library consultant Jeanne Goodrich.

The Strategic Planning Committee is chaired by Library trustee Jeanne Shatten and includes trustees Donna Whyte and Kurt Miller; Library director Luren Dickinson; staff members Issac Pulver and Lynne Miller; and community representatives Alisa Smith and Martha Sivertson.

Strategic planning is not only to prepare the Library for the future, but also to help determine how the Library can best serve the community. The committee also wants to learn how the Library can strengthen its connections with community partners and residents.

For more information on the Library's strategic planning process and to make comments, please visit www.shakerlibrary.org.

Work on the strategic plan is expected to be completed by the fall of 2007. For more information on the community meeting, please call 991-2030.

Artist Elise Newman Celebrates a Milestone Birthday at the Library

Elise Newman will celebrate a milestone 85th birthday with an art exhibit at the Main Library beginning May 11 through June 22. While her work is exhibited at the Library, her students' artwork will be on display at the Shaker Community Building. Residents are invited to meet the artist at a Milestone Birthday Reception at 2 pm Sunday, May 13 at the Main Library.

Newman studied at the Cleveland Institute of Art, as well as with artists Lowell Smith and Louis Bosa. Before making her home her studio, Newman owned an art gallery on Murray Hill for 25 years. A prolific artist, Newman's work is unique, vibrant and whimsical, ranging from traditional watercolor to quilt art, paper pulp, silk banners, and mono-printing among other mediums.

Her work has been widely exhibited in galleries in New York, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois. Locally, her work has appeared in Shaker Square Artists exhibits, the Mary Bell Gallery and the Brenda Koos Gallery, as well as in many juried award shows, including the Library's Barbara Luton Art Competition. Her work is also included in the Cleveland Museum of Art's Digital Museum of Modern Art.

In addition to creating and exhibiting her own art, Newman teaches arts and crafts and lectures frequently about art. A resident of the Mercer area, Newman has been a longtime arts advocate. When the Library opened its art gallery on the second floor of the Main Library in 1998, Newman helped to write the guidelines and establish procedures for art displays. Since then, many local artists have exhibited and sold artwork at the library.

For more information about the exhibit, call the Main Library at 991-2030.

Reader of the Month

MARTHA KUTIK

AGE: 51

LIVES IN: Malvern

USES: Main Library

OCCUPATION: President/CEO of Jennings Center for Older Adults in Garfield Heights.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE: United Way of Greater Cleveland, Senior Success Committee; Association of Ohio Philanthropic Homes and Services for the Aging (AOPHA); American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging; former PTO officer and volunteer at Onaway, Woodbury, Middle, and Shaker High schools.

READS: Historical fiction, biographies, any good story, and if there's a series of books, even better. I read much more often now that two of our three kids are at college.

ALL-TIME FAVORITE BOOK: Most recently, *The Agony and the Ecstasy* by Irving Stone.

OTHER FAVORITES: *The Color of Water* by James McBride; *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt; *The Bean Trees* by Barbara Kingsolver; *Stones from the River* by Ursula Hegi; *A Painted House* by John Grisham; *When All the World Was Young, Run With the Horsemen*, and *The Whisper of the River* by Ferroll Sams; *Daughter of Fortune* by Isabel Allende.

LIBRARY SERVICES: Books, audiobooks, movies, online services, and research. I attend meetings and enjoy the art exhibitions. And our great librarians!

INFLUENCES: I grew up in a family of readers. After dinner the house was as quiet as a library (used to be), as we all sat in the living room and read our books.

OTHER INTERESTS: Travel, photography, hiking in our national parks, needlework and cooking.

FAMILY: Husband, David Kutik, an attorney at Jones Day; daughters, Andrea (SHHS '04) and Lauren (SHHS '05); both students at Cornell University and Jenny, 17 (SHHS '07).

BRIEF BIO: Born in Madison, Wisconsin. Kutik also lived in St. Paul MN, Baltimore MD, Syracuse NY, Fairway KS, Fairfax VA, and Washington DC, before making Cleveland home 28 years ago.



The Bookshelf: Recent Gardening Books

\$64 Tomato by William Alexander. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2006.

Alexander's humorous memoir begins with the hope of a simple vegetable garden and ends with an investment of \$64 per tomato and a new outlook on horticulture.

All New Square Foot Gardening by Mel Bartholomew. Cool Springs Press, 2006.

The classic 1982 book has been updated in this edition, with new tricks and tips for getting the most out of your small, raised bed garden.

Beautiful Madness: One Man's Journey Through Other People's Gardens by James Dodson. Dutton, 2006.

Dodson's book chronicles a year of traveling around the world visiting gardens big and small and communing with many gardeners.

Down and Dirty: 43 Fun & Funky First-time Projects & Activities to Get You Gardening by Ellen Zachos. Storey Publishing, 2007.

Written by a Manhattan horticulturist, this book is filled with projects to encourage the novice gardener.

The Nature-Friendly Garden: Creating a Backyard Haven for Plants, Wildlife, and People by Marlene A. Condon. Stackpole Books, 2006.

Condon's book preaches cooperation with Mother Nature to create a low-impact lawn and garden that saves time and energy and welcomes natural plant and animal inhabitants.

Shade: Planting Solutions for Shady Gardens by Keith Wiley. Timber Press, 2006.

Shady areas of a garden can be a puzzle but Wiley's book attempts to help gardeners deal with the spots that don't get full sun. In addition to suggesting a variety of plants, the book offers tips on starting and sustaining a shade garden.

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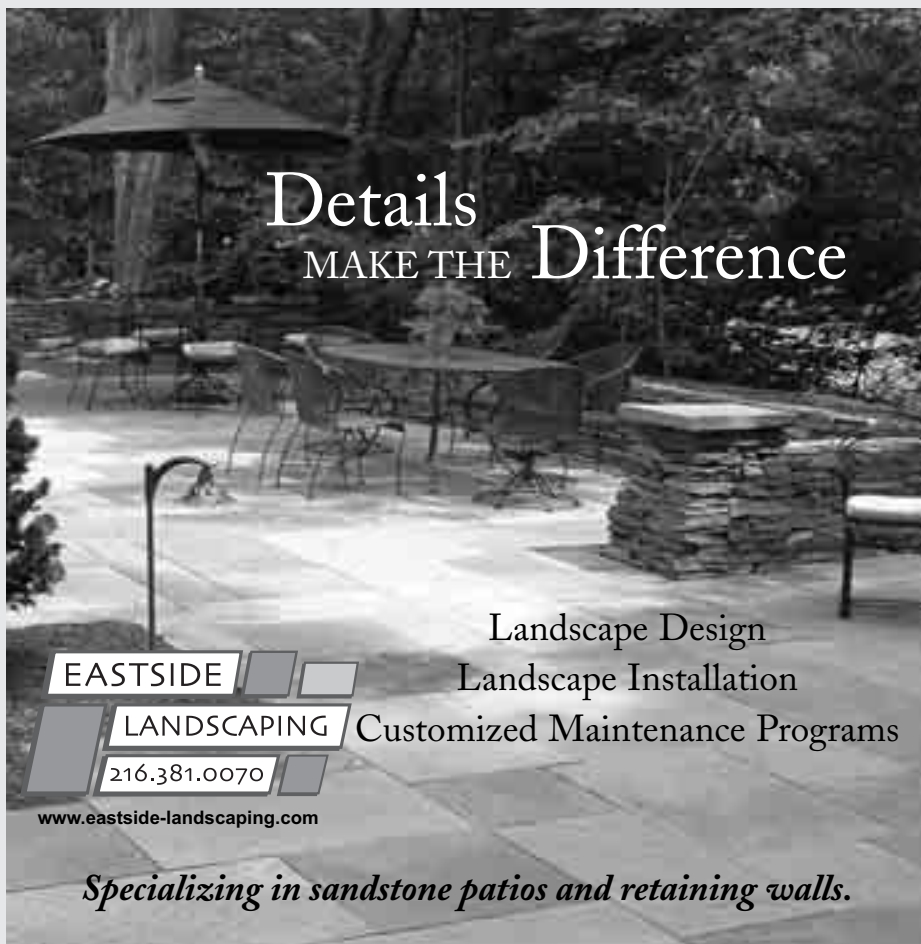




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library news

The Victory Garden Companion by Michael Weishan. Collins, 2007.

The companion to the PBS television series, this title provides a practical approach to gardening and includes useful photographs and illustrations to assist both new and experienced gardeners.

The Way We Garden Now by Katherine Whiteside. Clarkson Potter/Publishers, 2007.

Whiteside offers 41 gardening projects that even a beginner can tackle. Each project is accompanied by a list of items to purchase, tools needed, and step-by-step instruction with recipes and whimsical illustrations throughout.

The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques by Tracy Disabato-Aust. Timber Press, 2006.

This revised reference includes many new photographs and illustrations that enhance the practical techniques for caring for a perennial garden.

Teen Volunteer Fair

Don't miss this great opportunity for teens ages 12–18 to meet with representatives from many different area organizations including museums, hospitals, senior centers, youth centers and even The Cleveland Orchestra! Find the perfect volunteer opportunity for you, whether it's just for the summer or year 'round. Parents are welcome, and no registration is required.

Main Library
Community Rooms E & F.
6:30–8 pm Wednesday, April 25

**T.A.B. End-Of-Year
Pizza Party at Main Library**
Members can eat pizza, share memories and receive their Community Service Hour Certificates.
7:30–8:30 pm Tuesday, May 15

Spring Computer Class Schedule

A variety of free computer classes are offered to residents who would like to learn a new skill or hone an old one. Spring classes, descriptions, times, and registration dates are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, reservations can be made by calling the Computer Center at 991-2030 ext. 3185.

INTRODUCTION TO POWERPOINT

10-11:30 AM THURSDAY, APRIL 5

(Registration began March 26.)

10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, MAY 1

(Registration begins April 23.)

4-5:30 PM WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

(Registration begins April 30.)

Put some power in your presentations. Learn to create a slide show with text and graphics, how to edit slides and how to add sound and animation. Participants must be able to use the mouse.

INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL

4-5:30 PM THURSDAY, APRIL 5

(Registration began March 26.)

3-4:30 PM THURSDAY, APRIL 19

(Registration begins April 9.)

6:30-8 PM MONDAY, MAY 7

(Registration begins April 30.)

Learn the basics of spreadsheet construction, including formatting and design, printing options and using basic formulas. Participants must be comfortable using the mouse to drag and highlight.

INTERNET CLASS

10-11:30 AM SATURDAY, APRIL 7

(Registration began March 26.)

10-11:30 AM SATURDAY, MAY 12

(Registration begins April 30.)

Discover how to find and use a wide variety of online resources using Internet Explorer. Participants learn to "surf" the web to find sites of interest. Participants must be able to use the mouse to click, drag and highlight.

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INTRODUCTION TO ACCESS

4-5:30 PM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11
(Registration begins April 2.)
6:30-8 PM MONDAY, APRIL 16
(Registration begins April 9.)
10-11:30 AM WEDNESDAY, MAY 2
(Registration begins April 23.)
10-11:30 AM THURSDAY, MAY 10
(Registration begins April 30.)

Learn how to work with Microsoft's database program to build databases, enter information into a data table and generate simple queries and reports from the database. (Access is for those who have tried to use a spreadsheet to store data and found it to be somewhat inadequate.) Participants must be able to use the mouse.

GRAPHICS IN POWERPOINT

10-11:30 AM THURSDAY, APRIL 12
(Registration begins April 5.)
10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, MAY 8
(Registration begins April 30.)

Learn how to create effective PowerPoint presentations using clip art, Word Art and digital pictures. Please register by calling Walter Lesch at 991-2030 ext 3156.

MOUSE CLASS

10-11 AM SATURDAY, APRIL 14
(Registration begins April 2.)
10-11 AM SATURDAY, MAY 5
(Registration begins April 23.)

Limited to four people, this one-hour session is designed to help beginning computer users become comfortable using the mouse.

CHARTS AND GRAPHS IN EXCEL

4-5:30 PM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18
(Registration begins April 11.)
6:30-8 PM MONDAY, MAY 14
(Registration begins May 7.)

Explore the ways that Excel can display data as charts and graphs, and learn the basic ways data can be charted. Please register by calling Walter Lesch at 991-2030 ext. 3156.

ANIMATION IN POWERPOINT

10-11:30 AM THURSDAY, APRIL 19
(Registration begins April 11.)
10-11:30 AM TUESDAY, MAY 15
(Registration begins May 7.)

Everything in a slide, including text boxes, can be animated to some extent. Learn the important objects that can be added to a slide and the menus that control them. Please register by calling Walter Lesch at 991-2030 ext 3156.

WEB EMAIL

10-11:30 AM SATURDAY, APRIL 21
(Registration begins April 9.)
10-11:30 AM SATURDAY, MAY 19
(Registration begins May 7.)

Learn to access a web e-mail account to send and receive messages. Participants must be able to use the mouse to click, drag and highlight and be able to navigate websites and type URLs.



In summer,
the song
sings itself.

—William C. Williams

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 - Summer School (*high school courses*)
 - Prep for Success (*math, English, study skills*)

With the exception of GLEE, all camps are coed. Camps will be held at either Laurel's Shaker Heights campus or at its 140-acre outdoor campus in Russell Township.

For more information and to request a detailed brochure and application, contact Larry Goodman at Laurel School
216.464.1441 x 166 ~ lgoodman@laurelschool.org

PLAY AND LEARN STATION AT MAIN LIBRARY

A free, preschool, literacy-based program that offers interactive opportunities for parents or caregivers to explore with their children, ages birth to 5 years old.

10 am–noon Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

6–8 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

No registration is required.

PLAY AND LEARN BABIES AT MAIN LIBRARY

A special room filled with literacy-based activities just for babies from birth to 18 months and their parents or caregivers.

10 am–noon Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

6–8 pm Thursdays

PLAY AND LEARN STATION FOR CAREGIVERS AT MAIN LIBRARY

A preschool, literacy-based program that offers interactive opportunities for caregivers to explore with their children, ages birth to 5 years old.

10 am–noon Wednesdays

A one-time registration is required; please call Shaker Family Center, 921-2023.

PRESCHOOL STORIES

Stories and fun for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds.

10 am or 1:30 pm Mondays at Main Library

1:30 pm Tuesdays or 10 am Thursdays at Woods Branch

No registration required; however, large groups must make special arrangements.

No programs the week of April 2–9.

This program ends the week of April 30.

EVENING PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT WOODS BRANCH

Stories, songs and crafts for 3-, 4-, and 5 year-olds.

7 pm Wednesdays, April 4 & May 2

Registration begins two weeks before each storytime.

PAJAMA STORIES AT WOODS BRANCH

Stories for children ages 3 and up with or without an adult.

7:15 pm Mondays, April 16 & May 21.

Registration begins two weeks before each program.

MAKE-IT-TAKE-IT WEEK AT WOODS BRANCH

April 16–21: Decorate a bookmark to use in your favorite book.

May 14–19: Create a beautiful flower made from colorful tissues.

SPRING WONDERS AT WOODS BRANCH

For children in grades K–4

Spring is here and there are new baby animals in our neighborhood. A representative from the Nature Center of Shaker Lakes talks about their newest arrivals, plus we play a game and make a craft.

2–2:45 pm Wednesday, April 4

Registration began March 21.

MAKE A MOTHER'S DAY GIFT AT WOODS BRANCH

For youth ages 10–13. Just in time for Mother's Day! Make Mom her own personalized paperback book cover. The library will provide all of the supplies. You supply the creativity.

Registration begins April 26; call 991-2421.

4–5 pm Thursday, May 10.



INTERNET WITH EXPERTS:

GOOGLEMANIA™

6:30–8 PM MONDAY, APRIL 23

(Registration begins April 16.)

Learn advanced Internet searching strategies using the Google™ search engine, including tips and tricks for finding better information more quickly and efficiently.

MAIL MERGE

4–5:30 PM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

(Registration begins April 16.)

Mail Merge utilizes list and address information from many sources like Word tables, Excel sheets, and Access Data Tables. We'll explore them all, and more. Please register by calling Walter Lesch at 991-2030 ext 3156.

WORKING WITH WINDOWS

4–5:30 PM THURSDAY, APRIL 26

(Registration begins April 16.)

4–5:30 PM WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

(Registration begins May 7.)

Learn how Windows works! This class is designed for those who can navigate the Internet and work with programs, but are not comfortable using multiple windows. Participants must be able to use the mouse.

BASIC WORD PROCESSING

10–11:30 AM SATURDAY, APRIL 28

(Registration begins April 16.)

10–11:30 AM SATURDAY, MAY 26

(Registration begins May 14.)

Learn to format documents using Microsoft Word software. Participants must be comfortable using the mouse.

CREATING AND USING FORMS IN ACCESS

4–5:30 PM WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

(Registration begins April 23.)

Forms do two things in database programs. They make data entry less risky to the database and allow users to see data from the database. This 90-minute class explores designing and using forms in an

Access database. Please register by calling Walter Lesch at 991-2030 ext. 3156.

INTERNET WITH EXPERTS:

SCAMS & SPAM

4–5:30 PM FRIDAY, MAY 4

(Registration begins April 23.)

Criminals and thieves use the Internet to bilk people out of money and to obtain personal information. In addition to these scams, more than half of all email traffic is composed of unsolicited bulk commercial email called SPAM. Learn the scams to help recognize and avoid them. Please register by calling Walter Lesch at 991-2030 ext 3156.

GRAPHICS AND CLIP ART IN WORD

4–5:30 PM FRIDAY, MAY 11

(Registration begins April 30.)

This class explores the various types of objects that can be inserted into a document, including text boxes, clip art, word art, and other graphics. Please register



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library news

by calling Walter Lesch at 991-2030 ext. 3156.

CREATING & USING QUERIES IN ACCESS

10–11:30 AM THURSDAY, MAY 17

(Registration begins May 7.)

Queries are questions asked of databases, the results of which can be exciting or trivial. Learn how to ask the questions correctly in this class. Please register by calling Walter Lesch at 991-2030 ext. 3156.

Upcoming Book Discussions

MAIN LIBRARY

10 AM TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Daniel Isn't Talking by Marti Leimbach

Dealing with an autistic child throws a family into crisis.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Mystery Book Discussion

Borkman's Point by Hakan Nesser

A Swedish inspector encounters dubious personalities and obscure motives as he tracks down a killer.

NOON SATURDAY, APRIL 14

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon

An autistic boy tries to track down the killer of his neighbor's poodle.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, APRIL 24

On Beauty by Zadie Smith

Two academics at odds with each other are the focus of this homage to E. M. Forester.

10 AM TUESDAY, MAY 8

The Speed of Dark by Elizabeth Moon

This near-future award winner explores the world of an autistic man who is offered a cure for his condition.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, MAY 8

A Field of Darkness by Cornelia Read

A debutante tries to solve a 20-year-old murder in the attempt to exonerate her cousin.

NOON SATURDAY, MAY 12

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder

This is the true story of Dr. Paul Farmer who struggles to change medicine and humanity in Haiti.

7:30 PM TUESDAY, MAY 22

The Children's Blizzard by David Laskin

The year was 1888, and on an unseasonably warm January day, many children chose not to wear coats or hats, boots or gloves. Suddenly, a terrible storm hit.

WOODS BRANCH

2 PM MONDAY, APRIL 9

The Color of Water by James McBride

This is a black man's tribute to his white mother who raised 12 children and instilled in them a respect for education, religion—and their mother.

2 PM MONDAY, MAY 14

The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

A poor but adventurous Kentucky girl manages to avoid pregnancy in high school and earns enough money to buy a car and travel west.

Friends Collaborates with the Nature Center on Our Global Imperative Conversation

Friends of the Library and the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes are collaborating on an environmental series centering on the film *An Inconvenient Truth*, which will be shown at 6 pm Tuesday, April 3. The movie and popcorn are free courtesy of the Friends, and the Nature Center will distribute a list of things residents can do to help save the earth.

At 8 pm, following the movie, Jeff Friedman will lead the "Our Global Imperative" conversation. Friedman is a citizen activist who is one of a thousand trained Inconvenient Truth National Leaders who tell the story about planet sustainability challenges and solutions. Learn more about The Climate Project at www.theclimateproject.org.

The Friends are also sponsoring an Earth Day Poster Contest for youth in

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than well said."*

— Benjamin Franklin

In 2006, the Library celebrated Benjamin Franklin's 300th birthday and based its programs on one of Franklin's aphorisms: *"Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."*

Year in Review — 2006

Library Use

Items Borrowed	1,300,020
Registered Library Card Holders	27,557
Library Visitors	656,032
Study Room Use	2,701
Meeting Room Bookings	871
Children's Program Attendance	13,958
Summer Reading Participants	1,835
Reference Questions Answered	228,256
Directional Questions Answered	532,896

Play and Learn Station

Sessions	287
Attendance	14,505

Library Collections

Books	216,248
Magazine Subscriptions	750
Music and Audiobooks	28,835
Movies	29,129



GENERAL FUND REVENUE

State Income Tax	1,849,598
Real Estate Property Tax	3,058,154
Tangible Personal Property Tax	64,545
Patron Fines and Fees	129,169
Investment Interest	71,755
Contributions	660
Miscellaneous Revenue	71,426
Total	5,245,307



State Income Tax (35%)
Real Estate Property Tax (58%)
Tangible Personal Property Tax (1%)
Patron Fines and Fees (2%)
Investment Interest (1%)
Contributions (Less than 1%)
Miscellaneous Revenue (1%)

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Benefits	3,468,694
Supplies	88,247
Purchased & Contracted Service	617,352
Library Material & Information	925,055
Capital Outlay	171,097
Other	10,486
Interfund Transfers	179,727
Total	5,470,660



Salaries & Benefits (63%)
Supplies (2%)
Purchased & Contracted Services (11%)
Library Material & Information (17%)
Capital Outlay (3%)
Other (Less than 1%)
Interfund Transfers (3%)

Healthy

Health Insurance & Women's Health Issues
The New Food Pyramid
The Health Burdens of Poor Sleep
Skin Care and Melanoma
Immunizations for All Ages
Health Benefits of Vegetarianism
Alternative Health Therapies
Brain Health
Food for Fines: Food Drive
Type 2 Diabetes: Keys to Prevention

Wealthy

Municipal Bond Investing
Business Planning Made Simple
Networking Fair: Is Direct Sales for You?
Business Planning Made Simple
Energy Efficiency for Older & Historic Houses
Hands-On Marketing Workshop
Family Business - The History of Heinen's
Minority Business and Government Support
Legal Planning for Small Businesses

Wise

Low-Down on Downloading Books
Ben Franklin's 300 Birthday Party
Open Mic Aphorisms
Not Your Mother's Needlepoint
Knit Nights
Traditional African Baby Naming Ceremony
Post-Integration Legacy of Black Americans
CSU's Jazz Heritage Orchestra
Electronic Voting Machine Demonstrations
The Open Road: Audiobooks
Midyear Salute to Benjamin Franklin
National Underwear Day
Celebrations: Passport to India, China, Japan and Vietnam - Asian cultural series
Reading Group Round Up
Workshops on the Writing Life
Women in the Judiciary: Judges Panel
Kwanzaa Celebration

Annual Events

Poetry Not in the Woods, Northeast
Ohio's longest running poetry series
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Writing Contest
Preschool Fair
Teen Volunteer Fair
Ice Cream Social
Summer Reading Program
Constitution Read Aloud
Local Author & Book Fair

Ongoing Programs

For Adults
Book Discussions and Reader's Advisory
Computer Classes
One-to-One Small Business Counseling
Free Movies at Main Library

For Teens

Teen Advisory Board
Teen Center
SAT Preparation

For Children

Play & Learn Station
Storytimes
Afterschool Authors
Writers' Club
American Girl Doll programs
Wild in the Library programs

Library Improvements/Additions

Painting and carpeting of the Main Library's first floor
Dedication of the New Flagpole at Main Library
State Roof Restoration at Main Library
New front doors at Main Library

grades four, five and six. Entry forms are available at both libraries and at the Nature Center. The contest deadline is 6 pm Thursday, April 19. Winners will be announced at the Nature Center's Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 21. Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners, and the winning entries will be displayed at the Nature Center. For more information, call the Main Library, 991-2030.

Friends Book Sale Set for April 19-22

Friends of the Shaker Library hold their Annual Spring Book Sale on the second floor of the Main Library from April 19 through April 22. The sale offers thousands of books in dozens of categories at prices as low as 50¢.

The Book Sale is from 4 to 8 pm Thursday, April 19 for Friends members. (Those who are not members may join at the door for a small fee.) The sale opens

to the public from 9 am to 4 pm Friday, April 20 and from 9 am to 4 pm Saturday, April 21. From 1 to 3 pm Sunday, April 22, the Friends will hold their popular "Bag Sale" when all bags of books cost a mere \$5.

For more information about the sale, call the Shaker Library at 991-2030.

Footnotes

- Rick Santich of MotoPhoto and Portrait Studio will present a digital photography workshop at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 8 at the Main Library. Residents can call 991-2030 to register.

- Poetry Back in the Woods is the longest running poetry series in Northeast Ohio. Meet local poets and hear them read their original poetry at 7 pm Tuesday, April 17 and May 8 at Bertram Woods Branch. For more information about the series, call 991-2421.

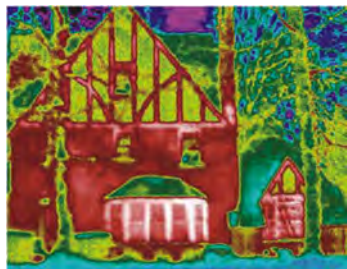
- Artwork juried into the 8th Annual

Barbara Luton Art Competition is currently on exhibit at the Main Library through May 6.

- Residents can watch free newly released movies at 6:30 pm Thursdays, April 5 and May 3 and 17 at Main Library and at 6:30 pm Thursday, April 19 at Woods Branch. For a list of movies, call the Main Library.

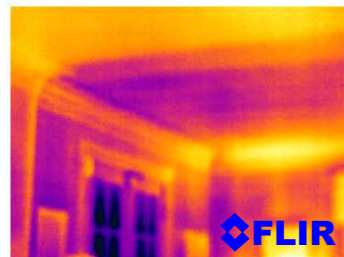
- It's **National Library Week** April 15 to 21! Shaker Library transforms communities. Children come together with their new favorite book, students come together with new ideas, seniors come together with distant family by using free Internet access, and entrepreneurs come together with the stats to help finalize business plans. Libraries come together with communities through websites, where people can connect to databases, online catalogs and more. Be sure to visit Shaker Library in person or online today. It's where community and ideas come together. ■

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the *\$2 million* makeover

Despite the renovation cost, the owners of this South Park home purposefully avoided formality in favor of family friendliness.

by **gay eyerman**

photos by green street studio

There's a quiet revolution taking place on a particular block of South Park Boulevard. About half of the homes between Courtland and Eaton have changed owners over the past year. That's six out of thirteen homes. It's an unusual occurrence on any block. But this isn't just any block. This block is home to the most concentrated area of high-priced real estate in the Cleveland area. And now South Park has become home to a whole new generation of Shaker Heights families.

New homeowners with young children have moved in and renovated many of the stately homes that make up this stunning boulevard of architectural jewels. Longtime residents have moved on, including recognizable names like Al Lerner, Art Modell, and Milton Wolf. According to one resident, new owners have more than doubled the number of children on the block – from six to 14.

These families are forming a community in a place where privacy is a high priority. One mother has started a street roster for a block party. But beyond building a sense of community, new homeowners have invested in high-priced renovations. Many of these grand homes, with sale prices typically between \$1 and \$2 million, have been updated to improve looks, convenience, and technology.



The owners transformed an area with four walled-off sections into a spacious Tuscan-style kitchen. Two islands make for easy food prep and “sports-practice-conflicted family dinners.”





State-of-the-art “smart house” technology is everywhere, with motion sensors in all the rooms, computer-controlled heating and cooling, and a security system that can be remotely accessed.

The owners of the South Park home featured here went “over the top,” in their words, with high-end improvements. They gutted most of the house’s interior and spent more than \$2 million to rebuild it. Then they had to put the 1928 brick Georgian on the market last fall because of career demands.

Despite the price tag of the renovations, the owners aimed for a family friendly home, not a showcase house. They chose to buy in Shaker Heights instead of building new in a more rural area because, as experienced renovators, they enjoy remodeling older homes. More important, they value the advantages of a diverse population

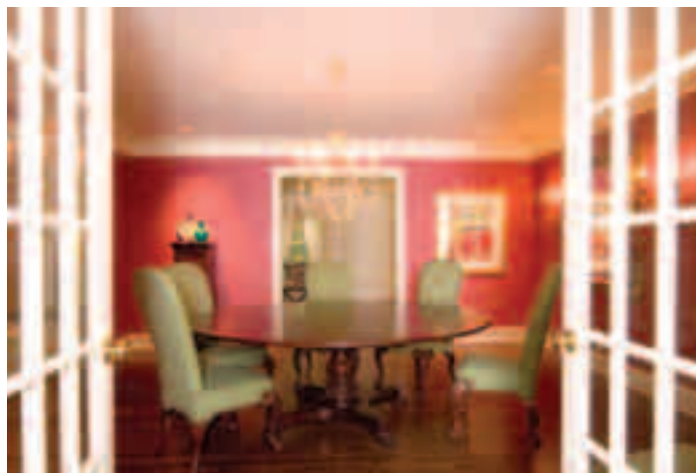


and the convenience of living close to everything from soccer fields to shopping and friends.

“In Shaker you can get the privacy and the land but you also get sidewalks,” says the owner. “Kids can ride bikes around the corner to school or Arabica or Ben & Jerry’s.”

State-of-the-art “smart house” technology is everywhere, with motion sensors in all the rooms, a computer-controlled heating, cooling, and security system that can be remotely accessed, dimmers on every light, built-in plasma TVs, a whole-house sound system, and radiant heating in the floors of every room.

continued on page 52

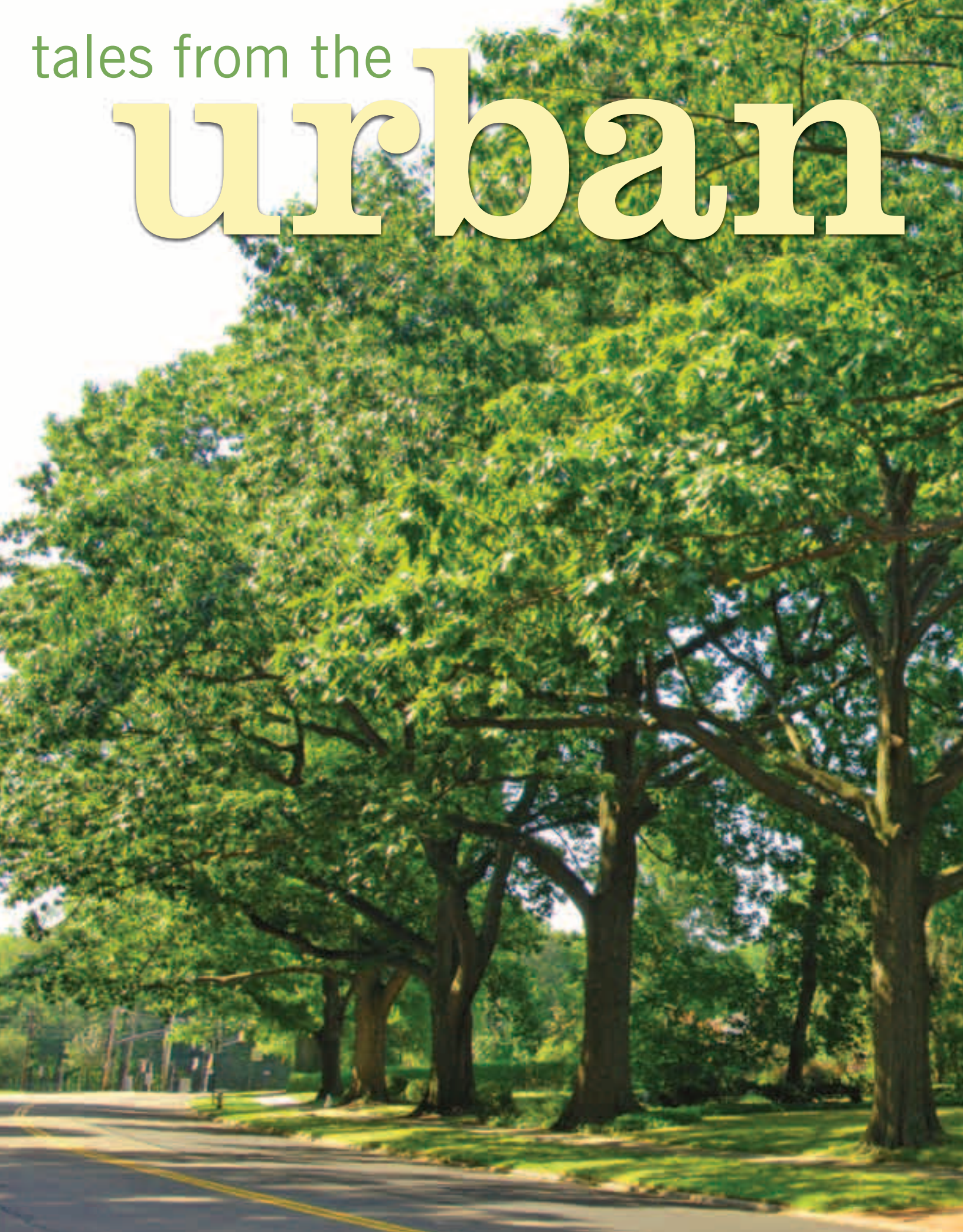


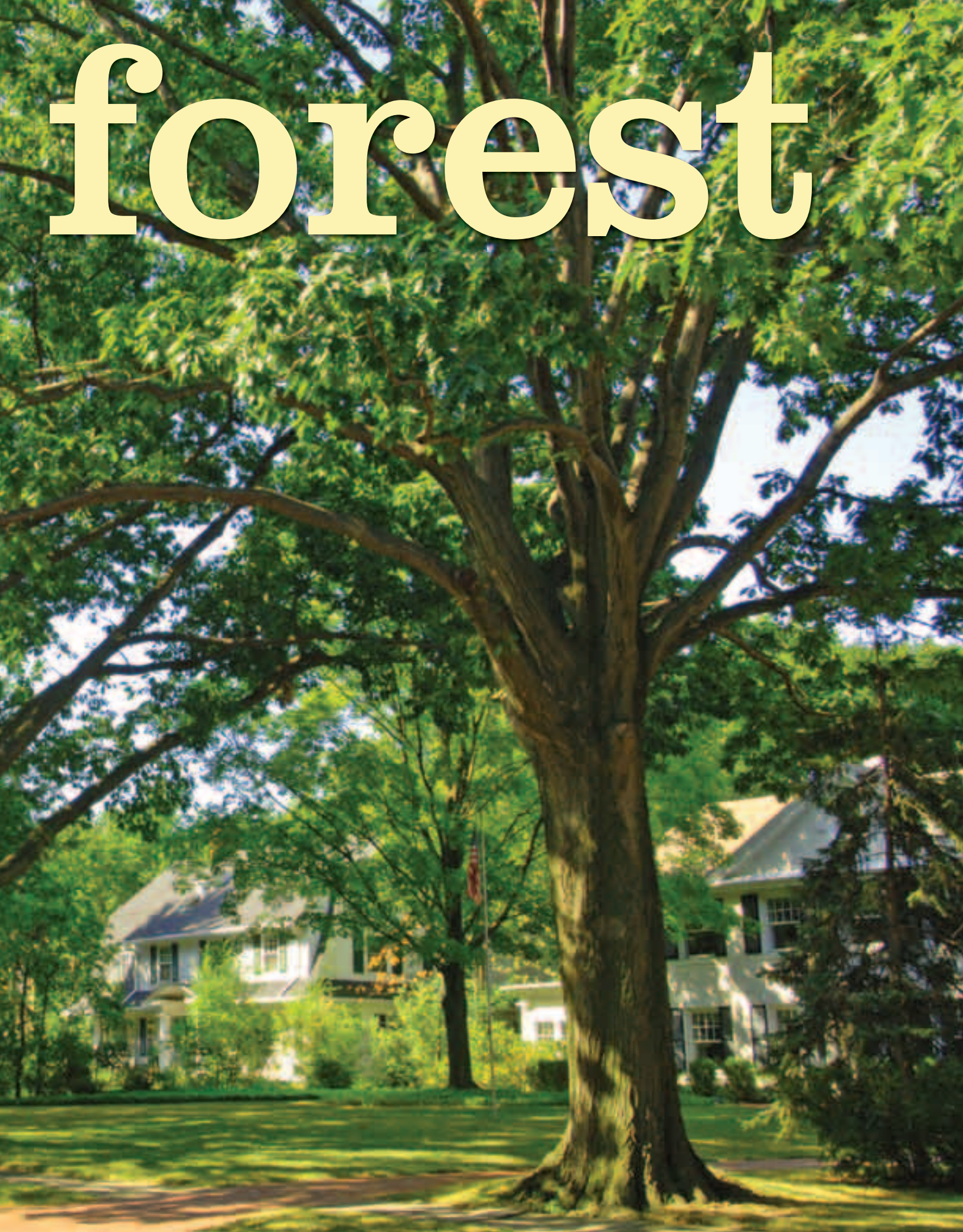
Gutting the house gave the homeowners the opportunity to reconfigure the entire interior. They were able to make dramatic improvements but still keep the architectural features that make Shaker homes special.



tales from the

urban





forest



While some of us might tend to take our trees for granted, it takes a great deal of money, work, and commitment, public and private, to maintain them the Shaker Way.

BY BETH FRIEDMAN-ROMELL

PHOTOS BY MARC GOLUB

I'm a tree-hugger. That's a big part of why I live again in Shaker Heights, where I lived until I was nine. I was imprinted early with the sensual pleasures of trees: inhaling the heady smell of spring blossoms; strolling down a shady sidewalk; relishing a juicy, just-picked apple; marveling at the fire of fall colors; rejoicing at the crisp snap of winter-fallen twigs underfoot.

Today, I can also appreciate how our trees make the oxygen in our air and then scrub it of pollution, provide habitat to wildlife, tenaciously control soil erosion, create free fertilizer for our gardens, form windbreaks, and even help lower our summer cooling bills.

And they offer the perfect scaffolding for our children's swings and tree houses.

While some of us might tend to take our woodlands for granted, it takes a great deal of money, work, and commitment, public and private, to maintain them. The public commitment is manifest in the Tree Advisory Board of Shaker Heights, which began life in 1998 as a toothless volunteer committee. But in 2002 it became an ordained board with some bite and influence, working directly with the City's forester to make sure the quality of our wooded environment is kept up for future generations.

The personal commitment might be best expressed by the tree lovers of all ages who volunteer at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. Two such individuals, Dave Bell and Ryan Sullivan, spent nearly two years identifying and counting the trees on Nature Center property to provide a database to assess future land management activities at the Center. The study found more than 1,800 trees on the property, mainly red oak. (It also found that several invasive species, including Norway maple and tree of heaven, have a strong roothold in certain areas of the park.)

Shaker Heights has not always been a heavily wooded wonderland. Our landscape has been repeatedly transformed over the past 200 years. In 1796, when Moses Cleaveland's party surveyed the land that later became the 10,000-acre Warrensville Township, they encountered an impenetrable forest of old-growth ash, oak, maple, chestnut, beech, cherry, walnut, and hemlock. Streams trickled across the

A row of beautiful 150-year-old red oaks (previous page) on West Park Boulevard; a row of sycamores lines Wicklow Road.



Laurie Ronis and Patrick Neville (top).

Lomond School in the 1930s and today.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE TREE ADVISORY BOARD.

humus-rich forest floor. In time, a small but steady flow of settlers would arrive to try their hand at taming this piece of the Western Reserve.

Daniel and Margaret Warren first took up this Herculean task in 1809, armed with only a hand ax, a team of oxen, and a lot of determination. The trees were at once a key resource and an obstacle. They provided raw material for cabins, fuel, household items, and food, but were difficult to fell and transport. As a field was slowly cleared, stumps were either painstakingly dug out or, more commonly, were left where they were to rot. The only “road” through the township was the east-west trail known as Kinsman (including present day Chagrin Boulevard). In 1813, the old, overgrown north-south surveyor’s trail was clear-cut, widened, and dubbed Lee Road after its principle land donor.

The rest of the land was dense wilderness. The trees were so big that residents would chop them down just to simulate the sound of cannons on the Fourth of July.

During most of the 19th century, the utopian community of the North Union Shakers accelerated the transformation

the tree is glorious

Frances Hasso and Jeff Dillman have a sugar maple in their front yard on Townley Road in Sussex that exerts a sort of magical influence well beyond the borders of their property.

“The tree is glorious, one of the first to turn in the fall,” says Frances. “It has a beauty and emotional resonance for our neighbors as well as us. It seems the whole block enjoys it. And in the summer it provides great shade. Our kids can go under it and play, even when the weather’s very hot.”

Frances and Jeff’s house, on a double lot, was owned by one family from the 1930s until the late 1980s. The yard was rife with trees. “The person we bought it from three and a half years ago did a lot of cutting in the second lot, but many trees have thrived,” says Frances.

Two of those include an elm and silver maple in the back yard, which blend with the sugar maple in a huge canopy. “We have a wonderfully insulated house, and those trees are amazing at keeping it cool,” says Frances.

Bob Zimmer, a broker with Keller-Williams Realty in Shaker, says that as a realtor, he finds many Shaker clients are drawn to homes with big mature trees in older established neighborhoods such as Sussex.



“I personally believe that trees are an important addition to the beauty and architectural detail of Shaker Heights,” he says. “Mature neighborhoods are attractive, and take years to grow.”

Frances and Jeff hire professionals to prune their prize trees. Other than that, they do most of their yardwork and landscaping themselves. “We don’t use any chemicals in any of our landscaping, no weedkiller,” says Frances. “We also do our own composting. We aerate and feed the yard. We landscaped the back yard in the fall. We love our trees, all of them. We even fought the power company for them.”

And won.

of the forest into fields and orchards. The Shakers soon discovered that the heavy clay soil was better suited to raising fruits and vegetables and pasturage for cattle than for growing grain. They developed a thriving sawmill and woodworking skills. They essentially deforested some 1,400 acres.

The Shakers' utopia was replaced in the early 20th century by the planned "garden city" of Cleveland developers O.P. and M.J. Van Sweringen, who designed and marketed a suburb of open green spaces, tree-lined boulevards, and lush private gardens. Light rail made the commute to downtown Cleveland fast and pleasant.

continued on page 54



Sedgewick Road, yesterday and today, west side looking south. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE TREE ADVISORY BOARD.



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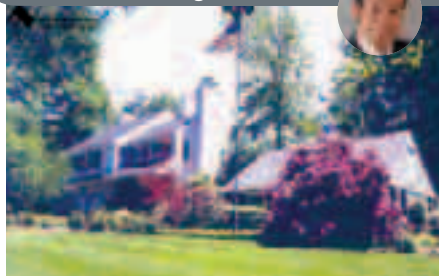
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Strutting Their Stuff

One would be hard-pressed to find a public high school anywhere in the country with a greater number of accomplished alumni in the performing arts than Shaker High. Now, a capital campaign is underway to renovate the auditorium where so many of these success stories started.

BY NANCY O'CONNOR

AUDITORIUM PHOTOS BY KEVIN G. REEVES

Did you catch Michelle Federer or Michael McElroy on Broadway? Recognize Kym Whitely on TV's *My Wife and Kids* or *Grey's Anatomy*? Did you know the funny guy behind *How I Met Your Mother* is Carter Bays?

These days, Shaker High graduates are bumping into each other on studio back lots and Broadway stages, in orchestra pits and concert halls, and in editing rooms and recording studios around the world. The list of accomplished actors, writers, directors, producers, musicians, dancers, composers, and conductors goes on and on. You'd be hard-pressed to find a public high school anywhere in the country with a greater number of accomplished alumni in the performing arts. (See sidebar.)



A scene from the Stephen Sondheim musical, *Into the Woods*, produced in 2006 in the aging main theatre (left). INTO THE WOODS PHOTO BY NEAL HAMILTON.

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Shaker High's exceptional Theatre Arts and Music departments offer program quality and depth seldom encountered at other public schools. Now, a capital campaign is underway to renovate the large auditorium, where so many of these success stories got their start, found their voice, honed their talents, and strutted their stuff. Once again, the Shaker Heights community is putting its money where its heart is, and more than a few of the high school's famous alums are supporting the cause.

The Shaker Schools Foundation is spearheading a \$2.4 million upgrade with the Shaker School District to restore the auditorium to its original beauty, outfit it with state-of-the-art sound and lighting, and create an outstanding teaching and learning space.

At 76, the auditorium is like an aging Hollywood starlet: a thing of beauty in her day, but now showing the ravages of time and toil that even the best of plastic surgeons can't erase. Instead of scalpels and chemicals, caretakers of the large auditorium have had to rely on duct tape and ingenuity to mask its decline.

The rigging system broke years ago, making it impossible to close or lower and lift the curtains. Once-regal drapes are now "dead hung" on poles suspended from ceiling rafters, and rips in their rotting fabric are mended with tape.

The lighting and sound systems are woefully outdated, many of the 950 seats are broken, few aisle lights are functioning, and the carpeting is worn and frayed.



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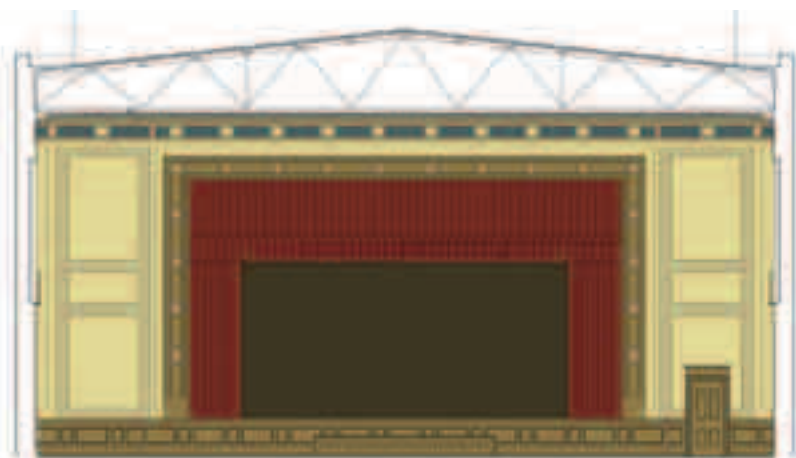
Jenny Chin



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**SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM RESTORATION**

March 11, 2007

Architectural rendering

Architect rendering of Shaker High's new auditorium.

Patches of missing plaster dot the ceiling and walls where leaking drain basins and heavy rains have done their damage.

And, to add insult to injury, there's the overall color scheme, wryly dubbed "beautiful battleship green." It is, at best, "not aesthetically pleasing," as Theatre Arts Department Chair Christine McBurney puts it.

In short, the auditorium no longer measures up to the quality of teaching and performing that takes place in it. It has also become something of an embarrassment to those holding PTO meetings, athletic awards ceremonies, Alumni Association Hall of Fame induction assemblies, and other events in it.

Recent graduate Liz Shinkle knows the auditorium's shortcomings well. Now a stage management intern at the Cleveland Play House, Shinkle served as Stage Manager for last fall's production of *Into the Woods*.

"We had plaster fall during rehearsals and had to close for a while, with everyone worried about asbestos." (Not, as it turned out, an issue.) She also recalls the day snow fell on the student orchestra as it played on stage.

"You can have worse spaces," she says. "But it was frustrating to not be able to do traditional theatre craft, like flying in props or using stage lighting dramatically. If Shaker wants its program to continue to thrive and to train kids to move on and be successful, it needs a better theatre space."

Fortunately for the auditorium, time can be rewound and beauty restored with enough love and money. A major facelift is scheduled to get underway just after Memorial Day and be completed by December, with Grand Opening festivities planned for January 2008.

The Shaker Schools Foundation is leading the rescue mission. The Foundation typically awards grants to teachers to expand classroom instruction or fund special projects, and to individual students to recognize academic success and encourage advanced study. It has also supported professional development opportunities for faculty and staff and helped to fund improvements to learning environments.

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JAMIE BABBIT, Class of 1989, is an Emmy-nominated director, producer, and screenwriter who made her directorial debut with *But I'm a Cheerleader* in 1999. Her 2006 film, *The Quiet*, has also earned critical acclaim. Babbit has also directed episodes for numerous television shows, including *Gilmore Girls*, *The Bernie Mac Show*, and *Ugly Betty*.

CARTER BAYS, Class of 1993, is executive producer and head writer for the current television hit, *How I Met Your Mother*. He's also written for numerous other television sitcoms and earned an Emmy nomination for his work on *The Late Show with David Letterman*.

ED BLUNT, Class of 1988, has appeared in several feature films and numerous television shows, including *Law & Order: Criminal Intent* and *This Band of Brothers*.

KELLY CHAPMAN, Class of 1985, is a singer-actress who has sung internationally and appeared in several feature films, including *The Antwone Fisher Story*.

TRACY NICOLE CHAPMAN, Class of 1988, has appeared on Broadway in *The Lion King*, *Caroline or Change*, and the 2002 revival of *Into the Woods*.

MICHELLE FEDERER, Class of 1991, is a stage and film actress. She originated the role of Nessarose in the Broadway musical *Wicked*, and has been featured in several films, including *Kinsey* and *The Flannel Pajamas*.

LAUREN GEBER, Class of 2002, is a jazz vocalist with a passion for musical theater. She recently returned to the area from New York City to direct *Little Shop of Horrors* at the Heights Youth Theater.



Shaker grad and director **Jamie Babbit** with Scott Patterson, "Luke" from *Gilmore Girls*



David Wain

DANA GOODMAN, Class of 1992, is one of the creative forces behind *The Tao of Steve*, a romantic comedy that debuted at the Sundance Film Festival and was later released by Sony Pictures Classics.

BETSY HOGG, Class of 2006, has appeared on Broadway in *The Crucible* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, off-Broadway in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, and on television in *Law & Order: SVU*.

REBEKAH JOHNSON, Class of 1990, has appeared in several films, including *Liberty Heights* and HBO's *Tyson*. The singer-actress has also recorded several CDs.

SARAH KNOWLTON, Class of 1987, has appeared on many of television's hottest shows, including *Ugly Betty*, *Law & Order*, *Third Watch*, and *Spin City*.

MICHAEL McELROY, Class of 1985, has many Broadway credits and was nominated for a 2004 Tony Award for his performance as Jim in *Big River*. He is also featured on numerous CD recordings and founded the Broadway Gospel Choir and the Broadway Inspirational Voices.

HANS RINDERKNECHT, Class of 2003, emerged as a force in the dance world while still a student at Princeton. In 2005, he danced in the world premiere of Sergei Prokofiev's *Le Pas d'Acier* and will perform in *The Rite of Spring*, choreographed by Vaslav Nijinsky, in Kobe, Japan this year.

TODD ANTHONY SAMS, Class of 1990, is an award-winning choreographer whose work includes music videos for Usher, Toni Braxton, Chris Brown, and Frankie J. He has worked with Tyrese, Destiny's Child, and Queen Latifah, and has appeared as a dancer with Michael Jackson and En Vogue.

MATT THORNTON, Class of 1992, currently performs with the Pilobolus Dance Theatre.

DAVID WAIN, Class of 1987, is an actor, filmmaker, producer, and co-founder of the comedy troupe, STELLA. He directed, co-wrote, and co-produced the cult summer camp film *Wet, Hot American Summer*, and another film, *The Ten*, due to be released this year.

KYM E. WHITELY, Class of 1980, has made more than 40 appearances on many of television's most popular shows, including *Grey's Anatomy* and *My Wife and Kids*.

ROBERT WOOD, Class of 1988, made his conducting debut with Verdi's *La Traviata* at the San Francisco Opera. He is now conductor in residence at the Minnesota Opera, where he will soon debut the first-ever operatic adaptation of *The Grapes of Wrath*. This summer, he returns to the Wolf Trap Festival to conduct Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.



Kym Whitely

Shaker Schools Foundation High School Auditorium Campaign

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The Shaker Schools Foundation is pleased to announce a seat endowment program for the large auditorium. Seats may be named for gifts of \$500 each, and many donors are doing so in honor or memory of favorite Shaker teachers, family members, or friends. Others are endowing seats for their children or in their own names. All gifts are tax-deductible, and checks or credit cards are being accepted. Please contact the Foundation for more information by calling 295-4329.



Student performers warming up on the main stage, 2006.

PHOTO BY SELENA SIMMONS-DUFFIN.

The Foundation launched the High School Auditorium Campaign several years ago, and at the outset raised \$400,000 for the 2003 renovation of the small auditorium, which now serves as a high-tech lecture hall. Raising \$1.4 million to restore the large auditorium is the Foundation's most ambitious commitment in its 25-year history. The Shaker School District will fund the other \$1 million needed for infrastructure repairs.

"Our performing arts program at Shaker High is superior to any in the public systems around us," says Ed Hemmelgarn, co-chair of the Foundation's Auditorium Project Committee. "We have a really, really strong program with a history of students who excel at Shaker and professionally. But we've had lousy facilities, at least at the high school. It would be difficult for the schools to cover the costs of the renovation we envisioned. Students deserve this and it will enhance our school's reputation if we support this superior program."

Hemmelgarn, whose sons Christopher ('01) and Brandon ('06) graduated from Shaker High, is one of the largest individual donors to the Auditorium Campaign, and the small auditorium is named in honor of his father, Richard. Hemmelgarn believes the Shaker Heights community continues to give because of its confidence in how the money is spent.

"The Shaker schools have been wonderful stewards of the money. The District has done a great job of maintaining its older buildings versus tearing down and building new. I'd be willing to bet we've spent less on capital projects than other school systems in the area."

continued on page 58

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*by Michelle McCafferty
& Amanda Richards*

PHOTOS BY MARC GOLUB



high tea for a new generation

The first wisps of spring recently brought the urge to do something sophisticated. In our opinion, there is no better way to satisfy this desire than Sunday High Tea at the Ritz-Carlton Cleveland. So, dressed in chartreuse and lemon, we boarded the Rapid one bright morning and set out to rub elbows with the elite.

The Ritz is in Tower City Center, so we only had to step off the Blue Line (or was it the Chartreuse Line?) at the terminal and go up the escalators. A breeze. The handsome doormen graciously greeted us by dramatically whisking open the regally decorated double doors. We glided into the lobby, which was overrun with chattering business professionals and giddy tourists.

We were shown to our seats in the sixth floor sitting room and surveyed our surroundings. The room was decorated with Victorian flare as people from all walks of life quietly chatted over tea and pastries. We happily mused that we hoped to spend the rest of our lives in this fashion, much like the two 60-something women we saw seated towards the back of the room. They were dainty and becoming, and we whimsically assumed that they had been friends since high school, much like us.

Yes, we thought to ourselves, from here on out it's first class all the way. No more weekend afternoon feasts at the local taco shack. Here at the Ritz, we were presented with several delectable finger sandwiches, including cucumber and salmon. We both settled on the traditional English breakfast tea to accentuate the flavors of the pastries that followed the sandwiches.

It's easy to get lost in conversation when one is completely enamored with her surroundings. We chatted about school, work, the future, and most important, men. Glancing back at our geriatric counterparts, we wondered if our future husbands would be successful enough so that we could forego the hassles of the working world and spend the remainder of

our afternoons on this earth taking high tea at the Ritz.

When the hostess returned to top off our teacups, we replied with emphatic thank-yous, to which she countered, "My pleasure."

My pleasure.

No, fine lady, the pleasure is all ours.

Our escapade wasn't all fluff and stuff, however. There was one woe-ful distraction that crept up toward the end of our experience. The piano player, seated in the far corner of the room, who up until then had provided a delightful background soundtrack to our Sunday shenanigans, suddenly developed an insatiable need for attention. As the pianist pounded relentlessly upon his deafening instrument, we decided it was time to take our leave.

As we made our way out of the hotel, we pondered the next occasion that could call for high tea. A birthday, perhaps? An Easter outing? Or maybe we could just schedule a good old-fashioned catch-up day with dear friends. There are countless reasons to celebrate in style.

While walking through Tower City, we thought back to what it must have been like to live in an era when Cleveland was the poster child for urban sophistication. We caught a glimpse of the massive makeover taking place downtown, especially on East 4th Street (where we will visit in our next column) and, of course, Euclid Avenue. We then realized that Cleveland's heyday isn't over. The city is very much alive and just waiting to be discovered by a new generation.

To make reservations for the Ritz-Carlton's Sunday High Tea, call (216) 902-5255. ■

Michelle McCafferty and Amanda Richards edit The Cauldron, Cleveland State University's student newspaper. Their final Let's Ride the Rapid column will appear in Shaker Life's June/July issue.





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SHAKER
HEIGHTS



\$2-Million Makeover

continued from page 31

Gutting the house gave the homeowners the opportunity to reconfigure the entire interior. They were able to make dramatic improvements but still keep the unique architectural features that make Shaker homes special. "Those are the things that make these homes more interesting than new homes, where everything is square," the owner says.

They relocated door entries to more central positions and created arched openings where none had existed before. They added new leaded glass windows around the grand front door entrance to bring in light and attract the eye. They kept the original main stairway banister and creatively reinforced it with hidden brackets. They installed granite floors and added "distressed" look paint to the walls.

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sense of openness and light that revitalizes and improves the entire look and feel of this spectacular home.

They also installed renovations for the contemporary American family's lifestyle. With four school-age children, they decided to transform a cramped area with four walled-off sections into a spacious Tuscan-style kitchen. As in most homes with kids, this kitchen is a busy place. Two central islands with tall stools make for easy food prep and eating breakfasts on the fly or, says the owner, "sports-practice-conflicted family dinners,"

The home's side door – the one everyone uses – off the driveway provides easy access to a mudroom, where the kids have their own attractive wooden lockers, identified by fun, oversized initials on each door. It adjoins a comfortable study space for homework and Mom's office, complete with three built-in desks with computers for Internet access.


Just off the mudroom, you find an exercise room surrounded by full length windows with a stunning view of the spacious backyard and patio. In place of an overgrown cutting garden, the new owners built a 22' x 44' swimming pool with an electronic cover to maintain the water temperature, making it possible to swim outdoors well into the fall. And with five bedrooms and seven full bathrooms, there's room for everyone.

There are some features many homeowners would be able to afford. For example, the basement has an indestructible turf-

carpeted soccer room with glass block windows and built-in goals at either end. And in the master bedroom, there's a dramatic cathedral ceiling that was created simply by removing the original ceiling and extending the joists upward into unused attic space. With recessed lighting and cornice, it adds instant beauty and drama to what once was a dark, confined space.

That being said, most families don't have the resources to do this kind of renovation. However, like other members of the new generation of South Park families, this family decided that this unique community was worth the investment. ■






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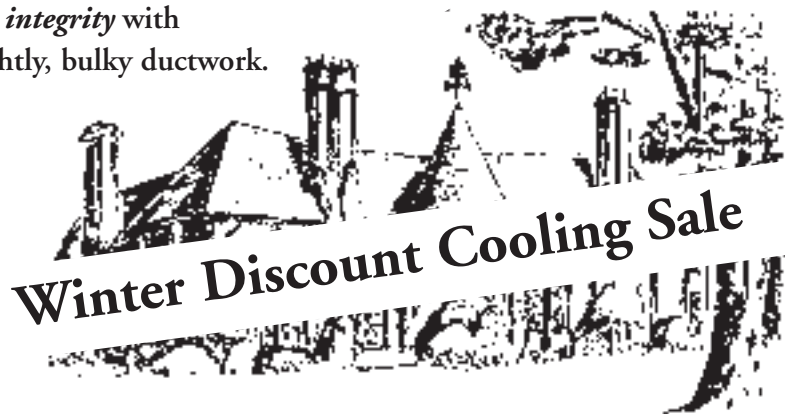


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Urban Forest

continued from page 37

While this portrait might sound a lot like Shaker today, the canvas upon which it was painted was startlingly different. Photos of homes, schools, and the Rapid from the 1920s and 30s reveal muddy, treeless subdivisions. While some trees were preserved, like the centuries-old red oaks along West Park Boulevard and Coventry Road, the old-growth forest was completely gone.



Fortunately, the Van Sweringen plan included the creation of a leafy tree canopy throughout the city. To this day, the City, along with local businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and individual citizens, remains committed to preserving our sturdy arboreal treasures.

From Garden Suburb to Urban Forest

Keeping Shaker's trees healthy and diverse is Pat Neville's job. Neville is Shaker's Superintendent of Forestry. He came here after 10 years caring for the trees in New York City's Central Park.

Removing hazardous trees is Neville's number-one priority. He inspects every tree on city property at least three times a year, oversees the City's deadwood and clearance pruning, and spends countless hours educating residents on tree placement and care.

Maintaining the City's signature look while diversifying tree species is also a priority for Neville.

"Each street in Shaker has its own personality and its own types of trees. When it's time to replant, we try to incorporate four or five different types of tree that will suit well."

Neville must factor in environmental conditions such as size of tree lawn, power lines, amount of automobile traffic, pollution, and salt spray, in addition to the size and shape of the species relative to others on the street.

Past experience with Dutch elm disease and the current invasion of the emerald ash borer demonstrate the importance of diversifying the urban forest. In the latter case, Shaker is proactively removing and replacing ash trees in public rights of way over a staggered, five year period. (Ash trees make up approximately nine percent of Shaker's tree population.) More than 50 species of trees will be planted to replace the ash.

A majestic pin oak on Chagrin Boulevard at Shaker Town Center.

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Urban Forest

continued from previous page

Neville is happy to meet residents with questions or concerns about the trees on their property, including those under and around power lines.

"There are trees that grow shorter than the power lines, such as flowering pears, yellowwood, and slow growing evergreens," suggests Neville. "There are varieties that you can shape around the lines, such as honey locusts. Shaker still wants tall shade trees, but you need the right tree in the right place."

Neville's resident education and outreach efforts are enhanced by the work of the Tree Advisory Board. This group of officials and residents builds community support for the City's tree programs, and educates residents on issues related to the City's trees and woods, and parks.

Board members include the mayor or the mayor's representative, the Superintendent of Forestry, a member of City Council (currently Nancy Moore) and citizen members, who now include Brian Edelstein, Ken Kovach, Mike Kannard, and the chair, Laurie Ronis.

Whether addressing a garden club, a public information session, or individual property owner, Ronis waxes passionate about Shaker's "beautiful urban forest." She urges residents to talk to their neighbors before removing mature trees that are healthy. "You may be taking out your neighbor's air conditioning," she cautions.

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Ronis teaches people to give tree lawn plantings a little TLC. "You pay a tree assessment," she reminds us, "so it pays to water it, not pile brush against it or run lawnmowers into it. You paid for those trees with your taxes."

And the board played a key role in the City's decision to replace broken sandstone sidewalks in front of Woodbury school with curved concrete that accommodates the roots of the large oaks there.

The board also sponsors the City's annual Arbor Day celebration, in conjunction with the National Arbor Day Foundation. (Arbor Day is April 27 this year.) The celebration is growing in stature every year. The tree board announces the winner of its Heritage Tree Award, and each year a different Shaker elementary school plants a magnolia tree in Southerly Park. Children present original writings about trees at the ceremony. Educational packets are supplied to teachers, and a special commemorative plaque goes to the school.

Simply by planting, feeding, watering, and pruning the right tree in the right spot, any resident can play a vital role in Shaker's arboriculture. Jen Braman, who is a candidate for International Society of Arboriculture arborist certification and a resident, provides a few simple tips to help an urban tree flourish:

- Choose a healthy tree with no trunk damage, a full crown, healthy leaves and roots.
- Dig a hole at least twice as big as the root ball diameter, and don't plant the tree too deeply. You must see the root flare at soil level.
- Remove grass from the planting site and add organic mulch or leaf humus to a depth of no more than three inches.
- Water appropriately depending on species and planting site.
- Don't pile mulch into little "volcanoes" around the trunk. You will suffocate the tree. ■



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Strutting Their Stuff

continued from page 46

Foundation President Nancy Karr, who is also the parent of two Shaker grads, Clinton ('99) and Elliott ('02), says, "We're excited about this large undertaking, which is our first capital campaign project. It's an opportunity for us to assist the District in funding a special project that will enrich the educational opportunities offered our students." She is confident the Foundation will reach its fundraising goal because of the proven generosity of the Shaker Heights community.

"Shaker residents are always very supportive when there is a need. That's just Shaker."

The pressure is on for the Foundation's Director of Development, long-time Shaker resident Sue Starrett, who spent 11 years as Director of Development Communications for the Cleveland Orchestra. She was heavily involved in fund raising for the renovation of Severance Hall.

Now, Starrett is busy soliciting grant monies, gifts from individual donors, and \$500 "seat endowments" to fund the auditorium project. Among the notable donations pledged thus far are leadership gifts from Edward Hemmelgarn and Janice Hammond and from the Ratner family, and a challenge grant from the Jonathan Lewis Foundation (Jonathan was a member of the Class of '77).

While large gifts are welcomed and essential, Starrett's hope is that every Shaker resident will participate and take pride in doing so. "We need as many participants as possible, who can then be proud that they helped build this," says the mother of Ned ('97) and Charles ('01) Sackman. "This is such a worthy cause and the kids are so deserving."

Affection for Shaker High and its theatre and music programs runs deep among parents as well as students. Donna Jackson and Lynn Lilly are convinced the programs were instrumental in shaping their kids. They credit the department's

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— Roz O, Shaker Heights

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long-time chair, James Thornton, who retired three years ago, with having a profound influence on the program as well as the students involved in it.

"Mr. Thornton basically built the theater department from an after-school program into what it is today, a full-bodied curriculum with offerings some small colleges don't even offer," says Jackson, mother of Tina ('03) and David ('04).

Lilly, mother of Preston Goforth, ('00), Derek Prijatel ('02), and Lindsay Goforth ('02) continues to support the program "because of my absolute certainty that Mr. Thornton helped shaped the lives of my children, enabling them to discover the depth of their own creativity, and teaching them the power of creativity in all kinds of work."

While former students and their parents are apt to be supportive of the auditorium campaign, those most excited about it are current and upcoming Shaker High students and the high school instructors.

"The auditorium is our extended classroom," says department chair McBurney, who oversees the fall mainstage play and New Stages, teaches Playwriting, Acting, Film as Art, and Junior Ensemble, and serves as Director of the Playwriting program. "Our class work feeds into production work, and vice versa."

The program, she emphasizes, "is about more than just putting on shows. We teach and value process and product. Our goal is to educate students in a guided learning environment. We're really using theatre as a model to teach human values like empathy, vulnerability, teamwork, and communication. Students don't just perform. They write, produce, direct, stage manage, design, and chair management teams."

What makes the program special, she believes, "is that any student – no matter what his or her talents or interests – can play a role in the department. For example, New Stages and the Patron program were student-generated ideas."

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Strutting Their Stuff

continued from page previous page

McBurney and Music Department Chair Robert Schneider were invited to discuss their programs' needs with the renovation design team at City Architecture, Inc., the same firm behind Shaker's new housing developments, Sussex Courts and Avalon Station.

Auditorium Manager Chuck Tisdale has also been involved in the planning. A trained actor, director, and technical manager, Tisdale leads the Stage Crew extracurricular program for kids interested in behind-the-scenes-work such as stage lighting, sound, set-building, and more.

He's looking forward to having modern lighting and sound systems that will enable him to provide more creative and professional lighting and sound support to students' theatrical, dance, and musical performances. "Our current lighting board is from 1987. Imagine trying to do



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your work on a 1987 computer.” He’s had to scour eBay to find replacement parts, as the system is no longer manufactured.

City Architecture’s Project Manager Kevin Dreyfuss-Wells says the mission is to take “a beautiful, historic space and fantastic educational resource and get it back to its original condition so it can continue for another 75 years, while also enhancing it to meet the needs of this century.”

Built in 1931, the high school and its large auditorium were designed by Hubbell and Benes, a noted design group responsible for many Cleveland landmarks, including the Cleveland Museum of Art and West Side Market.

“Shaker is very fortunate to have one of their structures,” says Dreyfuss-Wells. “It’s been a joy to look at their original drawings and the level of care and detail in them. At the time, it was a nice auditorium, but by today’s standards, it’s a magnificent resource.”

The wood paneling and plaster details on the walls, dulled by layers of paint, will be restored. Fluorescent lights that obscure the ornamental ceiling plastering and grills will be removed, and historically appropriate paint colors will be used throughout the space.

New lighting and sound systems will be installed, along with a new rigging system and a more flexible “thrust” stage system that will allow stage area to be easily added or removed. The seats will be completely refurbished, and those in the front rows will be turned to face the thrust stage to bring the performers closer to the audience.

“There’s an old theatre saying, ‘All you need is two boards and a passion,’” says Tisdale. “But it sure helps to have theatrical lighting, sound, costumes, and makeup. The auditorium is another classroom, one that’s used nearly every period of every day and most evenings. But it is sorely in need of renovation. It’s time to give students what they need.”

The “new” auditorium, Liz Shinkle predicts, “will be energizing and inspiring. There will be no limit to what the students can do.” ■

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Ongoing Activities for Families

MONDAYS: Learning English as a Family (LEAF), 6:45–8:00 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Literacy for non-English speaking families. Weekly group time for children, adult ESL class and bi-weekly home visits. INFO: 921-2023.

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS: Parent and Child Play Sessions, 9:30 AM–NOON, Patricia S. Mearns Family Playroom at Shaker Family Center. Parents and caregivers with children from birth to age 3 can play and make friends. Additional hours 4–6 pm Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays and 3:30–5:30 pm Fridays. FEES AND INFO: 921-2023.

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS: Drop-in Play Sessions, 9–11:30 AM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Child's play for infants to age eight and parent or caregiver. FEE INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 929-0201.

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & SATURDAYS: Play and Learn Station, 10 AM–NOON, MAIN LIBRARY. Free, drop-in, literacy-based play for parents and caregivers with children birth to age 5, co-sponsored by Shaker Library and Shaker Family Center. Evening hours: 6–8 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. INFO: 921-2023 OR 991-2030.

TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS: Drop-in Play Sessions, 2–3:30 PM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT-PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Child's play for infants to age eight and parent or caregiver. FEE INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 929-0201.

WEDNESDAYS: Play and Learn Station for Home Day Care Providers, 10 AM–NOON, MAIN LIBRARY. Free, drop-in, literacy-based play sessions just for home day care providers and their children birth to age 5, co-sponsored by Shaker Library and Shaker Family Center. INFO: 921-2023 OR 991-2030.

SATURDAYS: Stewardship Saturdays, 10 AM–NOON, NATURE CENTER. Are you motivated, dedicated to the environment and ready to have fun? Contribute to the Nature Center's mission by helping with outdoor projects. Be prepared to get your hands dirty and make new friends! INFO: 321-5935.

SATURDAYS: Nature Walks, 3:30–4:30 PM, NATURE CENTER. Meet at the front door of the exhibit area for a one-hour walk around the trails led by the weekend naturalist. Free. INFO: 321-5935.

Art about Town

APRIL 21: Earth Day Poster Contest, NATURE CENTER. View the winning work of elementary environmentalists.

MAY 4: Student Art Fair, 10 AM–3 PM, SHAKER HIGH SCHOOL COURTYARD AND ART DEPARTMENT.

THRU MAY 6: 8th Annual Barbara Luton Art Exhibit, SHAKER LIBRARY. View the work of local artists juried into this year's show. INFO: 991-2030.

MAY 9: Upper School Spring Art Show, 5–9 PM, HATHAWAY BROWN.

MAY 11–JUNE 22: Elise Newman's 85th Birthday Exhibit, MAIN LIBRARY. View the work of local artist Elise Newman and celebrate her many talented years of creativity. INFO: 991-2030.



Destinations...

BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH LIBRARY
20600 Fayette Road
991-2421

MAIN LIBRARY
16500 Van Aken Boulevard
991-2030

THE NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES
2600 South Park Boulevard
321-5935

**SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING
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3450 Lee Road
491-1360

SHAKER FAMILY CENTER
19824 Sussex Road
921-2023

SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL
15911 Aldersyde Drive
295-4200

SHAKER HISTORICAL MUSEUM
16740 South Park Boulevard
921-1201

SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
20600 Shaker Boulevard
295-4100

THORNTON PARK
3301 Warrensville Center Road
491-1295








april highlights

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pancake Breakfast 9:45 am, St. Dominic School Cafeteria (pg. 66) 	2 Shaker Schools closed 4/2-9 Spring Break	3 Exhibit: "Inspired by Faith: Art about the Shakers," Shaker Historical Museum. (pg. 66)	4	5 Poets Unscripted 7-9 pm, Poets' and Writers' League of Greater Cleveland. (pg. 66)	6 Free Flick "The Devil Wears Prada" 1:30 pm, Community Building (pg. 67) 	
	9 	10 Babes in Nature 10-10:45 am, Nature Center. (pg. 67)	11 School Days at Laurel 8:30 am, Laurel School. (pg. 67) Memory Fitness 10-11 am, Fairhill Center. (pg. 67)		13 Parenting Series 4/12-5/31 6-8 pm, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 67)	14 Spring Into Health 10 am-1 pm, Community Building (pg. 68) Rain Barrel Workshop 10-noon, Cleveland Botanical Garden (pg. 68)
15	16 Parent & Child Play Sessions 9:30 am, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 63)	17 Writers Center Stage 7:30 pm, Playhouse Square Allen Theatre. (pg. 74) Parent University 7-8:30 pm, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 68)	18 Evening of Jazz 7 pm, Shaker Middle School.	 19 Using Outlook and a PDA 9:30-11:30 am, Fairhill Center. (pg. 68)	20 Friends Book Sale 4/19-22 Main Library. (pg. 68) Spring Concert in Dance 8 pm, Shaker High School.	21 Celebrate the Earth Day 1-5 pm, Nature Center. (pg. 68) The Natural History of Honey 7 pm-midnight, Cleveland Museum of Natural History. (pg. 74)
22 2007 Circle of Masks Festival 1-4 pm, Cleveland Museum of Art. Kickoff event for June 9 Parade the Circle. (pg. 75)	23 Tri-C JazzFest "A Salute to Legends" 4/19-29 (pg. 74) 		25 Teen Volunteer Fair 6:30-8 pm, Main Library. (pg. 68)	26 Intro to Genealogy Using a Computer 10 am-noon, Fairhill Center. (pg. 69) Spring Orches- tra Concert 7:30 pm, Shaker Middle School. High School students perform.	27 Dulce Pontes: Songs from Portugal 7:30 pm, John Hay High School. Part of CMA's VIVA! & Gala Around Town series. (pg. 75)	28 Celebrate! Week of the Young Child with Hanna Perkins Center 10 am-1 pm. (pg. 69)
29 Lecture & Book Signing 3 pm, Shaker Histor- ical Museum. Author Sharon Gregor will discuss her book, "Forest Hill: The Rockefeller Estate." (pg. 69)	30 Parent & Child Play Sessions 9:30 am, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 63)					



may highlights

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Environmental Town Hall Brown Bag Lunch Series noon-1 pm, Nature Center. (pg. 69) Sports Boosters 7:30 pm, Shaker High School.	2 Music in the Mornings 9:30 or 10:30 am, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 70) SAY Coalition Spring Forum 10 am-noon, Bellefaire JCB. (pg. 70)	3 Roller Skating Children 2½-8. 4 pm, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 70)	4 Free Flick "World Trade Center," 1:30 pm, Community Building. (pg. 70) "The Wiz" 7:30 pm, Hathaway Brown School. (pg. 70)	5 Breakfast with the Birds 7:30-11:30 am, Nature Center. (pg. 70)
▲ 6 SHHS PTO Geranium Orders Due 5/7. (pg. 71)	7 Art Ages 2-4. 10:30 am, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 70) Woodworking for Boys & Girls 4 pm, Hanna Perkins Center (pg. 70)	8 Ice Cream Social & Band Concert 6:30 pm, Shaker High School lawn.	9 Parent University 7-8:30 pm, Shaker Family Center (pg. 71) Choir Concert 7:30 pm, Shaker High School	10 Nature Photography Club: Outdoor Photo Shoot 7-9 pm, Nature Center (pg. 72)	11 Shaker Middle School Musical: "The Sound of Music" 5/11-12 7:30 pm, Middle School (pg. 72)	12 Gardening Ages 2-6. 10:30-11:30 am, Hanna Perkins Center (pg. 72) Friends Annual Plant Sale 11 am-3 pm, Nature Center. (pg. 72)
13	14 Parent & Child Play Sessions 9:30 am, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 63)	15 Upper School & Middle School Choir Concert 7:30 pm, Hathaway Brown School (pg. 72)		17 Band Concert & Art Show 7 pm, St. Dominic School cafeteria & gym. (pg. 72)	18 Drop-in Play Sessions 9 am, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 63)	19 Geranium Sale Pickup 5/18-19 Shaker High School (pg. 73) 2nd Annual Festival 6-8 pm, Nature Center (pg. 73)
20 Inspired by Faith: Art about the Shakers 3 pm, Shaker Historical Society executive director discusses current exhibition. (pg. 73)	21	22 What If I had a Green Thumb? 7 pm, Bertram Woods Branch (pg. 73)	23 Spring Athletic Awards 6:30 pm, Shaker High School (pg. 73) ▼	24 Genealogy 1-3 pm, Fairhill Center (pg. 73)	25 Drop-in Play Sessions 9 am, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 63)	26
	MEMORIAL DAY 28 City, Schools and Libraries closed. Thornton Pool opens. Join the parade up Van Aken and end at Thornton for free swimming, tennis and fun. ◀	29 Play & Learn Station 10 am, Main Library. (pg. 63)		31 		

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APRIL 2: The Lawrence Welk Show: Guy and Ralna, 11:30 AM, LANDERHAVEN. Enjoy a *wunnerful* lunch...ah-one, ah-two...followed by a show. \$60/residents; \$62/non-residents. INFO: 491-1360.

APRIL 14: Spring into Health, 10 AM-1 PM, COMMUNITY BUILDING. Community health and wellness fair, free health screenings and refreshments. INFO: 491-1360.

APRIL 19: Lunch Time Social: Hats off to the Indians Party, 1-2:30 PM, COMMUNITY BUILDING. Shaker seniors team with Homewood Residence of Cleveland Heights for a strikingly fun time. Free/residents; \$3/non-residents.

MAY 6: Forest City Singers, 4 PM, COMMUNITY BUILDING. 'S Wonderful! Free spring concert with the music of Gershwin and Disney. INFO: 491-1360.

MAY 9: Lunch Time Social: Cake Decoration, 10:30 AM-1 PM, COMMUNITY BUILDING. Shaker seniors and members of Cleveland Heights' Homewood Community Residence take the cake. Free/residents; \$3/non-residents. INFO 491-1360.

MAY 15: Mountaineer Casino, 8:20 AM-7:30 PM. Leave from the Shaker Community Building for a round trip casino event with 5 hours to gamble. \$35/residents; \$37/non-residents. INFO: 491-1360.

Events for *April*

April 1: Pancake Breakfast, 9:45 AM, ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL CAFETERIA. Flip for flapjacks after the 9 am and 11:15 am Masses. INFO: 561-4400.

April 2-9: Shaker Schools Closed for spring break.

April 3: Exhibit, SHAKER HISTORICAL MUSEUM. View the newest exhibit, *Inspired by Faith: Art about the Shakers*, which includes selected paintings, drawings, illustrated books, etc. by artists Glenn Shaw, Ray Kowalski, Constantine Kermes and others, that depict aspects of Shaker life. \$2/adults, \$1/children ages 6-18. Members and children under 6 are free. Exhibit continues through July 29. INFO: 921-1201.

April 3: Environmental Town Hall Brown Bag Lunch Series, NOON-1 PM, NATURE CENTER. Marisha Auerbach of the Olympia, Washington-based Herb'n Wisdom will discuss the role of permaculture (an ecological model where waste equals food) in response to declining energy reserves. Learn about the permaculture principles for sustainability. INFO: 321-5935.

April 3: Our Global Imperative: A Conversation, 6 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Watch the Academy Award-winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, followed by a discussion with Climate Project volunteer Jeff Friedman, who will talk about sustainability solutions. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Shaker Library and the Nature Center. INFO: 991-2030.

April 5: Poets Unscripted, 7-9 PM, POETS' & WRITERS' LEAGUE OF GREATER CLEVELAND LITERARY CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL RD, TOWNHOUSE #3A. Bonnie Jacobson (*Stopping for Time, In Joanna's House* and two chapbooks), John Donoghue (*Precipice*

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and *A Small Asymmetry*), Nin Andrews (*The Book of Orgasms*, *Midlife Crisis with Dick and Jane*, and the upcoming *Sleeping with Houdini*), and George Bilgere (*The Going, Big Bang*, *The Good Kiss*, and *Haywire*) will discuss a poet's life. \$18/members; \$22/non-members. INFO: 421-0403.

April 6: Free Flick, 1:30 PM, COMMUNITY BUILDING. Watch Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway in the PG-13-rated film, *The Devil Wears Prada*. Popcorn available for a quarter.

April 10: Babes in Nature, 10-10:45 AM, NATURE CENTER. You're never too young to learn about nature. Explore a variety of sensory experiences to introduce babies from two months to two years, and their caregivers to the natural world. \$5/stroller for members; \$7/stroller for non-members. INFO: 321-5935.

April 11: School Days at Laurel, 8:30 AM, LAUREL SCHOOL, ONE LYMAN CIRCLE. An opportunity for prospective families to tour Laurel and observe teachers and students during a school day. RESERVATIONS: 464-0946.

April 11: Memory Fitness – What You Need To Know, 10-11 AM, FAIRHILL CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL RD. Kathryn Kilpatrick, M.A. speaks about keeping your mind in shape. \$18/person includes a copy of Kilpatrick's book *Walking the Path to Memory Fitness One Week at a Time*. Seating Limited; call 421-1350 ext. 146.

April 12: Nature Photography Club: Equipment, 7-9 PM, NATURE CENTER. Environmental photography, learn more about the camera and how to apply a variety of photographic techniques. INFO: SARA THORNE-BREICHLE, 321-5935 EXT 237 or visit www.ShakerLakes.org.

April 12–May 31: Parenting Series, 6-8 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. 8-week parenting classes with dinner and childcare included. Free and open to the entire community. Pre-registration required; call 921-2023.

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April 14: **Spring into Health, 10 AM-1 PM**, COMMUNITY BUILDING. Community health and wellness fair includes free health screenings and refreshments. INFO: 491-1360.

April 14: **Rain Barrel Workshop, 10 AM-NOON**, CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN.

April 29: **Rain Barrel Workshops, NOON-2 PM OR 3-5 PM**, NATURE CENTER. April showers bring August flowers...if you use rain barrels, a great way to capture the pure rain water that garden plants prefer, free of salts and other additives found in city water. Rain barrels direct moisture away from building foundations, prevent storm water runoff from local watersheds, and provide water during dry months. Learn about rainwater harvesting and make your own take-home rain barrel with materials provided. \$30/members of either organization; \$37/non-members. Register by April 7 for the Cleveland Botanical Garden Workshop: 707-2832. Register by April 22 for the Nature Center Workshops: 321-5935.

April 17: **File Management: A Workshop Open to the Community, 10 AM-NOON**, Fairhill Center, 12200 Fairhill Rd. Stop wondering where your documents are. Get your files organized into folders in a useful way. \$5/person. INFO: 421-1350, EXT. 125.

April 17: **Parent University, 7-8:30 PM**, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Parenting workshop and discussion on the topic of "Healthy Eating for Young Children" with speaker Marissa Warris, OSU extension office. Suggested donation of \$5. Reservations requested. INFO: 921-2023.

April 18: **Evening of Jazz, 7 PM**, SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL.

April 19: **Using Outlook and a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) to Get and Stay Organized, 9:30-11:30 AM**, FAIRHILL COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL RD. This 4-week class will cover Calendar, Scheduling Appointments, Tasks, Notes, Address Book/Contacts and Synchronization of Computer and PDA. \$40/person. INFO: 421-1350, EXT. 125.

April 19-22: **Friends Book Sale**, MAIN LIBRARY. See Library Happenings for times.

April 20: **Spring Concert in Dance, 8 PM**, SHAKER HIGH SCHOOL

April 21: **Celebrate the Earth Day, 1-5 PM**, NATURE CENTER. *Unearth some fun!* Come early and stay all day or just drop in for a while. Listen to music by local musicians, make recycled crafts, enjoy storytelling, wildflowers and nature walks, and sample b'earth'day cake. INFO: 321-5935.

April 22: **Sundays at Fairmount, 1-3 P.M.**, 7420 FAIRMOUNT BLVD., RUSSELL TOWNSHIP. Relax and unwind at Laurel School's 140-acre wooded outdoor Fairmount Campus in Russell Township. INFO: 464-1441.

April 25: **Teen Volunteer Fair, 6:30-8 PM**, MAIN LIBRARY. Teens can meet representatives from a variety of nonprofit organizations to see where they might like to volunteer. Parents are welcome, too. INFO: 991-2030.

April 26: **Introduction to Genealogy Using a Computer – A Workshop Open to the Community, 10 AM–NOON, FAIRHILL CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL RD.** Learn about resources on the computer and at your library. Learn how your computer can help trace your family's history. \$5/person. INFO: 421-1350, EXT. 125.

April 26: **Spring Orchestra Concert, 7:30 PM, SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL.** High school students perform.

April 28: **Bigger, Faster, Stronger Clinic, 9 AM, SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL.** Students learn how to workout for maximum benefit for their sport.

April 28: **Celebrate! Week of the Young Child with Hanna Perkins Center, 10 AM–1 PM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER, ADDRESS.** Free games and activities for children ages 2–8. Join in a simple wood working activity, cook up kid friendly omelets, build LEGO/duplo cars and machines, roller skate indoors and more! Beanie Baby, toy and book sale too! INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 929-0201.

April 29: **Lecture & Book Signing, 3 PM, SHAKER HISTORICAL MUSEUM.** Author Sharon Gregor will discuss her book, *Forest Hill: The Rockefeller Estate*, which explores the estate, park and housing development. FEES & RESERVATIONS: 921-1201.

Events for *May*

May 1: **Environmental Town Hall Brown Bag Lunch Series, NOON–1 PM, NATURE CENTER.** Free forum on a topical environmental issue followed by discussion. INFO: 321-5935.

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out & about

May 1: Sports Boosters, 7:30 PM, SHAKER HIGH SCHOOL. Parent group of good sports who promote all Shaker sports.

May 2: Music in the Mornings, 9:30 AM OR 10:30 AM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (birth to three) and their parents can experience the joy of music through group singing, finger plays, and experimentation with instruments and dance. \$60/7-week session (May-2-June 13). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 929-0201.

May 2: SAY Coalition Spring Forum, 10 AM-NOON, WULIGER CENTER, BELLEFAIRE JCB, FAIRMOUNT BLVD. Scott Poland, Ed.D, nationally recognized expert on youth who has lectured and written extensively on school psychology issues, violence prevention and crisis response will speak on *Safeguarding Children in Today's World*. Light lunch will be provided. RSVP: Rachel Mandel, 320-8469 or mandelr@bellefairejcb.org or Judy Stenta, 320-8203/stentaj@bellefairejcb.org.

May 2: Kids Cooking, 4:15 PM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (ages 3-8) enjoy cooking real food with a parent's help and will prepare simple, wholesome recipes. \$40/4-week session (May 2-23). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 929-0201.

May 3: Roller Skating, 4 PM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (ages 2½-8) learn how to roller skate safely. Beginning skills include learning how to get up from the floor, rolling forward and picking up one foot at a time. Music will be used for simple rhythm and movement activities that coincide with skating skills. \$60/7-week session (May 3-June 14). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 929-0201.

May 4: Free Flick, 1:30 PM, COMMUNITY BUILDING. Watch Nicolas Cage, Michael Peña and Maria Bello in the PG-13-rated film, *World Trade Center*. Free film, but popcorn costs a quarter.

May 4: The Wiz, 7:30 PM, HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL. 8th grade student performance. 2:30 pm matinee on Sunday, May 6. TICKETS & INFO: 932-4214.

May 5: Breakfast with the Birds, 7:30-11:30 AM, NATURE CENTER. Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with activities that include bird walks for adults and kids, followed by a live program featuring birds of prey, displays and activities. Pancake breakfast is held from 8 to 10 am at \$5/person. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: 321-5935.

May 7: Teacher Appreciation Week & Bus Driver Appreciation Week
A parent's favorite motor pool? A Shaker bus on the way to school!

May 7: Art, 10:30 AM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (ages 2-4) and a parent use different art media to explore and learn about colors, design and textures. Each week children create a new page to compile their own portfolio. \$35/ 5-week session (May 7-June 11). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 929-0201.

May 7: Wood Working for Boys and Girls, 4 PM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (ages 4-8) and parents have fun learning to use tools safely for wood-working projects, including assembling precut wood kits as well as constructing



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projects from scrap wood. \$40/4-week session (May 7-June 4). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 929-0201.

May 7: 29th Annual High School PTO Geranium Sale Orders Due.

Cranium geraniums! Buy your blooms from Shaker High School PTO, which supports student activities and clubs. Available plants include geraniums, petunias, New Guinea impatiens, purple fountain grass, spikes, and vinca vines. No garden space? Order 12-inch terra cotta patio pots with 3 colorful flowering plants. New this year are trays of assorted herbs and tomatoes. Geranium Sale volunteers have sold more than 300,000 plants over the past 28 years. INFO: ANNE WILLIAMS, 751-7911 OR PAM O'HALLORAN, 751-8915.

May 8: Ice Cream Social & Band Concert, 6:30 PM, SHAKER HIGH LAWN. Cool treats accompany the hot sounds of Shaker's best band in the land.

May 9: Parent University, 7-8:30 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Parenting workshop and discussion on the topic of separation with speaker Carol Paull. Suggested donation of \$5. Reservations requested. INFO: 921-2023.

May 9: Laurel Lecture Series: Michael Thompson, Ph.D., 7 PM, LAUREL SCHOOL, ONE LYMAN CIRCLE. Meet the best-selling author and clinical psychologist who will speak to issues raised in his latest book, *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Lives of Boys*. RESERVATIONS: 464-1441.

May 9: Choir Concert, 7:30 PM, SHAKER HIGH.

May 10: How To Plan A Family or School Reunion: A Workshop Open to the Community, 10 AM- NOON, FAIRHILL CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL RD. Get some planning ideas and resources to make your get together memorable. \$5/person. INFO: 421-1350, EXT. 125.



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out & about

May 10: Nature Photography Club: Outdoor Photo Shoot, 7-9 PM, NATURE CENTER. Curious about environmental photography? Learn more about the camera and how to apply a variety of photographic techniques. Free. INFO: SARA THORNE-BREICHLE, 321-5935 EXT. 237 or visit www.ShakerLakes.org.

May 11-12: Shaker Middle School Musical, 7:30 PM, SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL. The halls are alive with the sounds of music when students perform the perennial favorite, *The Sound of Music*. TICKETS & INFO: 295-4100.

May 12: Gardening, 10:30-11:30 AM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (ages 2-6) and parents work together to plant, tend and harvest crops in the Hanna Perkins Garden. Observe the progress of the garden over seven weeks, take home fresh vegetables and use cook up simple recipes in class. \$60/7-week session (May 12-June 30). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 929-0201.

May 12: Friends Annual Plant Sale, 11 AM-3 PM, NATURE CENTER. Buy annuals, perennials, herbs, native plants, and an assortment of plants donated from local gardens. Proceeds benefit the Nature Center and support educational programs. INFO: 321-5935.

May 12: Prom, 8-MIDNIGHT, SHAKER HIGH. After Prom follows from 1-5 a.m. with fun and prizes at the parent sponsored party.

May 15: Upper School and Middle School Choir Concert, 7:30 PM, HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL, 19600 N. PARK BLVD. INFO: 932-4214.

May 17: Band Concert & Art Show, 7 PM, ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL CAFETERIA AND GYM. INFO: 561-4400.

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May 18-19: Geranium Sale
Pick-Up, 5-8 P.M., SHAKER HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH GYM. Use the Aldersyde Drive entrance to pick up your plants. May 19 Pick-up Time: 8 am-noon. Optional delivery is available for \$10. INFO: ANNE WILLIAMS, 751-7911 OR PAM O'HALLORAN, 751-8915.

May 19: Second Annual Festival,
6-8 P.M., NATURE CENTER. *Pesto chango!* If you can't beat it, eat it! Join the Nature Center when it turns the garlic-mustard plant into a delicious pesto meal. FEES AND INFO: 321-5935.

May 20: Inspired by Faith: Art about the Shakers, 3 PM, SHAKER HISTORICAL MUSEUM. Shaker Historical Society executive director Sabine Kretzschmar discusses the current exhibition. Free. RESERVATIONS: 921-1201.

May 22: What If I had a Green Thumb?, 7 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Get free gardening advice from the experts. INFO: 991-2421.

May 23: Spring Athletic Awards, 6:30 PM, SHAKER HIGH. Celebrate athletes' feats!

May 23: Internet and Email, 9:30-11:30 AM, FAIRHILL COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL RD. Learn about email, Internet searches, viruses, and spy ware in this 5-week class for those age 50 or better taught by peers. \$60/person. INFO: 421-1350, EXT. 125.

May 23: Introduction to Computer Applications, 1-3 PM, FAIRHILL COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL RD. Learn word processing techniques, basic file management, spreadsheets, databases, and Internet and email during this 8-week class for those age 50 or better taught by peers. \$70/person. INFO: 421-1350, EXT. 125.

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May 24: Genealogy, 1-3 PM, FAIRHILL COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL RD. Learn in-depth research techniques and find resources for your family during this 8-week class for those age 50 or over taught by their peers. \$60/person. INFO: 421-1350, EXT. 125.

May 28: Thornton Park Pool opens. The City makes a big splash when it re-opens its new pool and park.

May 28: Memorial Day. City, school and libraries closed. Join in the parade up Van Aken and end at Thornton Park Pool for free swimming, tennis and fun.



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APRIL 1: University Circle Wind Ensemble, 2:30 PM, HARKNESS CHAPEL, 11200 BELLFLOWER RD. Gary Ciepluch conducts. INFO: 791-5000, EXT. 311.

APRIL 1 & 3: NCAA Women's Final Four, QUICKEN LOANS ARENA. Nothing but net! Be part of the excitement over the Final Four weekend. To find out about volunteer opportunities, visit www.womenrockcleveland.com or call: 621-0600.

THRU JULY 8: Masterpieces of European Painting, MALTZ MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE, 2929 RICHMOND RD. View an exhibit of some masterworks from The Cleveland Museum of Art's permanent collection ranging from early Renaissance to mid-19th century showcasing the mastery of Rubens, Turner, Rembrandt and Sir Thomas Lawrence. INFO: 593-0575.

APRIL 6: The Climate Project, 7 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. Climate Project speaker Jeff Friedman will speak about ways that individuals, businesses, schools and other organizations can be part of the solution to the growing crisis of global climate change. \$10 donation. INFO: 231-4600.

APRIL 14: CIM Orchestra Family Soiree, 7 PM, 11021 EAST BLVD. Meet the orchestra and learn about the world of music. Dessert reception follows evening performance. TICKETS & INFO: 791-5000, EXT. 411.

APRIL 15: Writers and Readers, 2 PM, Cleveland Public Library. Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Michael Chabon, will read from his works and answer questions. Free. INFO: 623-2800.

APRIL 17: Writers Center Stage, 7:30 PM, PLAYHOUSE SQUARE CENTER'S ALLEN THEATRE. Hear *Angels in America* playwright Tony Kushner and director George

C. Wolfe speak. \$30/person. INFO: 749-9486.

APRIL 19-29: 28th Annual Tri-C JazzFest. This year's programs offer *A Salute to Legends* and honor the work of legendary jazz artists with an all-star lineup of entertainers and offerings including performances, clinics, workshops, and educational programs. TICKETS & INFO: 987-4400 or www.triczazzfest.com/jazz.asp

APRIL 20: Peregrinations: 35 Years of Raptor Conservation, 7:30 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. Dr. Patrick T. Redig, founder and director of The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota speaks as part of the Explorer Series. \$7/members; \$9/nonmembers; \$6/students & seniors. INFO: 231-4600.

APRIL 21: The Natural History of Honey, 7 PM-MIDNIGHT, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 1 WADE OVAL DRIVE. Reception and presentation on the natural history of honey plus

worldview.

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a seven-course dinner that incorporates nature's sweetener. Sammy's Executive Chef John Taylor and wine purveyor Mary Lampham will provide commentary on each course and its complementary wine. Tickets: \$150/person. INFO: 231-4600.

APRIL 22: 2007 Circle of Masks Festival, 1-4 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, 11150 EAST BLVD. Mask making and performances at the free kickoff event for the June 9 Parade the Circle. INFO: 707-2483 or email: neisenberg@clevelandart.org

APRIL 23: North Union Farmers Market Spring Benefit, 6:30-9:30 PM, THE EATON COLLECTION, 28601 CHAGRIN BLVD. *It's the age of asparagus!* Don your best garden hose for a cultivating foodfest that includes beer and wine. Tickets: \$80-\$500. INFO: 314-7637.

APRIL 27: Dulce Pontes: Songs from Portugal, 7:30 PM, JOHN HAY HIGH SCHOOL, 2075 STOKES BLVD. Hear the

voice of a star in the world's music circuit. Part of the Cleveland Museum of Art's VIVA! & Gala around Town series. \$27/CMA members; \$29/others. INFO: 421-7350.

APRIL 28: Tails Cocktails: Wine Tasting at the Cleveland Zoo, 6-9 PM, CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO. Enjoy wines and food by Fleming's Prime Steakhouse plus a tour of the Turtles and Orangs. Tickets: \$50/person. INFO: 661-6500 EXT. 4421.

MAY 7: Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony I, 7:30 PM, SEVERANCE HALL. Music Director Gary Ciepluch showcases students. Tickets \$15-\$25. INFO: 231-1111.

MAY 11: The Role of Rock: Technology, Adaptation and Human Evolution, 7:30 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY. Drs. Nicholas Toth and Kathy Schick, co-directors of the Stone Age Institute and professors at Indiana University, Bloomington speak as part

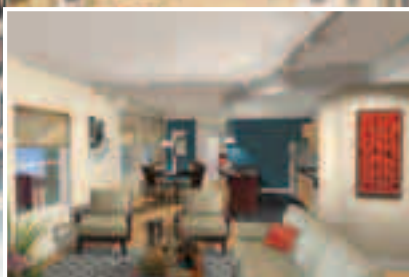
of the Explorer Series. Book signing follows the lecture. \$7/members; \$9/non-members; \$6/students & seniors. INFO: 231-4600.

MAY 20: Writers and Readers, 2 PM, CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY. India-born author and Case Western Reserve University Assistant Professor of English Thrity Umrigar will read and discuss her book, *The Space Between Us*. Free. INFO: 623-2800.

MAY 25 & 26: Annual Playwriting Festival, CLEVELAND PLAY HOUSE, 8500 EUCLID AVE. Hathaway Brown School festival of works written, directed and produced by students. TICKETS & INFO: MOLLY CORNWELL, 320-8796, EXT. 7125.

MAY 27 & 28: CIM Opera Theatre: Do Make A Scene, 8 PM, CIM. Voice students perform highlights from the world of opera and musical theatre. TICKETS & INFO: 791-5000, EXT. 411. ■

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Clover and Crabgrass Forever

BY JOHN R. BRANDT

This time of year there is nothing more satisfying to a (male) homeowner than a well-kept lawn. This being Shaker, however, there are certain other (environmental) concerns that make this more difficult than in the past, or in less self-conscious suburbs. And for a homeowner like Shaker Man – aka The Brown Thumb – the concept of eco-friendly lawn care is nigh impossible, owing to three factors:

Chemicals, Lack Thereof: In Shaker Man's youth, when a real man wanted a healthy yard, he bought great amounts of caustic fertilizers, weedkillers, and insecticides, spread them thick as snow, and then settled into lawn chair with a beer to watch the grass go neon. Thirty years on, though, Shaker Man knows, thanks to his wife and 14-year-old daughter, that chemicals are Bad, that anyone who would even think of using them is Unevolved and Evil, and that any such Environmental Insensitivity will be punished with Shaker's Scarlet Letter of Lawncare: a small (recycled) cardboard sign that says **WARNING: DEATH AWAITS YOU ON THIS IDIOT'S CHEMICALLY ENHANCED TURF.**

Unfortunately for Shaker Man, an English major who faked his way through one semester of Pass/Fail chemistry, the only alternative to conveniently pre-mixed bags of chemicals involves pH testing of his soil, followed by the appropriate application of either lime or sulfur. A blizzard of fruitless calculations later, he decides to split the difference and spread a little of both...neatly burning the entire lawn an appealing shade of yellow.

At which Shaker Man's sensitive father, visiting one weekend, nods

sympathetically and says: "What did you do out there? I got some B28 SuperGrow in the back of my truck, fix that right up..."

Mowing, Complications With: BT (Before Teenager), Shaker Man was the Lord of the Lawn, striding behind a massive, 120-decibel YardMaster 5800X, his only uncertainty whether to cut razor-sharp horizontal, vertical or diagonal stripes across his slice of heaven. Alas for him, Ms. Fourteen and her ten-year-old brother are now Environmentally Aware, and inform their father that his Obnoxious gas-powered mower is burping out 12 times as much hydrocarbon as the typical auto, and what exactly does he think of that, huh? After his first three answers – "Not much," followed by "I don't drive my lawnmower to work," followed by "Here's a pair of scissors, do it yourselves" – inspire only pouts, he reluctantly agrees to seek an alternative. A reel mower proves impossible to push, especially when both enviro-children magically disappear on Mowing Day. An electric mower turns out to be problematic as well, not only environmentally (the electricity is made at a coal-burning plant) but logistically, too, as the cord repeatedly wraps around trees, shrubs and even Shaker Man himself, leaving him trussed in the middle of the lawn. Shaker Man's father shakes his head: "Pitiful."

Weed and Pest Control, Complete Ineffectiveness of: One of the many earth-friendly pamphlets pressed upon our hero asks him to think of weeds as simply "plants in the wrong places" and urges him in

all things to "give nature a chance." Shaker Man's father – a man who would spray insecticide on a peach tree in the morning and eat fruit off the branch in the afternoon – guffaws at the brochure's suggested remedies.

"Look at this," he says. "They want you to vacuum the bugs, if absolutely necessary. In your yard! Ha!"

With both kids rolling their eyes at Grandpa, Shaker Man gives it the old college try. Unfortunately for him, the only plants that seem to be in wrong places are the tufts of grass that separate the dandelions from the clover and the crabgrass. The pamphlet advises both manual pulling – an afternoon of which leaves Shaker Man unable to bend at the waist – along with, incredibly enough, use of something called a "propane weeding torch." Suffice to say that only after wielding the torch does a limping Shaker Man read the pamphlet's fine print: Be aware of fire hazards, as well as the potential to burn your feet.

For pest control the pamphlet advises concocting a "natural repellent" made of raw eggs, water, garlic and hot peppers. This mixture, every bit as nasty as it sounds, seems not to bother insects in the least, but repels like a charm among humans, especially after our hero dumps a gallon of it on himself.

"Gross," says Fourteen.

"You stink," says Ten.

"You're not taking those clothes off in here, are you?" asks his wife.

"Heck, no," says his father. "He's going to lie down in the lawn and make the bugs die of laughter. Maybe by reading them this pamphlet. Ha!"

■



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