

A letter from Howard Hanna Smythe Cramer to: The City of Shaker Heights

Something to Celebrate



The word is out across the nation: real estate sales are off by 20% and even more.

How are we doing in Shaker Heights?

The number of homes that transferred title in 2007 was down a tick from 2006, However...



The number of homes in our community that sold in 2007 but have not yet transferred title is up by 3% over the same period of 2006! We call those "pending sales" and they are the best possible

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on the cover:

Shaker's rental market is active, and the City can help renters find exactly what they are looking for. >>

Cover photograph Green Street Studio



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shaker life

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 1

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Shaker Life does not accept unsolicited 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 but each will be given consideration.

Freelancers: Please email the editor for guidelines.

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Kim Golem, (216) 491-1419 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. Extra copies are available at area newsstands for \$3.50. See shakeronline.com for locations.

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

The views of the individuals and organizations interviewed in Shaker Life are not necessarily the official views of the City of Shaker Heights. © City of Shaker Heights. All Rights Reserved.



First Warrensville/Van Aken Public Meeting Generates Resident Support, Participation, and Excitement

In December, 120 residents became city planners for a day when they attended the first Warrensville/Van Aken (WvA) public workshop. The goal was to solicit input to improve the intersection and to transform the area into a vibrant, mixed-use downtown for Shaker Heights. Residents enthusiastically worked in small table groups and provided the consultant team with valuable insight.

Each group brainstormed the positive attributes of the area, including its proximity to Thornton Park, public transit, connection to neighborhoods, existing shopping, and potential for more shopping. Enthusiastic resident support for the project is also an important positive factor. The groups sketched ideas for the future of WvA on maps that included retail, housing, transit, and parks. The consultant team used these ideas to generate preliminary concepts for improving the area.

The following day, the consultants presented a summary of the information to City Council. They showed three preliminary intersection realignment concepts. Council members also saw a traffic simulation movie that demonstrated how the realignment might work.

A second public meeting was held at the end of January. The final public workshop is on Wednesday, February 27 at 7 pm in the Shaker Community Building. All residents are invited to attend and to participate in the planning process. A summary of the previous meetings is posted at www.shakeronline.com. City Council hopes to adopt a plan at its March Council meeting.

Earl Leiken Assumes Mayoral Duties



On January 1, outgoing Mayor Judy Rawson passed the baton to the City's new mayor, Earl Leiken, who brings a wealth of experience to the office. He previously served two consecutive terms on City Council, including two years as Vice-Mayor. He also served as Chair of the Community Life, Safety & Public Works, and Finance committees; and as a member of the Economic Development Advisory Group.

Formerly a partner at the law firm of Baker & Hostetler, Leiken is past president of Shaker Family Center and has also served on the Youth Center board. He has been a member

of the Jewish Community Center and served as its president. His experience also includes two terms on the Shaker Heights Board of Education, including two years as president.

Mayor Leiken is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He and his wife, Ellen, have lived in Shaker Heights since 1973. Their two sons, Jon and Brian, are graduates of the Shaker public schools. Mayor Leiken's three grandchildren also attend Shaker schools.

Al Foster, Nancy Moore, and James Brady Win Council Seats

Al Foster and Nancy Moore were re-elected to their Shaker Heights City Council positions, and are joined by newcomer James Brady.

Al Foster previously was appointed to Council in May 2006 to fill an unexpired term. Prior to that, he served on City Council from 1996 until 2001. He is a 22-year

Martin Luther King, Jr. **Awards for Human** Relations and for Lifetime Achievement

The Human Relations Commission gave its 2008 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Human Relations to Lomond Community Association officers Brian Yusko, president, and Bryan Moore, vice president. In addition, the Commission chose Dr. Winston Richie to receive a special Lifetime Achievement Award. The awards were presented at the January City Council meeting, which included a performance by the 40-member Heritage Chorale, under the direction of Sylvia L. Perry. For a description and photographs of the event, visit the City's website, shakeronline.com.

Yusko and Moore were nominated for the human relations award in recognition of their leadership in the revitalization of the Lomond Community Association, an effort which embraced the neighborhood's diversity and that motivated the involvement of dozens of its residents. The two men demonstrated sustained and active commitment to the Association's resurgence and to its ongoing role of building community.

Brian Yusko led the creation of a Safety Committee and spearheaded the Association's support for the Ogbuji family, whose children were lost in a house fire. Bryan Moore was instrumental in starting the Youth Committee, organized to address issues relevant to Lomond's teen population. As a team, Yusko and Moore have encouraged participation and cooperation among all the neighborhood's residents.

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city news

Dr. King Awards

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Dr. Winston Richie met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at one of several fundraisers held in Cleveland during the 1960s.

Dr. Winston Richie's Special Award was given to honor the life and achievement of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act (FHA). The FHA, which was signed into law just one week after Dr. King's assassination, prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and family status.

Dr. Richie has devoted much of his life to integration and fair housing. He and his wife were among the first African Americans to integrate Shaker's Ludlow neighborhood. He helped found the Ludlow Association, whose purpose was to prevent racial resegregation. Richie later became director of the East Suburban Council for Open Communities' housing service, where he helped locate housing for black families to buy or rent.

Richie has been a vocal leader for fair housing in Shaker Heights, in Metropolitan Cleveland, and throughout the nation, lecturing at Harvard's JFK School of Government and the University of Texas' LBJ School of Public Affairs. Richie also served as Shaker's first African American member of City Council.

Council Seats

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resident of the Moreland neighborhood. His three children all attended Shaker schools. He is active in Shaker organizations including Meals on Wheels, Hanna Perkins School, and Moreland on the Move Community Association. He has

been Vice Mayor and is a graduate of both Leadership Shaker and Leadership Cleveland.

Nancy Moore was first elected to a four-year term in 2003. She has been involved in our schools and community for more than two decades. She was a member of the Shaker Heights Board of Education and served as its president. She has worked as an educator and freelance writer.

After completing her undergraduate studies at Vassar College and George Washington University, she earned a master's degree in language and linguistics from Georgetown University. She has served on the boards of Shaker Family Center, the Shaker Heights PTO, and the Sussex Community Association.

James Brady served on the Shaker Heights Safety and Public Works Committee, Boulevard Elementary PTO, and Board of Directors for the Fund for the Future of Shaker Heights. He also coaches lacrosse for Shaker High School and the Community Life Department. He is a decorated combat veteran of the Persian Gulf War.

He earned his bachelor's degree and MBA from the University of Toledo. He is currently the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Cohort International, a risk management company. He lives in the Boulevard neighborhood with his wife, Janet. Their three children attend Shaker schools.

From Our Readers

Thank you for the wonderful piece on neighborhood associations in Shaker (in particular Lomond). You did a great job describing the resurgence of Lomond's Association. We received plenty of positive feedback because of the article and I believe some new interest as well. We're still working at it and getting to know each other a lot better in the process. It's reassuring to see the support of the larger community for our efforts.

> Shane Millette Lomond Association Corresponding Secretary

SGORR Marks Silver Anniversary

This year, Shaker Heights High School's Student Group on Race Relations (SGORR) celebrates the 25th anniversary of its founding and Marcia Jaffe's 25 years of leadership. Jaffe and SGORR have been recipients of the Human Relations Commission's MLK Jr. Award for Human Relations and the Human Relations Commission Special Award, respectively.

All SGORR alumni will be invited to a special event planned for Saturday, May 10. The time and location will be announced in the coming months. For more information about the event, please contact Susan Reis at 216-464-8836 or email her at sixreis@gmail.com and put SGORR in the subject line.

In addition, an endowed fund is being created with the Shaker Schools Foundation. Annual interest from this fund will support the ongoing activities of SGORR and also provide an award for a graduating senior student who has provided service and leadership to the program. Tax-deductible gifts can be sent to the Shaker Schools Foundation, 15600 Parkland Drive, Shaker Heights, 44120. For more information, please contact the Foundation at 216-295-4329.

Special Reminder for Shaker Residents Regarding Home Fire Safety

The Fire Department offers free home safety inspections throughout the year whenever a request for one is received. Using a "Home Fire Safety Checklist," two firefighters inspect dwellings from top to bottom. Among the hazards they look for are faulty or inadequate electrical wiring, improper storage of paints, thinners, and other combustible liquids, and unsafe heating and cooking areas. To make an appointment, call 216-491-1215 between 8:30 am and 5 pm any weekday.



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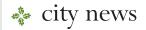


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From Large Item Pick-ups to Recycling – How Savvy Are You?

Q: I have a large item to discard. May I put it on the tree lawn for removal?

A: No! Residents must call the City for a special pick-up, preferably 24-48 hours prior to your regular rubbish collection day. The City will pick up most items, except for hazardous waste and tires. Cost of removal varies. Call 216-491-1490, M-F, 8 am to 5 pm, or go to shakeronline.com to schedule a pick up. Homeowners should NEVER place items on the tree lawn unless specifically instructed to do so by the City.

Q: What does the City do about items left on the tree lawn?

A: Call the City to report items left on the tree lawn for more than 24 hours. If no one removes the items, the City will send a nuisance letter to the homeowner. If the City removes the items, the homeowner will be charged for removal, and other City services can be denied until payment is received.

Q: Can I bring large items to the Service Department to avoid a fee?

A: Yes! From April 1 to October 1, on Saturdays from 8 am to 4 pm. A photo ID and utility bill are required for proof of residency.

Q: Can I still put my Christmas tree out for pick up on the tree lawn?

A: Yes, the City will pick up Christmas trees from the tree lawn until March.

Q: Is there a limit for regular rubbish removal?

A: Yes. There is a ten-bag maximum for regular pick-up. Bags may not weigh more than 40 lbs. each.

Q: How can I get rid of latex paint cans? **A:** Latex paint must be dried out by leaving the can open, or mixing with kitty litter. Dried out cans should be set out next to the rubbish for removal (limit 10 cans per pick up.) Lids should be discarded separately with regular rubbish.



Q: Can I mix together all of my recycling? What plastics are accepted?

A: Cans and plastics numbered 1through 7 can be co-mingled, either in the recycling buckets provided by the City or in clear recyclable bags, such as grocery or dry cleaning bags. Call to request recycling buckets from Public Works; see number below.

Paper and cardboard pieces up to the size of a newspaper can be placed in paper bags or bundled together, separate from plastics and aluminum.

Q: Can I put out larger cardboard boxes for pick up?

A: There is a limit of 10 boxes per pick up. Boxes must be flattened.

Q: There is storm damage from a tree lawn tree in my yard, or blocking my driveway. Who is responsible for removal?

A: Call Public Works, 216-491-1490, for removal.

Make Time for an Insurance Check-Up

Homeowners may be dismayed to find that their insurance policies do not cover damage from water that backs up into their homes through sewer pipes or drains. Most standard homeowners policies are written to provide very little, if any, coverage for the potential destruction that such events inflict. The cost to replace furniture, carpeting, stored family heirlooms, or to repaint, for example, can be prohibitive.

The good news is that a property owner can buy additional protection with a relatively inexpensive rider to the insurance policy. According to Robin Gorman, a Shaker insurance agent, there are two levels of coverage available, ranging in cost from \$50 to \$250 per year. The first level offers coverage for the floors and walls, and anything connected to them, such as wood paneling or carpeting, as well as major appliances. The second level of

coverage, which is more expensive, also covers furniture and belongings. "If you have a fully finished basement, this is the coverage we would recommend," says Gorman. In either case, expect to pay a deductible of about \$1,000.

Gorman also says that it is important to know that insurance companies do not cover the cost of repairing damaged pipes. However, the utility provider may offer coverage for pipe repair for a small sum on your monthly invoice. Don't wait to contact your insurance agent; spring is just around the corner, bringing the heavy rains that sometimes bring these claims.

A Night for the Red & White: Reading, 'Riting, and Revelry

Shaker's "black tie block party" returns for its 16th year to raise funds for the Shaker Heights City Schools on Saturday, March 8. Each year, the celebration brings together hundreds of parents, faculty members, and community leaders to benefit students by raising money for arts,

The Spring Market is Now!

Call Teri Chmielewski today to learn how your home can sell for more by not waiting until the snow melts to put it on the market.

52 Shaker Heights homes priced above \$185,000 went under contract during the first quarter of 2007.

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city news

technology, health, and fitness enrichment. Total monies raised to date exceed \$1.5 million.

In addition to the popular silent auction of years past, this year's event also features a live auction of one-of-a-kind items. To donate an item, service, gift certificate, or vacation, contact Gia Ilijasic at 216-295-0136. The revelry begins at 7 pm with dinner and dancing at the Intercontinental Hotel, 9801 Carnegie Avenue. Tickets are \$125-\$295 per person. For event information, contact Christine Auginas at 216-295-4325.

Shaker News Briefs

Shaker resident Neal E. Shapero was recently elected to a two-year term as Board Chair of the Ohio, Kentucky and Allegheny Region of the Anti-Defamation League. The Anti-Defamation League combats bigotry and discrimination against people of all races and religions. Shapero is managing partner of the law firm of Shapero & Roloff Co., L.P.A.

The following appointments were made to the Landmark Commission:

Sarah Beimers for a three year term, expiring December 31, 2010.

Meghan Hays for a three year term, expiring December 31, 2010.

Kevin Dreyfus-Wells to fill an unexpired term, expiring December 31, 2009.

The following appointments were to the Architectural Board of Review:

James Neville for a three-year term, expiring on December 31, 2010.

Christopher Wynn as an alternate member for a three-year term, expiring on December 31, 2010.

William Oeflien to fill an unexpired term, expiring on December 31, 2008.

Bruce Jackson as an alternate member to fill an unexpired term, expiring on December 31, 2009.

Seasonal Reminders

Parking Ban: Parking is not allowed on Shaker streets between 2 and 6 am. During or after snow storms, cars may also be banned from street parking so that plows can clear the road. If in doubt,

check with the Police Department at 216-491-1220.

Nominations for Customer Service: The City appreciates nominations from residents for outstanding customer service - above and beyond expectations - provided by City employees. Nominations are accepted all year long for recognition in the spring of 2008. Instructions can be found in the Human Resources section of the City website, shakeronline.com.

Go Green Rebate Program: Income eligible residents can receive a rebate for their energy audit and up to 25 percent of approved costs for energy efficient improvements (up to \$1,000). Find out more by calling 216-491-1370.

Bicycle Licensing: Licenses will be sold from 9 am to 3 pm February 9 and March 8 in the Police Department lobby, 3355 Lee Road. Cost is \$5 (re-issued licenses are 50 cents). Please bring the owner's Social Security number, which will be recorded on the application. A parent's number can be used for children.

Lost Pets: Call the Public Works Department at 216-491-1490 (after hours or emergencies, 216-491-1499).

Sewer Safety: Prevent sewer problems before they begin!

- Do not flush paper towels or commercial wipes (baby, household, automotive, etc.) down toilets. Discard with trash only.
- Do not wash grease down the sink or toilet. To safely discard, put into a container, allow to harden, then include with trash.
- Do not place trash, debris or grass clippings in catch basins located along street curbs.

To ask a sewer-related question or report a problem, call the Public Works Department at 216-491-1490. For emergency service, the City will attempt to provide temporary relief by accessing the test tee on the property. If the City is unable to locate the test tee, it becomes the homeowner's responsibility (per City ordinance) to hire a private contractor or plumber to locate the tee.

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~ Matt and Fiona Green, Shaker Residents

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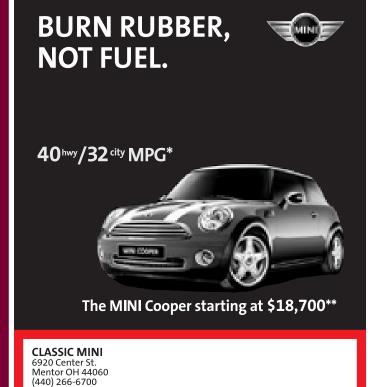
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REAL NUMBERS

Housing transfers between September 1 and November 30, 2007 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	2007 SALE PRICE	PRIOR SALE PRICE	ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST
3260 ABERDEEN ROAD	\$170,000	\$214,000 (2001)	\$ 10,500 (1923)
3289 AVALON ROAD	\$190,000	\$100,000 (2001)	\$ 12,000 (1925)
22275 CALVERTON ROAD	\$397,000	\$385,000 (2005)	\$ 15,000 (1932)
2992 CHADBOURNE ROAD	\$232,000	\$210,000 (2000)	\$ 5,000 (1916)
3016 CHADBOURNE ROAD	\$302,000	\$287,500 (2004)	\$ 8,000 (1917)
3042 CHADBOURNE ROAD	\$220,000	\$135,000 (1998)	\$ 11,000 (1922)
22699 DOUGLAS ROAD	\$300,000	\$450,000 (2005)	\$ 30,000 (1954)
14300 DREXMORE ROAD	\$460,000	\$350,000 (2003)	\$ 37,000 (1967)
21275 FAIRMOUNT BLVD	\$155,000	\$192,000 (2002)	\$ 33,000 (1951)
3104 FALMOUTH ROAD	\$340,000	\$420,000 (2000)	\$ 18,000 (1925)
3552 GLENCAIRN ROAD	\$143,000	\$149,900 (1999)	\$ 12,500 (1929)
23801 HERMITAGE ROAD	\$512,500	\$319,000 (1997)	\$ 45,000 (1964)
3379 INGLESIDE ROAD	\$310,000	\$197,000 (1998)	\$ 15,000 (1927)
19014 LOMOND BLVD	\$185,000	\$210,000 (2004)	\$ 9,000 (1940)
3312 MAYNARD ROAD	\$375,000	\$247,500 (1999)	\$ 22,000 (1926)
22175 PARNELL ROAD	\$550,000	\$585,000 (2002)	\$ 20,000 (1936)
3658 PENNINGTON ROAD	\$ 51,500	\$ 56,000 (2005)	\$ 3,500 (1941)
17551 SHAKER BLVD	\$430,000	\$575,000 (2006)	\$ 35,000 (1952)
3199 SOMERSET DR	\$345,000	\$196,000 (1988)	\$ 20,000 (1954)
23949 STANFORD ROAD	\$519,500	\$361,000 (2003)	\$ 37,500 (1950)
3652 TOLLAND ROAD	\$210,000	\$121,000 (2001)	\$ 7,800 (1941)
3651 TOWNLEY ROAD	\$156,000	\$153,200 (2004)	\$ 9,500 (1928)
22412 WESTCHESTER RD	\$247,500	\$224,000 (2002)	\$ 35,000 (1953)
22526 WESTCHESTER RD	\$230,000	\$255,000 (2004)	\$ 12,000 (1930)
18514 WINSLOW ROAD	\$160,000	\$143,700 (1998)	\$ 12,000 (1926)
14721 S WOODLAND RD	\$212,000	\$200,000 (2005)	\$ 32,000 (1952)
17640 S WOODLAND RD	\$900,000	\$665,000 (2003)	\$ 25,000 (1935)
23851 S WOODLAND ROAD	\$187,000	\$170,000 (2005)	\$ 25,000 (1954)

Information Source: First American Real Estate Solutions

Incentive Offered for Two-Family Purchase on Winslow

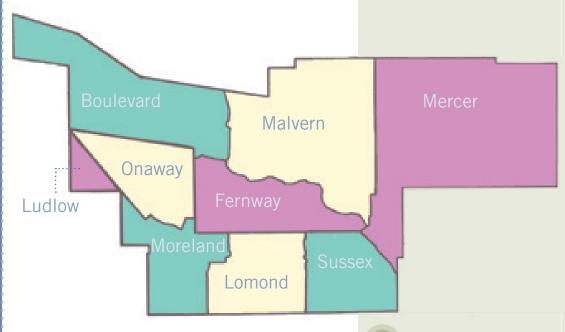
Thinking about buying a home in Shaker? Purchasing a two-family home in the City's newest historic district, Winslow Road, could be the smart move: the City is providing a \$5,000 grant to new buyers who will live in their Winslow Road home for at least two years. Two-family homes are ideal for growing a home-based business, for multi-generational living, or for living in one unit while renting the other. In addition, Winslow Road homes boast charming and graceful architectural features, each one with its own distinctive interior and exterior design.

To qualify for the grant, buyers must live on premise and take the City's landlord training course. Properties may not be in foreclosure, delinquent in taxes, or be declared a public or criminal nuisance. To learn more about this opportunity, call the Department of Neighborhood Revitalization at 216-491-1370.



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shaker neighborhoods



150-year-old Red oaks line West Park in the Boulevard neighborhood.

Thinking about moving to Shaker?

Get to know Shaker's nine distinctive neighborhoods

Boulevard

A pleasing mix of home styles and types, including cool new condos (South Park Row). Boulevard's proximity to University Hospitals, Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University attracts a large number of international families.

Fernway

Young families are drawn to Fernway by its centrally located elementary school and tidy rows of streets lined with lovely houses close to both ends of the Chagrin corridor — Shaker Town Center on one side and Warrensville/Van Aken on the other.

Lomond

A great place to find traditional single family homes as well as truly unique two-family homes, and apartment buildings with an architectural flair all their



own. Lomond School events draw members of the greater neighborhood in addition to families of school children. Gridley Triangle park, Shaker Town Center shops and restaurants and a number of Blue Line RTA stops are all within walking distance.

Ludlow

The historical heart of Shaker Heights. Close to University Circle, Larchmere district, and Shaker Square's restaurants, cinema, and shops. Smaller in area than other neighborhoods, but very tightly knit.

Malvern

A striking array of homes with charming front doorways. A predominantly residential neighborhood nestled among mature trees. Malvern is a peaceful district that surrounds the wonderfully restored Hanna Perkins Center building and grounds, complete with public green space and butterfly garden.

Mercer

The largest of Shaker's neighborhoods. Cozy, contemporary, ranch, traditional or stately homes, all in a large and lovely environment conducive to walking, running, biking, and strolling. And, the new and improved Thornton Park is in Mercer's backyard.

Moreland

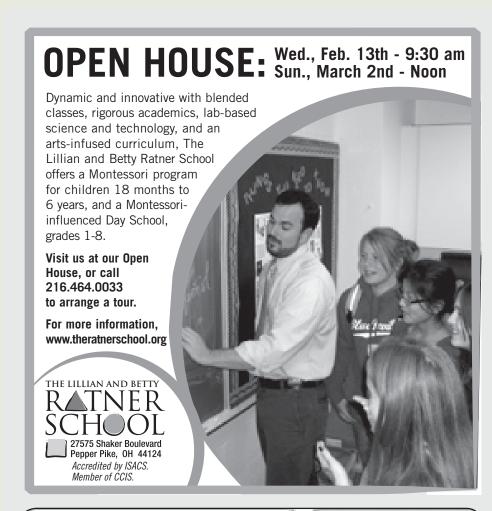
Front porch heaven. First floor, second floor, with planters, rockers, and a cool breeze on a hot summer day. Moreland is close to the tri-school area, and home to Chelton and Around-the-World playgrounds.

Onaway

A community that blends architecturally significant public school buildings with a wide range of traditional homes. Onaway is close to the Nature Center, as well as the Main Library and Shaker Community Building.

Sussex

Feels like a hub of activity fueled by its walkability and regular neighborhood endeavors, such as the annual Ice Cream Social. Sussex is home to the Shaker Family Center and an easy walk to Warrensville/Van Aken district and Thornton Park.





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The Mandel JCC Early Childhood Programs

The Mandel JCC offers outstanding preschool and full-day child care programs for infants through Pre-K. Our highly-educated, experienced staff provides excellence in early care and education to meet your child's unique needs. Our three convenient locations operate 7:30 am to 6 pm daily and childcare and preschool openings are still available.

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SOLON

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We welcome the entire community



For information or a tour: (216) 593-6262 www.clevejcc.org

real estate news

Certified Shaker

Certified Shaker is a program that recognizes rental properties that meet or exceed the City of Shaker Heights' 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 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 216-491-1332 or check the City's website, shakeronline.com. To learn more about becoming certified, call 216-491-1370.

APARTMENTS:

3660 Warrensville Center Shaker Norwood Apartments (Ned and Catherine Wasserstein)

2680 North Moreland The Lakemore Apartments (Montlack Realty; Kirt and Michael Montlack)

RENTAL HOMES:

3320 Braemar Road (Elias and Lisa Antoniou)

3647 Latimore Road (Norman and Ilene Sigel)

3569 Lynnfield Road (Christina Milano)

3675 Lytle Road (Dexter and Felicia Lindsey)

3672 Rawnsdale Road (Larry and Linda King)

19024 Winslow Road (Aileen Banks) ■



Library Places 4-Mill Replacement Levy on March Ballot

The Library Board of Trustees approved placing an operational levy on the March 4 ballot. The Library is not asking for an increase in millage; it is seeking a replacement of its current 4mill continuing operating levy. Thomas and Christine Stevens will serve as honorary co-chairs of the Library Levy Committee and Karen LaJoe has agreed to serve as Levy Committee Treasurer.

The last time the Library sought funding was in November 2001, when 78% of the voters passed a 4-mill continuing levy. The new funds were first collected in 2003; however, because of Ohio's legislative restrictions on the collection of property tax levies, the Library's existing 4-mill levy has an effective rate of just 3.177948 mills for the Tax Year 2006. A positive vote on the replacement of the current levy would restore the millage collection rate to 4 mills beginning with the 2008 Tax Year, with collection in 2009.

The Library Board determined the need to seek a replacement levy after analyzing the future needs of the library. The Library's year-end unencumbered balance has fallen from 22% of total revenue in 2000 to just 14% in 2006. Conservative projections have forecast a negative balance as early as 2009.

Funding from the State of Ohio's Library & Local Government Support Fund (LLGSF) has been flat for the past six years and accounted for only 37% of the Library's total tax revenues in 2006 compared to 44% in 2000.

The current operating levy generates 62% of the library's total tax revenue and 58% of all revenue received. With approval from voters, the replacement levy of 4 mills should generate approximately \$700,000 additional revenue annually, an increase from \$97.32 to \$122.50, which translates to \$25.18/

year (or less than $7\phi/day$) for residents with a home valued at \$100,000.

Both libraries have information about the levy and residents are welcome to call the library with ques-

Shaker Library **Seeks Trustee**

Shaker Heights Board of Education seeks a candidate for appointment to the Shaker Heights Public Library Board of Trustees. The appointment is for a 2-year term of office to fill the remaining term of Thomas Schorgl, who has resigned.

Shaker Library is a school district public library serving the same geographic area as the schools, but is a separate political entity with an autonomous Board. The Board of Trustees is the governing body for the library and establishes policies and approves the expenditure of funds.

Current members of the library board are Judith Allen, Dr. David Hutt, Kenneth McGovern, Kurt Miller, Jeanne Shatten and Donna Whyte. The library board usually meets at 6:30 pm the second Monday of the months of September through June at the Main Library.

Shaker School District residents interested in being considered for an appointment to the Library Board can download an application at www.shakerlibrary.org, pick up an application at either Shaker Library or the Board of Education Administration building or they can address their request to: Library Trustee Search, Shaker Heights Board of Education, 15600 Parkland Drive, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120. Completed applications must be returned to the Board of Education by February 4, 2008.

Meet the Author Series:

Margaret Bernstein, Thrity Umrigar & Kristin Ohlson



author Meet Margaret Bernstein 7 pm Wednesday, February 27 at Woods Branch. Bernstein is the author of The Bond: Three Young Men Learn to Forgive and Reconnect with Their

Fathers, a memoir on fatherlessness by "The Three Doctors," Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt and George Jenkins. It was released in October 2007 by Riverhead Publishing, a division of Penguin Books.

A Los Angeles native, Plain Dealer feature writer Margaret Bernstein earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Southern California. As a metro columnist for The Plain Dealer, she won the first-place column award from the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists in 1992.

An award-winning volunteer as well as journalist, Bernstein was named the National Big Sister of the Year in 2000 for her work with two Cleveland girls, Cora and Ernestine, through the local Big Brother Big Sister chapter. She is also a main organizer of the Urban Journalism Workshop, an annual program for high school students put on by local black journalists.

Bernstein is married to Shaker Heights Chief Prosecutor C. Randolph Keller, and is the mother of Randy, 14, and Alexandria, 12.

Meet authors Thrity Umrigar and Kristin Ohlson at 7 pm Wednesday, March 26 at Woods Branch when they speak about the art of writing and how they get their ideas.

Thrity Umrigar is an associate professor of English at Case Western Reserve where she teaches creative writing and

continued on page 18

Corner

MAIN LIBRARY • 16500 VAN AKEN BOULEVARD • 216-991-2030 BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH = 20600 FAYETTE ROAD = 216-991-2421

PLAY AND LEARN AT MAIN LIBRARY

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

No registration is required.

10 am-noon Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

6–8 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

PLAY AND LEARN BABIES AT MAIN LIBRARY

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

No registration is required.

10 am-noon Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

6–8 pm Thursdays

PLAY AND LEARN STATION FOR CAREGIVERS AT MAIN LIBRARY

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

A one-time registration is required; please call Shaker Family Center at 216-921-2023.

10 am-noon Wednesdays

Play and Learn programs are offered in partnership with Shaker Family Center.

BOOK BABIES

Stories, songs, games and rhymes for one-year-olds with an adult.

Spring Session: March 18–May 14 Babies 12-18 months

(Must be 12 mos. by March 15)

9:30 am Tuesdays at

Woods Branch

9:30 am Wednesdays at

Main Library

Babies 18-24 months (Must be 18 mos. by March 15) 10:30 am Tuesdays at Woods Branch 10:30 am Wednesdays at Main Library

In-person registration begins 9 am Saturday, February 23 for Shaker Heights City School District residents. Non-residents may register beginning Tuesday, February 26. Please register at the library where your child will attend.

(No programs the week of Spring Break: March 31–April 3)

TODDLER STORYTIME

Stories, songs, and movement for 2year-olds with an adult.

Spring Session: March 17–May 15 (Must be 2 years old by March 15) 10 am Mondays or Wednesdays at

Woods Branch 10 am Tuesdays or Thursdays at

Main Library

In-person registration begins at 9 am, Saturday, February 23 for Shaker Heights City School District residents. Non-residents may register beginning Tuesday, February 26. Please register at the library where your child will attend.

(No program during the week of Spring Break: March 31–April 3)

PRESCHOOL STORIES

Stories and fun for 3-, 4-, & 5-yearolds.

10 am or 1:30 pm Mondays at Main Library

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

No registration is required; however, groups are asked to make special arrangements. (No programs during the week of Spring Break: March 31–April 3)

EVENING SPRING PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT WOODS BRANCH

Stories, songs and crafts about Spring for 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds. 7 pm Tuesdays April 8, 15, 22, 29 Registration begins March 25.

PAJAMA STORIES AT **WOODS BRANCH**

Stories for children ages 3 and up with or without an adult. 7:15 pm Monday, March 17 Registration begins March 3.

MAKE-IT-TAKE-IT WEEK AT WOODS BRANCH

February 18–23: Create a panda puppet March 17-22: Decorate a shamrock dog

WRITERS CLUB AT MAIN LIBRARY (GRADES 2-4)

Use your imagination and words to write exciting stories, poetry, letters, news articles and much more! Spring Session: March 18–May 6 4:15 pm Tuesdays Registration begins February 26.

AFTERSCHOOL AUTHORS AT WOODS **BRANCH (GRADES 2-5)**

Read, write, and publish in this series of workshops for kids who love to

Spring Session: March 19–May 7 4:15 pm Wednesdays Registration begins February 27.

WILD ABOUT YOU! (GRADES K-3)

Animals don't celebrate Valentine's Day, but many of them show their love for their young just like our parents show their love for us. Find out which animals are great parents and which animals leave their babies to fend for themselves. Make an animal Valentine craft to take home. Special Guest: Denise Brooks, Naturalist from The Nature Center at Shaker

4:15-5:15 pm Tuesday, February 12 at Woods Branch

4:15-5:15 pm Wednesday, February 13 at Main Library

Registration began January 29.



AMERICAN GIRL® DOLLS THROUGH HISTORY (GRADES 1-4)

Explore the world of the American Girl® dolls. Meet monthly to hear a passage from the first book in the doll's series. Play a game, make a craft and enjoy a snack from that doll's time period.

MEET JULIE 2-4 pm Saturday, February 2 at **Main Library** Registration began January 19.

2-4 pm Saturday, February 9 at **Woods Branch**

Registration began January 26.

PACK YOUR BAGS... AT MAIN LIBRARY (GRADES K-3)

Explore the African Mountain Kingdom. Try your hand at a traditional craft, hear a story, and practice carrying things the Lesotho way – on your head! 4:15-5:15 pm Wednesday, March 5 Registration begins February 20.

GET READY FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT MAIN LIBRARY (GRADES K-3)

Learn a few Irish words, listen to an Irish tale, make a craft, enjoy a green snack, and search for a pot of gold. 4:15–5:15 pm Wednesday, March 12 Registration begins February 27.

PARLEZ-VOUS FRANÇAIS? AT WOODS BRANCH

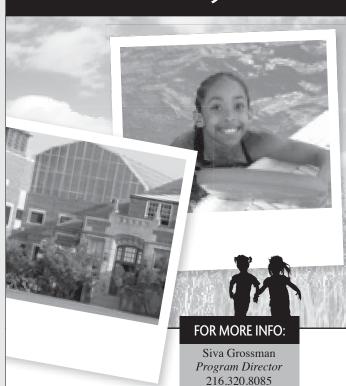
Listen to a children's classic, Bonsoir Lune, in French, play a traditional game, make a craft, and taste the favorite candy of French children.

4:15-5:15 pm Tuesday, March 18 Registration begins March 4.

THE HOMEWORK CENTER AT MAIN LIBRARY (GRADES 3-6)

The Homework Center is staffed by undergraduate education students and certified teachers. Register for tutoring times at the Main Library Youth Services Desk or visit the Homework Center. 4-6:30 pm Mondays & Wednesdays (Closed Monday, February 18, March 31, April 7 & Wednesday, April 2) A parent or guardian must complete a registration form for each student the first time the student visits the center.

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Monday – Thursday Boys & Girls ages 3-4 June 23rd – July 31st Girls Grades K – 8

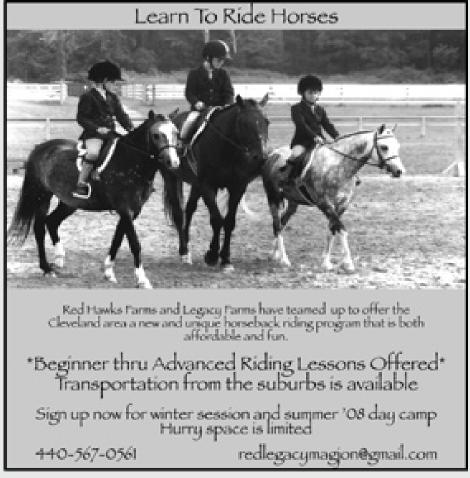
Vacation Camp:

Monday - Friday Spring: March 17th – March 28th Summer: August 4th – August 22nd Boys & Girls ages 3 – 14

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library news



Umrigar

literature. She was born in Bombay, India, and came to the United States to study journalism at Ohio State University. She worked as a reporter at the Lorain Journal and the

Akron Beacon Journal.

She received a Nieman Fellowship to Harvard where she completed her novel, Bombay Time. Her memoir, First Darling of the Morning, published in 2004, is a powerful, revealing account of her childhood in India. Her second novel, The Space Between Us, published in 2006, is a riveting examination of Indian class structure told from the viewpoints of two women and was a #1 Pick by BookSense as well as a Border's Books Original Voices selection. Her latest novel, If Today Be Sweet, is the story of a mother and son divided by culture.

Kristin Ohlson is a California-born, Cleveland-based writer, and author of Stalking the Divine, which won the American



Ohlson

Society of Journalists and Authors' 2004 Nonfiction Best Book award, and coauthor of the New York Times bestselling Kabul Beauty School: An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil.

A freelance writer, she has written articles and essays for the New York Times, Salon, Discover, New Scientist, Ms., Oprah, More, Ladies Home Journal, Utne, Tin House, Gourmet, Vegetarian Times, Food & Wine, Audubon, Poets & Writers, Sojourners, Brain-Child, and many regional publications.

One of her essays was published in Salon's 2003 anthology, Life As We Know It, and another was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and named one of the notable essays of the year in Best American Essays 2005. She is also the winner of the Ohio Arts

Council's 2003 major fellowship for fiction. She teaches creative nonfiction at local colleges and is a frequent speaker at writers' conferences.

Authors will read from their books, which will be available for sale and signing following the program. Reservations are requested by calling Woods Branch at 216-991-2421.

Library Seeks Entries for 9th Annual **Barbara Luton Art** Contest

Artists interested in entering the library's ninth annual Barbara Luton Art Competition are encouraged to pick up an entry form at the circulation desks at either library. The contest is named in honor of Shaker resident Barbara Luton, a former library director who managed the renovation of Moreland School into the current Main Library.

Entries will be accepted from 12:30 pm to 5 pm Friday, February 29 and from 10 am to 2 pm Saturday, March 1. A nonrefundable entry fee of \$25 for up to two pieces is required at the time of entry.

Past winners' works, including Gary Williams' pastel and fabric collage, Tishauna 7.1, Horace Reese's graphite drawing, Ethiopian, Terry Sciko's The Fourth of October, John Harmon's Interspace, Johnine Byrne's Lanterns, Jerome White's Quality Time, David Brichford's Man Eater and Daniel George's 220 Stories are part of the library's permanent art collection.

The Barbara Luton Art Show awards include a purchase award not to exceed \$1,000 for the Best of Show; \$200 for First Place; \$100 for Second Place; \$50 for Third Place and certificates for honorable mention. Awards will be presented at the Friends-sponsored gallery opening reception from 2-4 pm Sunday, March 30 and the exhibit will continue through May 9.

For more information about the art contest, please call the library at 216-991-2030.

Teen Scene

Teen Poetry Slam at Main Library!

SLAM is what you get when you merge the art of performance with the art of poetry, and whether you call it Slam Poetry, Open Mic Poetry or Spoken Word, the library is giving teens a chance to put theirs out there from 4–6 pm Wednesday, February 27 at Main Library. Performances will be filmed and judged and teens can opt to put their performance on YouTube. Teens between the ages of 13 and 18 must pre-register between February 13-22 by calling the library or stopping at the Teen

Participants must perform their own, original work and all work must be 3 minutes or less. (No props or costumes are allowed; this is about words!) Teens are asked to be prepared, be professional, and be on time. SLAM often contains strong language, and teens are encouraged to keep the age of the audience in mind. Absolutely no hate speech will be allowed.

Genealogy Just For Teens: Uncover Your Roots at the Main Library

Have fun using online resources and genealogy software to follow the trail of your ancestors' lives. Learn where your family comes from, how to find more information, and how to create a family tree that your family will enjoy.

7:00-8:00 Tuesday, February 5 Main Library Computer Lab Register by calling 216-991-2030, ext. 3141.



Valentine's Day in the Teen Center



Quizzes, contests and Valentine's Day treats 3:30-8 pm Thursday, February 14

Anime Club at Woods Branch

Anime fans get together to watch films and learn about Japanese culture and munch on Japanese snacks 3:30-4:30 pm Thursday, February 21 3:30-4:30 pm Thursday, March 20

T.A.B. (Teen Advisory Board) Meeting at Main Library

Regular meeting for 2007-2008 Teen Advisory Board members 7:30-8:15 pm Tuesday, February 26 7:30-8:15 pm Tuesday, March 18

Coming of Age in Nigeria: **Initiation Into Womanhood**

To celebrate Black History Month, Shaker Library and the Anioma Association of Greater Cleveland continue their partnership in exploring family traditions of the Anioma people of Nigeria. In previous years, Anioma members have reenacted a traditional wedding ceremony, a babynaming ceremony, and a boy's coming-ofage ceremony. This year, society members will reenact portions of a rites-of-passage ceremony - from girlhood to womanhood at 2 pm Saturday, February 23 at the Main

Female initiation is a very significant occasion involving family, friends, and members of the community. Along with poetry, drumming and entertainment, this year's program will also feature a brief panel discussion about the stages of a young girl's initiation into womanhood with time for questions from the audience.

Nigerian traditional ceremonies are always accompanied by music, food and dance. And, to keep it authentic, as in previous programs, Nigerian food will be served. Reservations are requested by calling 216-991-2030.

Our family welcomes yours to discover a program as unique



JDN offers an extraordinary program for children ages 18 months to six years. The personal and nurturing environment encourages self-expression, confidence and respect, as well as academic excellence. It embraces all the values that are central to our homes, with kosher food too.

To find out more about our programs, call to arrange a personal tour. Full-day toddler, preschool and kindergarten classes are forming now for fall 2008.

Early Childhood Center

22201 Fairmount Boulevard Shaker Heights, Ohio 44118 Sue Paley Weaver, M.S.S.A., L.I.S.W., Director 216.320.8489 www.jdnearlychildhoodcenter.org

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Computer Class Schedule

A variety of free computer classes is offered to residents who wish to learn a new skill or hone an old one. Classes, descriptions, times, and registration dates are listed below. Reservations can be made by calling the Computer Center at 216-991-2030 ext. 3185. For classes that have asterisks, call Training Specialist Walter Lesch at 216-991-2030 ext. 3156.

INTRODUCTION TO POWERPOINT® 3 pm Friday, February 1 (Registration began January 21.) 10 am Thursday, February 7 (Registration began January 28.) 10 am Wednesday, March 5 (Registration begins February 25.)

Learn to create a slide show with text and graphics, to edit slides and to add sound and animation.

MOUSE CLASS

10 am Saturday, February 2 (Registration began January 21.) 10 am Saturday, March 1 (Registration begins February 18.) 10 am Saturday, March 29 (Registration begins March 17.)

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

INTERNET WITH EXPERTS: SCAMS AND SPAM 6:30 pm Monday, February 4 (Registration began January 28.)

Criminals and thieves use the Internet to bilk people out of money and to steal personal information. In addition to scams, more than half of all email traffic is unsolicited bulk commercial email called SPAM. Learn how to recognize and avoid them.

library news 🎩

** CREATING AND USING TABLES IN ACCESS™ 10 am Wednesday, February 6 (Registration began January 28.) 10 am Tuesday, March 4 (Registration begins February 25.) Explore designing and using tables in an Access database.

** GRAPHICS IN POWERPOINT® 3 pm Wednesday, February 6 (Registration began January 28.)

Learn the types of table relationships that can be drawn.

** ANIMATION IN POWERPOINT® 3 pm Friday, February 8 (Registration began January 28.) 10 am Thursday, February 14 (Registration begins February 4.)

Learn the objects that can be added to a slide and the menus that control them.

INTERNET CLASS 10 am Saturday, February 9 (Registration began January 28.) 10 am Saturday, March 8 (Registration begins February 25.)

Discover how to find and use a variety of online resources using Internet Explorer. "Surf" the web to find sites of interest. Participants must be able to use a mouse.

INTERNET WITH EXPERTS: GOOGLEMANIA™ 6:30 pm Monday, February 11 (Registration begins February 4.)

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

** CREATING AND USING FORMS IN ACCESS™ 10 am Tuesday, February 12 (Registration begins February 4.)

This 90-minute class explores designing and using forms in an Access database.

HOW TO BUILD A WEB PAGE 3 pm Tuesday, February 12 (Registration begins February 4.)

This 90-minute class explores HTML, the

language used to create many of the web pages found on the Internet. Participants must have mouse and basic keyboarding

INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL® 3 pm Friday, February 15 (Registration begins February 4.) 10 am Thursday, February 21 (Registration begins February 11.) 3 pm Wednesday, March 5 (Registration begins February 25.) 6:30 pm Monday, March 31 (Registration begins March 24.)

Learn the basics of spreadsheet construction, formatting, design, printing options and using basic formulas.

WEB EMAIL 10 am Saturday, February 16 (Registration begins February 4.)

Learn to access a web e-mail account and to send and receive messages.

**USING OFFICE PROGRAMS TOGETHER 6:30 pm Monday, February 18 (Registration begins February 11.)

This hands-on class demonstrates how elements of one program can be used within another.

CREATING AND USING REPORTS IN ACCESS™ 10 am Tuesday, February 19 (Registration begins February 11.)

Discover the different styles of reports available in Access and learn to manipulate the design of the report, show summaries of data, and more.

WORKING WITH WINDOWS® 3 pm Friday, February 22 (Registration begins February 11.)

This class is designed for those who can navigate the Internet and work with programs, but are not comfortable using multiple windows.

BASIC WORD PROCESSING 10 am Saturday, February 23 (Registration begins February 11.) 10 am Saturday, March 22 (Registration begins March 10.)

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

** GRAPHICS AND CLIP ART IN MICROSOFT WORD® 6:30 pm Monday, February 25 (Registration begins February 18.)

Learn the various types of objects that can be inserted into a document, including text boxes, clip art, word art, and other graphics.

** CHARTS AND GRAPHS IN EXCEL® 10 am Tuesday, February 26 (Registration begins February 18.) 3 pm Friday, March 7 (Registration begins February 25.)

Explore the ways that Excel can display data as charts and graphs, and learn the basic ways data can be charted.

CREATING AND USING QUERIES IN ACCESS™ 10 am Wednesday, February 27 (Registration begins February 18.) 10 am Thursday, March 6 (Registration begins February 25.)

Queries are questions asked of databases. Learn to ask the questions correctly in this class.

INTRODUCTION TO ACCESS™ 10 am Thursday, February 28 (Registration begins February 18.) 6:30 pm Monday, March 3 (Registration begins February 25.)

Learn 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.

** MAIL MERGE 3 pm Tuesday, February 29 (Registration begins February 18.)

Mail Merge utilizes list and address information from many sources, like Word tables, Excel sheets, and Access Data Tables.



The Bookshelf

Looking for a good book? These titles from 2007 were library staff favorites.

FOR ADULTS:

The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944 by Rick Atkinson. Henry Holt, 2007. In the second volume in the projected "Liberation Trilogy" and the follow-up to An Army at Dawn, the Pulitzer Prize winner for History in 2003, the author presents an American view of the war in Europe that is at once a comprehensive narrative to hostilities and a moving homage to those who served and died. (Luren E. Dickinson)

New England White by Stephen L. Carter. Alfred A Knopf, 2007. The murder of antagonistic professor Kellen Zant raises thorny issues of race, class and politics. When she starts investigating on her own, Zant's former lover, who is now the wife of the university president, realizes that his murder is merely the beginning of the story. (Kim DeNero-Ackroyd)

Once Upon a Game: Baseball's Greatest Memories by Alan Schwarz. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Baseball fans of all ages will enjoy the vivid photographs and sometimes poignant, sometimes thrilling, and always inspirational great moments in the lives of the Boys of Summer. Twenty percent of the royalties from the sale of this book go to the Alzheimer's Association, a leader in Alzheimer's research and support. (Lisa Mertel)

Soul Catcher by Michael White. William Morrow, 2007. The fates of slave catcher Augustus Cain and runaway slave Rosetta are intertwined in this vivid pre-Civil War adventure that details a world teeming with passionate abolitionists, dark-hearted slave catchers and determined slaves. (Lynda Thomas)

The Tin Roof Blowdown: A Dave Robicheaux Novel by James Lee Burke. Simon and Schuster, 2007. Dealing with the ravages of Hurricane Katrina would be tough enough. Try finding criminals, witnesses and the truth behind several somehow interrelated deaths on top of that! This award-winning author weaves a graphic, engaging mystery with a detailed description of the effects of the storm on the city, the people and the landscape of New Orleans. (Ed Rossman)

The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story by Diane Ackerman. W.W. Norton, 2007. Antonina and Jan Zabinski, who ran the Warsaw Zoo during the Nazi occupation of Poland, watched in horror as their beloved city was ruined and the zoo's animals died of starvation, were killed for sport, or confiscated for genetic experimentation. However, they used the empty zoo as a safe haven and hiding place for more than 300 Jews and resistance fighters. Ackerman's graceful prose juxtaposes the irony of the Nazi's efforts to recreate extinct species while exterminating millions of Jews with the Zabinskis' efforts to save hundreds of humans from extinction at the hands of the Nazis. (Susie Brown)

FOR CHILDREN

Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry compiled by Jane Yolen and Andrew Fusek Peters; illustrated by Polly Dunbar. Candlewick Press, 2007. This delightful collection of short works by a variety of poets features charming illustrations and offers a wonderful introduction to poetry for the very youngest children. (Maureen Brodar)

Hurry! Hurry! by Eve Bunting; illustrated by Jeff Mack. Harcourt Children's Books, 2007. No time to lose in this romp of a book, with illustrations so exuberant they fly off the page. Where's everyone going in such a rush? You'll find out, and you won't be disappointed. (Tricia Springstubb)

Jimmy Coates: Target by Joe Craig. HarperCollins, 2007. This fast-paced, action-packed, thriller picks up where Jimmy Coates: Assassin left off. Eleven-yearold Jimmy - 38% human and programmed to kill – was created by the Neo-British government as a super weapon. Now they want him destroyed. In this new adventure, allies and friends join Jimmy as he struggles with his humanity versus his deadly programming. (Mary Oluonye)

Peanut Butter and Jellyfishes, A Very Silly Alphabet Book by Brian P. Cleary; illustrated by Betsy E. Snyder. Millbrook Press, 2007. Kids need to learn their ABC's so why not make it fun! Cleveland author, Brian P. Cleary, pairs with Cleveland illustrator, Betsy E. Snyder, to produce an alphabet book that is exactly that - pure fun! The collage illustrations are delightfully intriguing for children, and they will have a great time searching for the hidden letters on each page. This book will eagerly be requested again and again. (Margaret Chatfield)

Rudy Rides the Rails: A Depression Era Story by Dandi Daley Mackall; illustrated by Carson Ellis. Sleeping Bear Press, 2007. A teenager leaves his home in Akron, Ohio during the Great Depression, and hops a train traveling west, hoping to find work so he can send money home to his jobless father. Lonely and hungry, Rudy learns to survive thanks to the secret signs left behind by the community of hoboes he meets along the way. (Virginia Schoelch)

Discount Tickets to Addy An American Girl

Shaker Library and Playhouse Square are offering Shaker families discount tickets to their Friday evening, March 7 and Saturday March 8 matinee production of Addy An American Girl. Order forms are on the library's website at www.shakerlibrary. org and at the Youth Services desks at both libraries.

Addy Walker is a hopeful 9-year-old girl growing up in slavery during the Civil War. When her Poppa and brother are sold, Momma and Addy must escape to freedom. While doing so, they hold fast to their dream of having their family together again. The story is based on the Addy books by Connie Porter.

As a companion to the production, the library has created a booklist of readalikes and books that depict the times during the Civil War era.

library news



Library Offers

Book Discussion Opportunities

Whether you like to read mysteries, fiction or finance, the Library has a book discussion designed to appeal to most reading appetites. Librarian-led book discussions are held at Main Library and Woods Branch.

12 PM SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9 AT MAIN LIBRARY

Back When We Were Grownups by Anne Tyler A soft-spoken middle-aged woman reflects on her life as it is now and what it could have been.

2 PM MONDAY FEBRUARY 11 AT WOODS BRANCH

Loving Frank by Nancy Horan

Fact and fiction are blended in this compelling story of the early 20th century scandal set in motion by architect Frank Lloyd Wright's affair with one of his married clients.

10 AM TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12 AT MAIN LIBRARY

Black Girl/White Girl by Joyce Carol Oates In this novel of dark suspense and racial tension set in the mid 1970s, Genna reflects on the tragic events leading up to the death of her college roommate.

7:30 PM TUESDAY FEBRUARY 12 AT MAIN LIBRARY

Suspect by Michael Robotham

When London psychologist Joe O'Loughlin is called in to consult with police on a brutal murder, he discovers that the victim is a former client who falsely accused him of rape.

7:30 PM TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26 AT MAIN LIBRARY

Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama Written by the senator from Illinois, this memoir chronicles his life as the son of a black Kenyan father and a white American mother.

12 PM SATURDAY MARCH 8 AT MAIN LIBRARY

The Bookseller of Kabul by Asne Seierstad After the fall of the Taliban, the author lived with the Khan family in Afghanistan. Her many vivid observations from inside an Islamic family are filled with contradictions and irony.

2 PM MONDAY MARCH 10 AT WOODS BRANCH

Sister of My Heart by Chitra Divakaruni

Two cousins are born on the same day in the same Calcutta household and love each other as sisters until arranged marriages, family secrets and distance separate them. When tragedy strikes they turn to each other for love and support.

10 AM TUESDAY MARCH 11 AT MAIN LIBRARY

The Madonnas of Leningrad by Debra Dean At age 82, Russian émigré Marina can no longer hold on to fresh memories, but her distant past is preserved in vivid images of the paintings in the Hermitage Museum that she and other museum workers put into safekeeping during the siege of Leningrad.

7:30 PM MARCH 11 AT MAIN LIBRARY Gentlemen and Players by Joanne Harris

Things are changing at the exclusive St. Oswald's Grammar School for Boys, but not for the better, as veteran classics teacher Roy Straitley finds himself the sole obstacle to sinister forces bent on completely ruining the school.

7 PM WEDNESDAY MARCH 19 AT MAIN LIBRARY

Rich Dad, Poor Dad: What the Rich Teach Their Kids About Money — That the Poor and Middle Class Do Not! by Robert T. Kiyosaki This is the first in a series of successful books about money management. Despite some controversial aspects, it offers broad explanations of investing and finances, the markets, and real estate that can lead to some heated debate about money, education, kids and "the man."

7:30 PM TUESDAY MARCH 25 AT MAIN LIBRARY

Saturday by Ian McEwan

An English neurosurgeon comes face to face with reality when he encounters a common street thug.

Movies at Main

Thanks to the generosity of Friends of the Shaker Library, which underwrites the movie licensing rights, Shaker Library continues its movie series at the Main Library. All films are free.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7 at 6:30 pm watch Elizabeth: The Golden Age. Cate Blanchett and Geoffrey Rush reprise the roles they originated in the Academy-award nominated film, Elizabeth. This PG-13-rated film explores the relationship between Elizabeth I and the adventurer Sir Walter Raleigh.

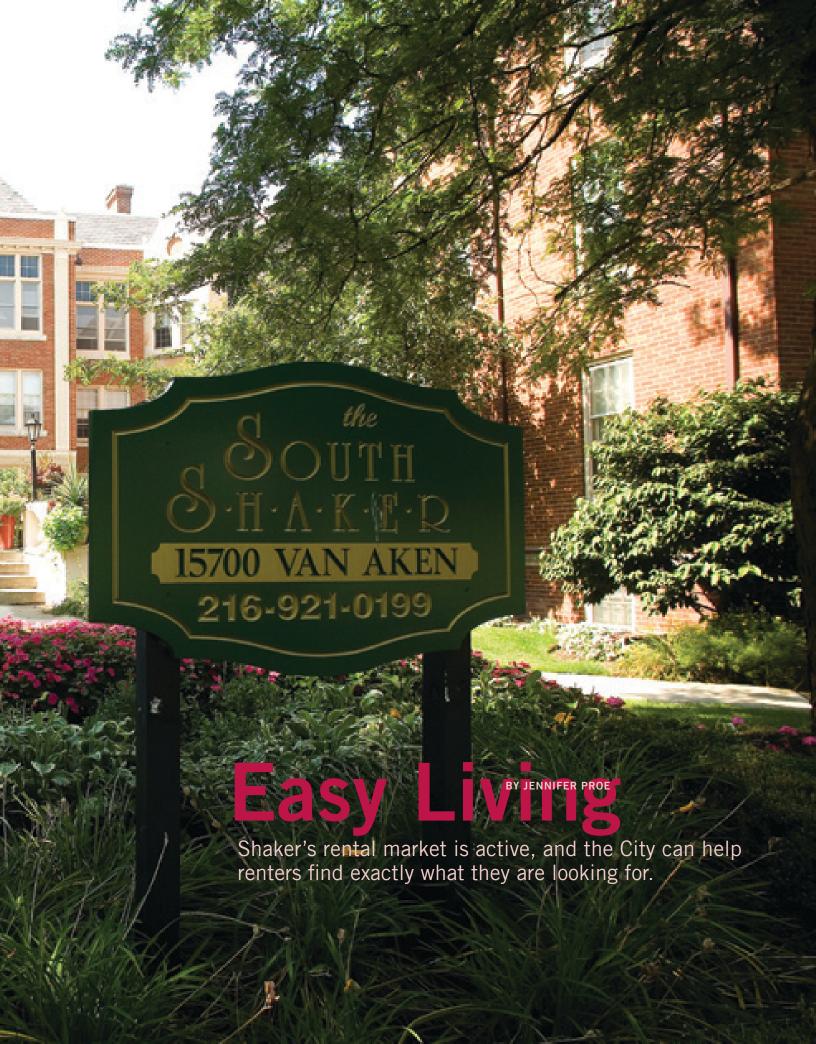
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23 at 2 pm watch Martian Child, the PG-rated film about a science fiction writer who decides to adopt a 6-year-old boy to complete his family. Everything goes great until the imaginative dad becomes convinced that the boy is an alien from Mars!

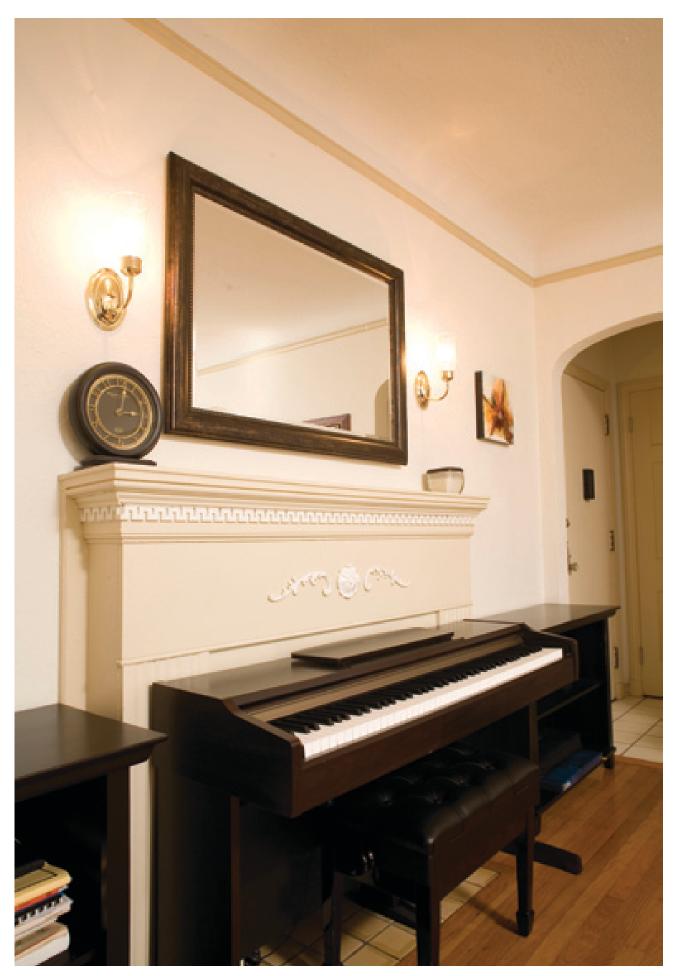
Endnotes 🔦



- Knit Nights continue at Woods Branch from 7 to 8:45 pm Wednesday evenings, February 21 and March 13. Residents can bring a knitting project and get or give help. The creative sessions are led by experienced knitter Fern Braverman.
- Poetry Back in the Woods series continues at 7 pm Thursday, February 14 and Tuesday, March 25 at Woods Branch. Meet the poets and enjoy their performance of the spoken word.
- Both libraries are closed Friday morning March 14 for Staff Professional Development and will re-open 2-6 pm.
- The Main Library Art Wall features the Play and Learn photographs of David Bergholz through February 7. Barbara Earley's Recycled Reflections will be on display from February 11-March 21. Earley's exhibit is a concept born of her love for recycling items and prolonging their use in altered, creative applications. Mirrors reflect images and delight viewers with intrigue. When they are broken, the beauty and intrigue remain in an altered state. Earley uses mirrors and other material to create her exhibit of recycled reflections. Residents can view the exhibits by the local artists on Main Library second floor.
- Main Library is closed on Easter Sunday, March 23.





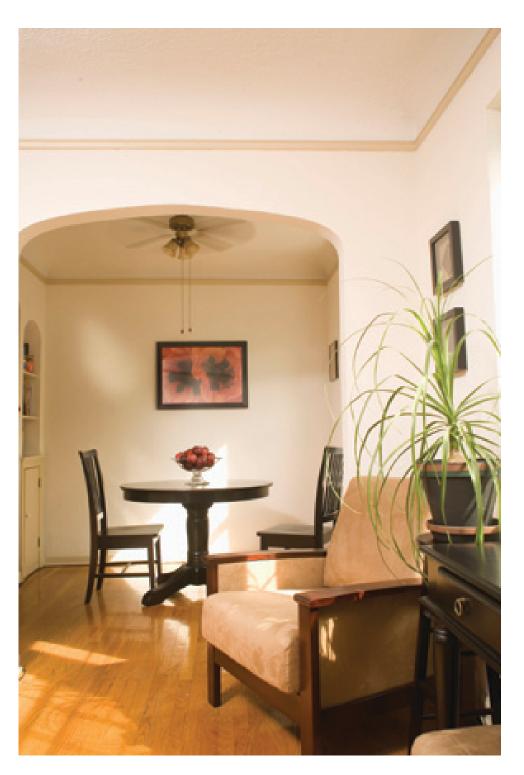


PHOTOS BY GREEN STREET STUDIO

Like the swallows returning to San Juan Capistrano, every spring new medical residents flock to the Cleveland area. These doctors are in search of affordable, quality rental housing near to one of our world-class medical centers at University Circle. Many settle in Shaker Heights, where they, like many other newcomers, find the perfect combination of upscale neighborhoods and proximity to their new job, either by car, light rail, or bicycle.

Shaker Heights boasts rental properties to fill every need, from starving students to worldclass musicians to corporate executives, whether the need is for a studio suite, a luxurious multi-level, or a comfortable two-family home.

Fairhill Place both pages.









Left and above left: Van Aken Towers. Above: The Diplomat.

Renting offers newcomers the chance to try out a neighborhood before buying, or to experience neighborhood living during a predetermined stay, such as during a medical residency.

To help renters choose from the array of options, the City of Shaker Heights offers a relocation service to make the process simple. It offers tours and provides information about all of the rental properties that meet the City's strict guidelines for rental readiness, a program known as Certified Shaker. Properties that qualify for this designation must be free of code violations, spotlessly clean, freshly painted, have updated appliances and fixtures, and attractive landscaping.

The first point of contact for a prospective renter may be the City's website, www.shakeronline.com, which features photos and complete descriptions of all Certified Shaker properties. For further guidance, it might be helpful to speak directly with the City's relocation specialists at (216) 491-1337. Judy Steehler, Community Information Representative, takes pride in finding just the right fit for every situation.

"I once had a family relocating here from Korea so that their young virtuoso daughter could study violin at the Cleveland Institute of Music," she recalls. "They needed enough space for their family of five, as well as a practice area for their daughter that would not disturb the neighbors." She helped them to find a comfortable, two-family home with four upstairs bedrooms, one of which provided the perfect practice space.

Two-family homes are a popular solution for many families renting in Shaker. "When people look at our two-family homes," says Judy Steehler, "they are amazed at how much it is like a single house because of the spacious interior, the privacy, and the fact that they are living in a neighborhood. In fact, many of our two-family homes are indistinguishable from single homes from their outside appearance."

Single-family homes are also an option. When Mike Rauh learned that he would be coming to the Cleveland Clinic for a one-year fellowship in sports medicine, he and his wife Pam began looking right away for a home in Shaker.

"We relied heavily on the City's website to view the homes we wanted to see in person," says Pam. "We had immediate confidence that the Certified Shaker homes were of a high quality." When selecting their home, they both felt that "the residential feel of the street was key, and we were thrilled to be in the Shaker school district."

For others, carefree apartment living is the right choice. When Amanda Brown relocated from New York City to become the Athletic Director for Hathaway Brown School, she initially considered buying a home in Shaker. Faced with the idea of her first winter heating bill, however, she instead met with Judy Steehler who led her to a spacious, twobedroom apartment – utilities included – with classic features. "It really has an old-world charm, with a nice entryway, an unusual curved wall, and a built-in bookcase," she says.

Renting has allowed Amanda time to get to know the various Shaker neighborhoods before buying, and she's thrilled to be within walking distance of the Rapid Transit and Shaker Town Center, where she can do her grocery shopping, dry cleaning, and banking. "I'm a new driver," she explains; "I never needed a car in New York, so I like to be able to walk to the things I need."

While getting oriented to the area, Amanda appreciated a packet of information from Judy that included maps, coupons for local retailers, and a current issue of Shaker Life. Amanda also found the City's website, shakeronline.com very helpful.

The biggest surprise for Amanda so far is to find that she has attended more concerts and sporting events than when she lived in New York. She says, "The accessibility here is so much greater than I ever imagined."



from foreclosed to fabulous



Meet some residents who are investing in the preservation of Shaker's architectural uniqueness and beauty.

BY BETH FRIEDMAN-ROMELL

Some Shaker residents extend the concept of caring for our own to the City's housing stock. Take Wendy Moran, for example. Herself an owner of a gracious home near the Duck Pond, Wendy was concerned enough about the national foreclosure crisis to attend a meeting on the subject last summer organized by the Lomond Community Association. What she heard spurred her to action.

Wendy listened to neighbors express their concerns about "vacant and run down houses" on their blocks, and decided that she was in a position to buy some of these properties and fix them up for resale.

Wendy and her brother-in-law, Bob Pajek, have since purchased and rehabbed three vacant properties in the Lomond neighborhood.

Originally from Cleveland's West Side, Wendy and her husband Brian fulfilled a lifelong dream when they moved to Shaker eight years ago. "I love this neighborhood so much, and I want to contribute," Wendy says.

Read on to meet other residents who are stepping forward to preserve Shaker's architectural uniqueness and beauty.

From "Grim" to Great: Mercer Makeovers

Linda Macklin loves Shaker, and she loves remodeling. Her passions have now united in a home rehab company, Trymac, Inc., which she formed with fellow Shaker resident Troy Grela. So far, they have transformed two foreclosed Mercer area properties.

Linda met Troy when he came to set floor tile in her own home. She says, "We got to talking about the foreclosure situation and became friends. I love remodeling, and here was somebody who could do it. It seems natural to want to keep Shaker's housing solid."

The first home they updated had been vacant for several years. The 1960s home had never been updated. "It had the same tile, the same carpet, those old Shaker pink and green bathrooms," says Troy. "There was no heat and it was 100 degrees in the summer. Everything took a beating – there were burst pipes, overgrown landscaping," Troy continues.

"It was grim," agrees Linda.

Five months later, after installing three new baths, new appliances, a new furnace, interior and exterior paint, new electrical and landscaping, the home sold in just one day, to a young professional couple returning to Cleveland.

"Quality upgrades sell fast," Linda asserts. "We believe in doing it properly."

Linda's friend and realtor Marilyn Kahn of Howard Hanna "begged us to buy the next house." It was another vacant Mercer property in a distressed state across the street from Kahn's home.

"There were about 70 code violations," Troy says. The decorating challenges also were daunting. "Almost every single wall and ceiling in this house was wallpapered," Linda says. "We removed it all, scraped the paint, and removed several layers of linoleum in the kitchen. We took on all the painting, removed the carpeting, and refinished the hardwood floors. There is now a new house inside the old one."



Rehabbers Linda Macklin and Troy Grela. PHOTO BY JANET CENTURY

Trymac's attention to detail is evident throughout the wood and stone colonial home. Linda and Troy gutted the kitchen, and installed Kraftmaid solid wood cabinetry, granite countertops, and stainless appliances. A granite fireplace, crown moulding, and a new oak railing grace the living room. All three bathrooms were updated. An awkwardly configured "Jack and Jill" bathroom on the second floor was transformed into a sleek master bath with large tile shower and new sink.

Troy and Linda did much of the work themselves. Troy handled a lot of the installation work, and Linda handled landscaping, bookkeeping, and design and selection of products. "I've learned to cut tile and polyurethane floors," she proudly declares.

With its great layout, modern amenities, and quality upgrades, Troy and Linda are confident that a family will snap up this home when it goes on the market.

From "Oh My" to Outstanding: Onaway Overhaul

It takes a certain spirit of adventure to buy a house sight unseen at a Sheriff's sale. Especially when it's your first foray into buying and selling real estate. But Onaway resident Mary Zigmond is no stranger to hammer and paint brush, so she decided to take the plunge and rehab a foreclosed brick center hall colonial two streets away from her own. continued on page 34

Neighborhood Integrity

Shaker is a national model for communities fighting the effects of the foreclosure crisis. Following is a description of housing preservation and revitalization programs and initiatives the City offers.

You've read the headlines. The nation is in the grip of a foreclosure crisis; the Midwest leads the nation, Ohio leads the Mid-

west, and Cuyahoga County leads Ohio in residential foreclo-

¶ Shaker has been mentioned often in the national media the foreclosure crisis because Shaker is a model for communities across the country trying to preserve property values and the quality of life in their communities.

¶ Well before the crisis hit, the City was committed to maintaining the integrity neighborhoods, using a combination of enforcement and incentives to ensure that properties, whether in foreclosure or not, were maintained to dards. As early as 1976, Point of Sale Inspections were being made to ensure that properties were brought up to code at time of sale.

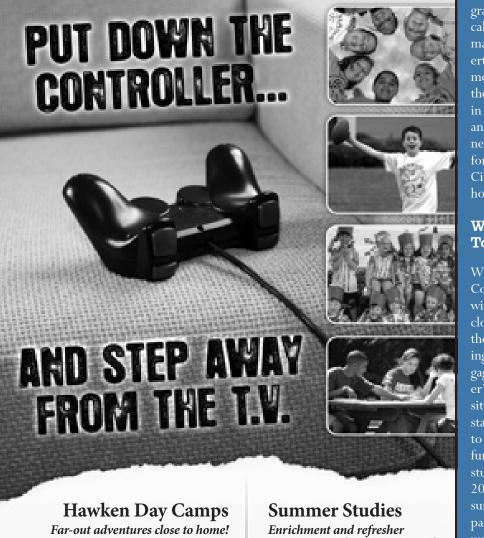
¶ Starting in the 1980s, the City began making regular inspections of single family and two family homes to reinforce the importance of preserva-

¶ In 2000. Shaker

Heights adopted a Point of Sale Escrow Account requirement, which has been responsible for more than \$12 million in reinvestment in the City's housing stock, and has been a key deterrent to the speculative buying that was fostered during the leadup to the foreclosure crisis.

¶ As a complement to these initiatives, since the 1990s the City

has offered residents grants, and technical assistance to help maintain their properties. All of these measures have kept the City's housing in good condition and minimized the Citv's neighborhoods.



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Working Together

While Cuyahoga County struggles with a glut of foreclosed properties in the wake of a collapsing subprime mortgage market, Shaker's overall housing situation remains stable. According to the City's HUDfunded foreclosure study completed in parts of the City is well under one percent. Across Ohio, mortgages and 10.8 percent of subprime loans are in foreclosure. The study, authored by Harvard experts Mark Duda and William Apgar, concludes that "Shaker Heights has

managed to avoid much of the serious disinvestment that is present in many other inner ring suburbs," due to its "reputation for

continued on page 35



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Rehabber Mary Zigmond. PHOTO BY JANET CENTURY

Mary's career background is in science research, but building is in her blood. "My dad was an architect and we had relatives in construction," she says. "When I was a teenager, we built a family house together. We did everything but the masonry and the roof. I liked that kind of work, and I wanted something with flexible hours, so I could be home for my son after school and at night."

Before going ahead with her purchase, Mary tried to reduce as much uncertainty as possible. She interviewed neighbors and friends about the former occupants. Everyone remembered it as a great house.

But it had not been winterized, leading to a broken pipe in the basement. In addition, the home required mold remediation by a licensed contractor. Soaked basement carpet and ruined paneling needed replacing. The water line to the street was repaired. The electrical system was upgraded, and Mary added central air.

It was also no surprise to Mary that the original, huge coal furnace was still in the basement. It had been converted

continued on page 55

(an) excellent school system and attractive and well planned" neighborhoods. (The full Duda-Apgar Report is available at shakeronline.com.)

City departments work collaboratively to create a proactive response to foreclosures. Efforts focus on four areas:

- Education: Equipping residents with the facts about predatory lending, foreclosures, and safe borrowing helps protect them from unscrupulous lending practices. Information on the County 211 help line and the federal "Don't Borrow Trouble" program is given to residents, neighborhood associations, real estate agents, and housing court defendants. The information is posted on the City's website, shakeronline.com. The City partners with other agencies, including the Municipal Court, non-profit housing advocacy groups, and the League of Women Voters to present information to the widest audience possible.
- Enforcement: The City investigates complaints of predatory or unfair lending practices tied to protected classes (i.e. race, sex, disability, etc.), and has the authority to investigate complaints and bring charges. City officials also monitor real estate transactions and bring potential instances of real estate fraud to the attention of Shaker police or other enforcement agencies.
- **Direct Action:** City staff assists residents, including housing court defendants, with technical assistance, grants, low interest loans, and referrals to other agencies, to carry out repairs.
- Preventing deterioration of foreclosed properties: The City pays close attention to properties in foreclosure, monitoring them for occupancy, condition, and security. If a property is vacant, the City ensures that the property is kept secure, winterized, and that the grass is cut regularly. If a property's exterior is deteriorated, the City may declare it a public nuisance and contract out the required repairs. Costs, including administrative expenses, are recouped through a tax lien. By working with the County to develop a bond financing mechanism, the City is able to carry out this innovative program without using City funds.

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Katherine Foster Harlan King

National Hispanic Scholar

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National Merit Commended Students

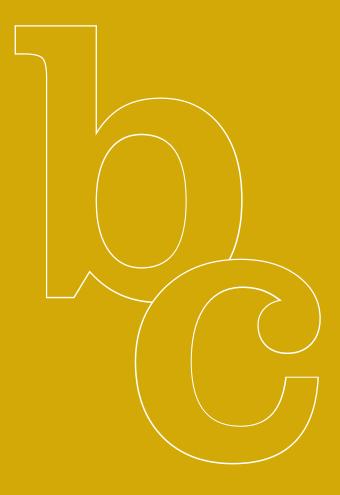
Hartley Brody Natalia Cabrera Joshua Davidson Alexandra Dimeff Eden Engel-Rebitzer Katherine Foster **Ethan Gates** Claire Hall Sam Miller Kirsten Nedrud

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National Achievement Commended Students

Brianna Blackwood-Mallory Jennifer Chisholm Wesley Lowery





kindergarten readiness



The Shaker school district stands out in helping families with this crucial educational and developmental step.

BY NANCY O'CONNOR PHOTOS BY KEVIN G. REEVES



It's a momentous occasion, sending your fresh-faced five-yearold off to kindergarten. There's much to be excited about - the knowledge to be gained, the friends to be made, the experiences to be had.

But apprehension can also hover. Is junior ready for the full-day separation, the academic expectations, the social interactions? What about mom and dad – are they emotionally ready for this family milestone?

For Mercer area mother Anna Grossman-McKee, the magnitude of that day last August was compounded because she was sending off the youngest of her five boys. It marked the beginning of a new adventure for Evan, and the conclusion of one for her.

"My feelings the first day were mixed," Anna says. She had complete confidence in the ability of Evan's teacher, Lena Paskewitz, to provide an intellectually stimulating atmosphere that was also fun and emotionally safe. "But I was also sad that I would be spending less time each day with Evan. He is my last, and I have always enjoyed his company."

She could take comfort, however, in knowing that Evan was ready for kindergarten. Her own parenting practices, reinforced by two years at Carol Nursery School, had helped him to master his ABCs and numbers and had laid the foundation for a healthy interest in learning.

Anna Grossman-McKee and her son, Evan.



In addition, she and her husband Doug, graduates of Shaker High's class of 1978 - both are practicing psychologists - have taken advantage of the numerous programs, sponsored by the Shaker school district and the Mercer Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), to introduce incoming kindergarteners to the concept of school and the Mercer building in particular.

Last winter, the couple attended the school's Kindergarten Registration night, at which parents learn about the kindergarten program, meet and ask their questions of principals and teachers, and register for the upcoming school year. In spring, Anna and Evan attended the Mercer PTO's "Muffins in the Morning" program to meet the kindergarten teachers and spend time playing in their classrooms.

Then, just a few days before the start of school, mom and son attended Mercer's Open House for kindergarteners and families new to the school. In addition to meeting their assigned teachers, the incoming kindergarteners participated in a scavenger hunt designed to familiarize them with the school building and the location of their classrooms, the lavatory, art room, and other important destinations.

Evan and his parents were ready. They hoped.

First Day Jitters

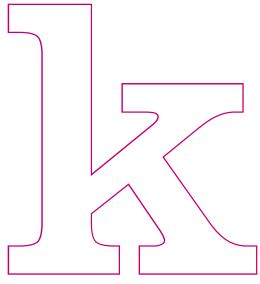
"Evan was nervous that first morning," Anna says. Because he sees his older brothers hard at schoolwork, "He worried a lot about the amount of homework he would be given."

A few weeks into the school year, Evan laughed at the fear he once harbored about homework. "I don't have any homework!" he reports gleefully. "I mostly only do reading. And guess what? One of my brother Geoffrey's friends has no homework and he's in the second grade!"



Facing page and above, Mercer kindergarten teacher Lena Paskewitz: "a phenomenal teacher."





Kindergarten, he says, "is mostly just fun. I like music, and gym, and art, and doing math with money." During the morning's "Rug Time," in fact, he had been the first to answer that a nickel was "the coin that is the same as five pennies." He shrugs. "I know how to count to 100, even 1,000."

Anna says Lena Paskewitz "is a phenomenal teacher. She does a tremendous job of taking each student to the next level. She makes everyone feel good about where they are. She creates a warm, open, and supportive environment - and puts on a terrific play at the end of the year."

As for Anna herself, she is adjusting, "though I certainly miss the more relaxed play time that Evan and I used to share." She is grateful that her part-time private practice gives her the flexibility to be home most school mornings and afternoons with Evan and his brothers Geoffrey, a second grader at Mercer, Brent, a junior at Shaker High, and Alex, a Shaker High senior. Her oldest son, Morgan, is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis.

In early November, Anna and Doug accompanied Evan to his first teacher-parent conference. "I discovered that Evan enjoys public speaking and is excellent at telling stories," she says. "He had recently volunteered to share a family story with the class He acted out his dad's recent hockey accident, in which he dislocated his shoulder."

She was also impressed with her son's "willingness to take risks with invented spelling to get his ideas across," and his progress in adding detail to his drawings. "The class has been studying authors and illustrators, and Evan can now converse about whom he admires for

their detail in vocabulary and artwork."



Separating from the parents

Evan fit Lena Paskewitz's description of "kindergarten ready" from day one. "Evan has everything going for him," says the 1990 Shaker High graduate, now in her eighth year at Mercer. "He follows directions, is able to interact appropriately with peers, and wants to answer questions and share ideas. He has also made friends in the class and seems very happy."

There are a lot of aspects to kindergarten readiness. It's not just about academic readiness, but emotional readiness and social maturity as well. "The child must be ready to separate from the parent and come into a larger group setting, and be able to follow directions, sit for a story, and interact with peers," says Paskewitz.

Paskewitz, who has two daughters in the Shaker schools, considers being able to follow directions and take turns key to a smooth transition into kindergarten. In addition, she says, "Being able to count to at least ten, being aware of the alphabet song, and recognizing a few letters

continued on page 58

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Email: tyrawlsallemas@sbcglobal.net

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19824 Sussex Rd. 216-991-3449

ages: 3-5 yrs.; 21/2 with parent

Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities

19824 Sussex Rd. 216-761-7624 www.ccbmrdd.org

ages: 0-3 yrs. (special needs only)

Early Childhood Enrichment Center

19824 Sussex Rd. 216-991-9761

Email: Iprangeecec@sbcglobal.net

ages: 18 mos.-5 yrs.

Pre-K Early Intervention Class Shaker Heights City School District

15600 Parkland Dr. 216-295-4211

Email: ott p@shaker.org

ages: 3-5 yrs. (special needs only)

CEOGC Plymouth Head Start

2860 Coventry Rd. 216-991-8754 www.ceogc.org ages: 3-5 yrs.

(income eligibility guidelines)

Cooperative Nursery School at Heights Christian Church

17300 Van Aken Blvd. 216-751-2593 ages: 2½-5 yrs.

Children's Center at First Baptist Church

3630 Fairmount Blvd. 216-371-9394

www.firstbaptistcleveland.org

ages: 6 weeks-5 yrs.

Hanna Perkins School

19910 Malvern Rd. 216-991-4472 www.hannaperkins.org Email: tbarrett@hannaperkins.org ages: 15 mos.-5 yrs.

Hathaway Brown Early Childhood Program

19600 North Park Blvd. 216-320-8098 www.hb.edu ages: 2½-5 yrs.

Nana Ella's Day Care

3685 Lee Rd. 216-991-6139 ages: 18 mos.-5 yrs.

JDN Early Childhood Center

22201 Fairmount Blvd. 216-320-8489

Email: weavers@bellefairejcb.org

ages: 18 mos.-5 yrs.

Laurel School Early Childhood Center

1 Lyman Circle 216-464-0946 Email: jpavlik@laurelschool.org www.laurelschool.org ages: 1-5 yrs.

Parent's Day Out at Plymouth Church

2860 Coventry Rd. 216-991-1961

Email: dwhite@plymouthchurchucc.org

ages: 2½-5 yrs.

St. Dominic Early Childhood Program

3455 Norwood Rd. 216-561-4400

Email: stdominic@leeca.org

ages: 4-5 yrs.

Tree of Life Learning Center

3635 Lee Rd. 216-752-6922 ages: 6 weeks-12 yrs.

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Choosing a **Summer Camp**

What you should know before they go.

BY JENNIFER PROE

Summer camp is a great cure for the summertime blues. But with an almost overwhelming array of choices, it can be daunting for parents to choose the camp that will provide the best experience for their child. Whether choosing a day camp or an overnight camp, one thing is certain: research is the key to finding a good fit. Luckily, there are many resources to help secure a happy outcome for all involved.

Overnight Camps

Twenty percent of the 7 million campers attending overnight camps come from overseas to enjoy this historically American institution, affording a great opportunity for cultural exchange - and a lot of competition for a bunk. Begin planning in the winter months because by late spring, space is at a premium and some camps are booked.

How do you know if your child is ready for overnight camp? According to Jeff Solomon, Executive Director of the National Camp Association, the best indicator is whether the child is comfortable sleeping over with friends or relatives.

Many children begin attending "sleepaway camp" as early as age six. In Solomon's opinion, "the earlier, the better. Campers who start at a young age learn to bond with one another more easily, and begin to form relationships that carry over from year to year."

More often than not, it is the parents who have readiness issues. "The kids are

usually excited to go, but if they sense their parents are uncertain, they can internalize that stress."

Solomon strongly recommends that parents visit the NCA website, www.summercamp.org, to view tips and questions to help narrow their selection. NCA's free Camp Advisory Service pairs an advisor with a family to provide counsel about which camps might be a good fit for their child based on input about the child's personality, likes and dislikes.

"Our camp advisors have visited the camps and met the staff. Every camp looks wonderful in the brochure, but we can help the family decide whether it is a good fit for their particular child."



Questions For the Camp Director (From the NCA website)

- What are the camp's goals and philosophy?
- What kind of camper is most likely to have a good experience at this camp?
- What are the camp's facilities and how convenient are they for campers?
- What is the schedule like? Is it a structured program or one that emphasizes a lot of free choice?

- What is the camper-counselor ratio and what are the characteristics of most of the staff?
- What percentage of campers returns each year?
- What is the total cost of the camp including extras?
- How does the camp ensure the safety and security of its campers?
- How does the camp program meet individual needs and differences?

Day Camps

Day camp is the obvious choice for younger kids who are not ready for overnight camp, but it can also be very rewarding for older kids. Specialty day camps generally offer shorter sessions and focus on an area of interest, such as soccer, drama, or computers. Traditional camps tend to have longer sessions with more varied experiences.

When selecting a day camp for young children, Karen Goulandris, Director of the Hanna Perkins School, recommends seeking a camp "that provides a fair amount of structure and engages the child in both group and individual activities."

Dennis Elliott, Ohio Section Executive for the American Camp Association, believes that "a good camp is not about the place, or the facilities - it's about



building a sense of community and developing relationships."

He counsels parents to talk to the camp director and ask how they select their staff, how they train them, and how many of the staff return every year. "These are the people you are choosing to be your child's role model."

The ACA – www.find.acacamps.org also recommends asking these questions when considering a day camp:

- What is the staff to child ratio?
- Is transportation available?
- Is extended care available before and after camp?
- Does the camp provide lunch?
- Are campers grouped by age, activity, or both?
- What off-site activities are offered, if any?

In Shaker Heights, families can choose from dozens of day camp programs for all ages, both traditional and specialized. To find the perfect fit, Larry Goodman, Director of Strategic Programming at Laurel School, offers this wisdom: "Look for summer options that fit your schedule - don't try to fit your summer into someone else's schedule. And remember that kids have the most fun when their imaginations can be as active as their bodies."

Denise Brooks, Outdoor Program Coordinator for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, mentions one more key source of information: "Don't underestimate word-of-mouth from friends and neighbors."

Shaker Heights Camps

For children grades K-2, the City's traditional day camp includes creative arts and sports, such as swimming, tee-ball, soccer, and basketball. Children Grades 3-8 are able to design their own camp day, choosing from a multitude of fun activities such as chess, arts & crafts, cartooning, hiking, science, scrapbooking, volleyball, golf, soccer, and floor hockey. Field trips are part of the schedule for both age groups.

The City also offers specialty camps for sports, art, nature studies, book clubs, and sciences, as well as Shaker Heights Safety Town, Safety Town Counselor Training Camp, Teens Learning to Connect (see story), Shaker Summer Theater, Shaker on Stage, Strike up the Band, Lifeguard Training Camp, and Whitewater Rafting.

The City and Carol Nursery School are offering a pilot program called Preschool in the Park, a two-hour, once-a- week enrichment program for preschoolers 3-5 years accompanied by a parent or adult caregiver. The program will be held at Chelton Park in the Moreland neighborhood. Contact Rhonda Miller, 216-491-2583.

A complete schedule of Shaker Life camps is available at Shaker schools, Thornton Park, the Community Life Building, City Hall, and the Shaker Heights Public Libraries. For more information, contact the Community Life Department, 216-491-3204, or www.shakeronline.com.

Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes offers outdoor adventure day camps for children 2-12 years old and weeklong overnight camps for children 11-15. Camps run from June 23-August 20. Contact Denise Natoli Brooks, 216321-5935 ext. 26, or www.shakerlakes.org.

PRESCHOOL CAMPS

Carol Nursery School, located at the Shaker Family Center, offers a 5-week program for three-year olds, as well as week-by-week programs for pre-K and K-bound children. Themebased weekly programs include guest specialists, as well as nature-based and socializing activities. Contact Barb Palumbo, 216-991-3449.

The Early Childhood Enrichment Center at the Shaker Family Center offers full-time summer school-age camp during the ten weeks that Shaker Schools are not in session. The camp is open to children 6-8 and includes swimming lessons at Thornton Park, visiting specialists, Spanish and American Sign Language instruction, cooking, and nature activities. Contact Michele Block, 216-991-9761.

Hanna Perkins Center's Reinberger Parent/Child Resource Center offers five weeks of theme based summer camps for children 4-9. Camp themes include woodworking, gardening, creative play, roller-skating, and cooking. Contact Karen Goulandris, 216-929-0201, or www. hannaperkins.org.

Summer Adventure Camp at Heights Christian Church preschool offers two two-week sessions with different themes. The program is open to ages 3 to K-bound, and offers music, crafts, science, and outside play. Contact Simone Nielsen, 216-751-2593 or 216-991-7552.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL CAMPS

Hathaway Brown's Broad Horizons for Beginners is for boys and girls who have begun or are about to begin preschool. There is also a Broad Horizons camp for girls, where campers experience learning and socialization through a variety of classes and activities. Contact Siva Grossman, 216-320-8085, or www.hb.edu.

Laurel School's Magic Treehouse Camp provides weeklong "mind-expanding" programs for children entering K - 5th grade, while also providing standard summer recreational activities, at Laurel's 140-acre Butler campus in Russell Township. For older girls, Laurel offers a weeklong outdoor leadership camp. New this summer, at the Shaker campus, is a program designed for middle school-aged campers combining robotics, engineering, and creative writing. Contact Larry Goodman, 216-464-1441 ext. 166, or www.laurelschool.org.

University School offers academic, athletic, and recreational programs for boys and girls. Camps are held at the US campuses in Shaker Heights and Hunting Valley. Contact Debbie Linich, 216-831-1984, ext. 7366, or www.us.edu.



Ten Years & Going Strong











TLC Summer 2007 Clockwise from top left at the Cleveland Foodbank: Troy Simmons and Matt Werner; Robert Jamison, Lauren Blumenthal, and Sophia DeGeorgia; Brandon Eaton and Tom Elliot; and counselor Joanie Clougherty. **Inset:** Jack Nemeth makes a new young friend at the Shaker Family Center.

Teens Learning to Connect is one of the City's specialty camps success stories

BY NANCY O'CONNOR PHOTOS BY MARC GOLUB

"A lot of kids think they can't make a difference, that they don't have the power to make a change or help anyone. This camp proves them wrong."

So says Joanie Clougherty, a Shaker Heights High School junior who attended Shaker's Teens Learning to Connect (TLC) specialty summer camp for six years before moving into her new role as a camp counselor.

"Being part of the TLC camp not only makes you feel really good about yourself," she says, "but seeing the faces of those you're helping makes you feel like you're really making a difference."

For three weeks each summer since 1998, some two dozen kids between 11 and 15 years of age have divided their days between volunteer community service projects and team-building activities and field trips.

Last summer, TLC campers played Bingo with elderly residents of Shaker Heights, sorted and boxed food donations at the Cleveland Foodbank, put on a carnival for seniors at Concordia Adult Care, read to preschoolers at a transitional housing complex, and held a car wash for charity. They also enjoyed a scavenger hunt, swimming, a day at Cedar Point, a talent show, and other recreational activities.

An equal number of boys and girls typically enroll in the camp each summer, and by the camp's end, Clougherty notes, "everyone has grown really close. I still talk regularly with my counselor from five years ago."

The camp was launched in 1998 by former Recreation Department staff Suzanne Cooper, who enlisted Shaker Middle School teacher Bobby Starks as her co-director. "The 'connect' part was about connecting with the community and its needs," Suzanne says. "But we quickly saw that the kids also developed deep connections to each other and their counselors."

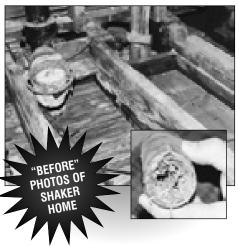
Her aim was to provide kids with volunteer opportunities at an early age so that volunteering would become second nature for them. "We also wanted to help them learn that volunteering can be fun," she says. "It doesn't have to be a painful or a sad experience. The campers discover that it feels good to know you've made a difference in someone's life, even if just in a small way. You just never know the impact you're having."

The camp's current director, Alison Bradford, is a special education teacher at Boulevard Elementary School and a field hockey and lacrosse coach at Shaker High. She enjoys working with the kids and "encouraging them to reflect on our activities – how we helped, why we helped, and why it was important."

Camp participants, she says, benefit in a number of ways. "They learn the importance of giving back to the community and how they can be resourceful with what they have to give. They also learn to work together and cooperate. Most of the kids come to camp without their core group of friends and end up making new, great friends within the first day's activities."

Teens Learning to Connect: Ages 11-15, July 6-31, Monday through Friday 9 am-3pm, Shaker Middle School. Residents \$210, others \$230.

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a robust collection

The new director of The Shaker Historical Museum talks about the museum's ambitious five-year plan and the importance of residents' involvement, the sort-of-amazing discovery of The Shaker Heights News Bug, and the truly amazing discovery of the City's first fire engine.

BY VICKI ZOLDESSY
PHOTOS BY JANET CENTURY





Kretzschmar with the City's first fire truck.

There's a serene tranquility to The Shaker Historical Museum. Like most museums, there's a sense that hushed voices are required. The simple beauty of the Shaker artifacts inspires solemn reverence for the items housed there.

It's an illusion.

Spend a few minutes with the Museum and Shaker Historical Society's relatively new executive director, Sabine Kretzschmar, and you start to feel like the collection is virtual tinder for a fire she plans to ignite. The woman is enthusiasm personified.

In 2006, on the verge of its 60th anniversary, The Shaker Historical Society, with assistance from the Ohio Historical Society, completed a new strategic plan for the following five year period. Among its top goals was hiring a new director. The director's job would be to help implement the other six goals. A year into her job, Kretzschmar is well on her way to doing so.

Kretzschmar came to northeast Ohio in 1987 to attend Case Western Reserve University's graduate school for a master's degree in art history and museum studies. Afterwards she worked at the Cleveland Museum of Art in its prints and drawings collection as a curatorial assistant. She was promoted to Assistant Curator and concentrated on making the collection more accessible to the public.

She left CMA to pursue her PhD (she remains ABD - All But Dissertation). She had a stint teaching at the Akron Museum of Art before recognizing that a career in museum work required development experience. Raising money is crucial to any museum's survival. As Grants Coordinator with 90.3/WCPN and WVIZ/PBS ideastream, she gained this valuable experience.

The deliberate molding of her career and The Shaker Historical Society's launch of a new strategic plan were cosmic forces that collided in spring 2006 when Kretzschmar became the Society's new executive director.

Recently, Kretzschmar arranged for the acquisition of the first fire engine owned by Shaker Heights. Coincidentally, as the 4.5-ton engine was being delivered

to the South Park address and unloaded from a flatbed, a group of Shaker firefighters was passing the museum. They immediately volunteered to help transfer it to its new home in the museum's recently renovated garage. When we met for this interview, Kretzschmar gleefully demonstrated how the engine's hand cranked siren still works.

How did the fire engine become available for acquisition? It was used in Shaker from 1917 to 1936. The department then returned it briefly to America LaFrance Fire Engine Company for refurbishing. Among other upgrades, oil lanterns were converted to electric lights. Then the City leased it to Beachwood.

In 1947, Shaker sold the truck. It passed through a series of owners before coming to retired volunteer firefighter, Bob Zimmerman - no relation to Shaker's Councilmember Robert Zimmerman – who kept it on his farm in Defiance. Recently, Zimmerman contacted Fire Chief Don Barnes, who put him in touch with a Shaker Historical Society board member.

With help from private donations, the engine became part of the museum's collection in October 2007. Fortunately for us, instead of repainting, Beachwood only bolted a wood panel labeled "City of Beachwood" over the front of the truck. Underneath, and perfectly preserved, the original gold stenciling reads, "Shaker Heights Fire Dep't."

What attracted you to the Shaker Historical Society position? As the child of a Navy professional, I spent my childhood living in many places -Virginia, Illinois, Wisconsin, for example, and overseas. When I finished my degree at Case, I knew I wanted to stay put in this region. By the time I was ready for a director-level position, I had been keeping my eye on a handful of small museums. This was one of them.

You have museum and fundraising experience. What else do you bring to the job? Most importantly, I bring fresh eyes. Also, I've been a teacher, and

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Day Camp participants receives a Diadora ball and a camp t-shirt

For information and brochure contact Camp Director, Paul Driesen at driesentsa@cox.net or 440-740-1464

WWW.TOTALSOCCERACADEMY.COM

I am comfortable talking to the public about a collection. This is an asset for a museum director.

The Shaker Historical Society is about more than just the North Union Shakers and the history of Shaker Heights, right? Absolutely. Our primary mission is to tell stories - about the past - and to connect them to the future. We are the stewards of great stories. For instance, the best story about the Clark Freeway (which would have gone through what is now the Nature Center) is here. There are plenty more stories to gather and to share.

Apart from the fire truck acquisition, what have been the achievements of your first year as the Society's executive director? You mean, besides learning the job? I'm not really kidding. I have spent my career in museums learning how to learn. In my first year, I have concentrated on learning about the collection - discovering things that hadn't been noticed before; I opened every drawer and looked through every file.

What are some of the more interesting things you found? From February 1915 to June 1917, a group of young Shaker residents published a weekly newspaper known as The Shaker Heights News Bug. We have about 50 issues in our collection. I've read every one.

We know a great deal about the Shakers, and many artifacts remain, including photograph portraits of some of the early leaders. But only recently did we find a photograph that actually shows members of the North Union Family seated on the front porch of a home. This is a very rare find.

I was also interested in learning more about the museum building. The house was built in 1910 on the grounds of what had been the North Union Center Family's apple orchard and vegetable gardens.

Those details, and the name of the architect, identified only as D.A. Reamer, were well known. I was able to uncover Reamer's first name, Daniel, and the fact that he was also the architect for a small residential development in Oberlin. I also learned that Reamer was part of an architectural family; his brother Robert was the architect for the famous Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone Park.

The strategic plan has called for some technological change. Has there been any progress there? Yes. One of the first things we did was bring in a new computer system. This has been an enormous help. We now have the ability to prepare digital images, and to produce print publications in house, like flyers and a quarterly newsletter.

Are there plans to make digital images available to the public? We have, in fact, entered into a partnership with Cleveland State University's Cleveland Memory Project and Shaker Heights Public Library to enter images from our collection including the North Union Shaker community, Shaker Heights history, and the construction of the Shaker Rapid. The Project website is capable of archiving historic photographs. They have already digitized four hundred photographs from Shaker's local history files. Visit clevelandmemory. org to see what's new.

You've said your job with 90.3/WCPN and WVIZ/PBS ideastream taught you how to raise money. Has that been useful here? It has. One of the many hats I wear is that of grants manager. We are very excited to have been awarded a three-year general unrestricted grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture based on an application I wrote. The award is \$19,847 for 2008. The Cuyahoga Arts & Culture fund provides as much money

for Cuyahoga County as the Ohio Arts Council does for the entire state. We are one of only 68 non-profit organizations to be granted funds.

What's next for you and the SHS? We are committed to raising our visibility, to reaching out to newer residents who may not be familiar with us. We want the museum to be a public meeting place where important Shaker events happen.

We held our 60th anniversary celebration here and made it the occasion to present the City's Landmark Commission Preservation Annual Awards. We are partnering with the library on a public education program we call Shaker Heights 101. We are educating residents about our history, about why our homes and our streets look the way they do, and about how to find out more. The class is offered twice a year. The next one will be in April. (Details will appear in the next issue of Shaker Life.)

What would you most like Shaker residents to know about the Society and its Museum? The Museum collection is robust. Our only limitations are time and money – we're figuring out how to increase our funding. Mostly, we want to throw out the welcome mat to Shaker residents. Come visit. Call us. Ask us questions. Oh, and you should know - we try not to take ourselves too seriously.

Vicki Zoldessy is Web and Communications Editor for the City of Shaker Heights and editor of Shaker Life's City News and Real Estate News.



recreation & leisure

Registration Information

Registration Office Hours THORNTON PARK

8:30 am-7 pm TU-F 8:30 am-5 pm 10 am-3 pm

SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING M-F 8:30 am-5 pm

HOW TO REGISTER

Early registration is encouraged. Registration ends and classes close two business days prior to the first day of class.

Call 216-491-1295 or 216-491-1360 and have credit card ready. Mastercard and Visa accepted.

MAIL-IN, FAX AND ONLINE REGISTRATIONS **ALSO ACCEPTED.** Checks are payable to: City of Shaker Heights. \$15 charge for all returned checks.

MAIL TO: City of Shaker Heights

3301 Warrensville Center Rd. Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122

216-991-4219 (24 hrs/day) FAX #: **ONLINE:** shakeronline.com (24 hrs/day)

2008 Baseball: Shaker Youth Baseball League, Inc. (SYBL)

SYBL is a recreational summer program for Shaker Heights School District residents currently in grades 3-10 (cannot turn 17 before August 1). Season runs May through July. Tryouts to evaluate players in April.

Registration fee is \$90 per player with a family maximum of \$225 (payable to Shaker Youth Baseball). A separate fee of \$25 per player for use and maintenance of the fields is payable to the City of Shaker Heights.

If you are interested in managing or assisting in coaching a team, please contact SYBL. Coaching clinics are provided to support coaching quality. In accordance with policy, managers and coaches must agree to a confidential background check using fingerprints.

Information on SYBL or travel teams: 216-556-5708 or www.sybl.com.

Horseshoe Lake Reservation Permits

Park improvements include two new pavilions as well as amenities for visitors of all ages. NOTE: Reservation permits will be limited to the large pavilion only. Permission for use of both pavilions may be granted to large groups. A minimum of two weeks' advance notice of requested date is required. Picnic organizers are encouraged to view the park's new configuration prior to requesting a permit.

Reserve picnic tables beginning Tuesday, March 25 at the Community Building. Priority will be given to in-person requests only. Phone-in reservations begin March 26 by calling 216-491-1351.

The park is available for picnic permits Monday – Sunday, May 26 – September 1 and weekends only September 6-28. The park is open, but no reservations will be taken for Memorial Day, July 4 or Labor Day. Pavilions may be used on a firstcome, first-served basis on these holidays.



FUNDAZE

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March 14, 21, March 31-April 4 (Spring Break) M-F 7 am-6:30 pm 001 Grades K-2 Woodbury School 002 Grades 3-8 Middle School res\$34/day nres\$44/day Late registration: nres\$54/day res\$44/day



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recreation & leisure

Thornton Park Facility Schedules

Ice Arena

Public Skating/Arena Schedule:

Schedules are available at the arena, online at shakeronline.com or by calling 216-491-1295.

Ice Skating: Fall/Winter Passes

Season passholders receive admission to public skating sessions, Friday Night Skate and Adult Skating sessions, and a discount for Learn-to-Skate classes. Proof of residency is required. Please provide a current utility bill or currently dated mail. Season pass refunds are not available. Partial season passes on sale now.

	res	nres
Individual	\$75	\$115
Family	\$140	\$205
Adult 50+	\$50	\$80
Husband/		
Wife 50+	\$75	\$110

RESIDENT ID CARDS

New \$5

Replacement pass \$10

NOTE: Residents are required to show resident ID card to receive Shaker daily rates for pool or ice arena.

Ice Skating: Daily Admission

(ID REQUIRED)

	res	nres
Student or Adult 50+	\$3.00	\$4.75
Adult	\$3.75	\$4.75
Group Rates (per person,	min. 10	skaters,
includes skate rental):	\$4.00	\$5.00
Skate rental \$2.50		
Skate rental discount pass	(10) \$2	0

Arena Contacts:

Youth Hockey: contact Caleb Wyse at 216-491-2581

Learn-to-Skate/Figure Skating: contact Erin Schopf at 216-491-3461

Rink Rental

The ice rink may be reserved by private groups when not in use for programs. Rental rates begin at \$185/hour. For ice time availability, please call Thornton Park: 216-491-1295.

Public Freestyle Schedule

Through Friday, April 25

M-F 8-9:15 am

Walk-in freestyle fee: res\$5 nres\$6

(PHOTO ID REQUIRED)

Freestyle Passes: res\$180 nres\$220

Ice Hockey: Shaker Youth Hockey Programs

Spring Leagues: Tryouts are held in late February and teams are formed in March.

Cross Ice Pond Hockey: Spring and summer pick up hockey. Play open hockey with your friends and others in a supervised and fun atmosphere.

Girls Spring Hockey: Feb.-April. Ages 5-15. No experience necessary. Practices and games are played against teams of similar age and ability from Mentor, Kent, Cleveland Heights, Columbus and Erie, PA. King of the Hill Cross Ice Tournament: February 15-17 Mighty Mites and Mite C teams battle it out in cross ice action.

INFO: 216-491-2581, SHAKER YOUTH HOCKEY COORDINATOR, CALEB WYSE.

Ice Skating: Learn-to-Skate Classes

Spring session classes meet once a week for seven weeks. Registration ends two business days prior to first class. No registration is accepted the first day of class. New/beginning skaters please arrive ten minutes early on the first day of class for orientation near the entrance to the ice rink. Skate and helmet rentals extra, if needed. If there are fewer than three skaters in a level, class may be cancelled, or levels combined. INFO: 216-295-3461, ERIN M. SCHOPF, LEARN-TO-SKATE COORDINATOR.

CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS

A knit stocking cap, gloves or mittens, and snowpants are recommended for Tots and Basic I students. All skaters should wear one pair of socks or tights. Bike or hockey helmets may also be worn.

SKILL LEVEL INFORMATION

Basic 1-7 & Freestyle (Ages 6-15)

Group instruction for the beginning to advanced skater. Hockey skates may be worn for Basic 1-7. Figure skates only for Freestyle classes.

TOT SNOWPLOW SAM 1-3 (TOT SPS) (Ages 3-5)

Beginners should start with SPS 1. SPS 2 and SPS 3 are a progression of more advanced skills for beginners ages 3-5.

ADVANCED TOTS (FORMERLY TOT BASIC) (Ages 3-5)

Designed for Tots who have completed SPS 1, SPS 2 and SPS 3 and are ready to learn the Basic Skills, but have not reached the age of 6.

POWER HOCKEY

For children who have completed Basic 3 or higher. Students learn the fundamentals of hockey skating with emphasis on the development of skating skills and physical strength. No hockey equipment is needed.

ADULT (Ages 16+)

For beginners to advanced adult skaters who wish to learn basics or to improve skills in a group setting. Hockey or figure skates.

YOU PICK TWO

A complement to your current Learnto-Skate class. Skaters may take this class in addition to their Learn-to-Skate class. Choose two skills from the Learn-to-Skate level to focus on during the You Pick Two class.

PRIVATE LESSONS

If you are interested in private lessons, please visit www.shakeronline.com/dept/ community/learn-to-skate.asp for a list of instructors with phone numbers.

recreation & leisure

SPRING SESSION: March 4-April 26 (No class the week of March 31-April 6) Registration begins February 5

LEARN-TO-SKATE FEES:

res\$45/with pass; \$55/without pass nres\$65/with pass; \$75/without pass

TUESDAYS, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 8, 15, 22

1:15-1:45 pm Snowplow 1, 2, 3 1:45-2:15 pm Snowplow 1, 2, 3; Advanced Tots

5-5:30 pm Snowplow 1, 2, 3; Advanced Tots; Basic 5,

6, 7; You Pick Two

5:30-6 pm Basic 1, 2, 3, 4

THURSDAYS, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April

10, 17, 24

1-1:45 pm Snowplow 1, 2, 3 1:45-2:15 pm Snowplow 1, 2, 3;

Advanced Tots

4:30-5 pm Snowplow 1, 2, 3; Basic

5, 6; Power Hockey Basic 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

5-5:30 pm 5:30-6 pm Snowplow 1, 2, 3;

Freestyle

6-6:30 pm Basic 1, 2, 3; Adults

FRIDAYS, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 11, 18, 25

10-10:30 am Snowplow 1, 2 10:30-11 am Snowplow 3;

Advanced Tots

SATURDAYS, March 8, 15, 22, 29, April

12, 19, 26

1:15-1:45 pm Snowplow 1, 2, 3;

Advanced Tots;

Basic 6, 7; Freestyle

1:45-2:15 pm Basic 1, 2, 3, 4, 5;

Adults

Swimming Pool

Season Passes

Season passholders receive admission to general swimming, lap swims, and discounts on Learn-to-Swim classes. A family pass includes children under age 18. Proof of residency is required when purchasing season passes. Individual passes are available for nannies; please provide proof of employment. Season pass refunds are not

available. Passes are on sale now.

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Husband/Wife (50+) \$55 Corporate – Ind. Only \$120 (Proof of employment required)

Partial Swim Pass \$60 15 swims (transferable/non-refundable)

REGULAR SEASON PURCHASE

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Fabulous

continued from page 34

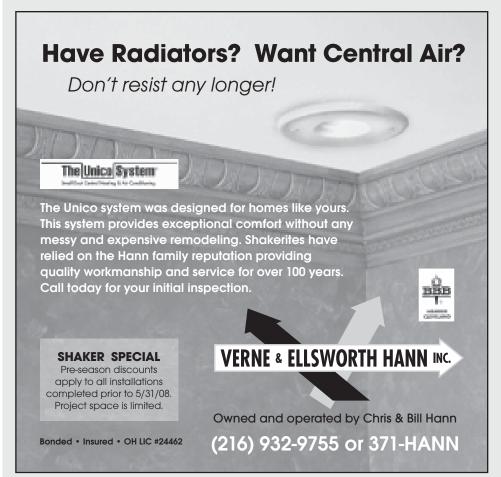
to gas but it was not energy efficient, so Mary had it cut up and hauled out, a task complicated by the fact that it was completely encased in asbestos. Now the new, efficient furnace keeps the house toasty with the thermostat set at a mere 62 degrees.

Throughout the house, Mary painted, patched, and installed new lighting fixtures. The old ones had mysteriously disappeared. She and her contractors cleaned up the landscaping, leveled the stone walkway, added a wooden privacy fence, re-finished woodwork, tuckpointed, repaired the garage door...the list goes on and on. "It's a lot of little stuff you don't think about," she warns.

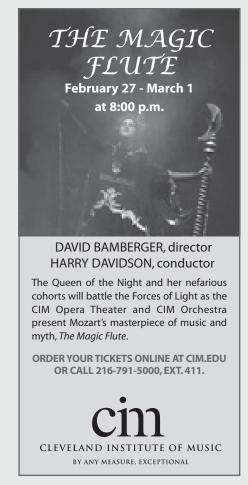
There is no doubt, however, that Mary is most proud of the gut rehab of the home's kitchen.

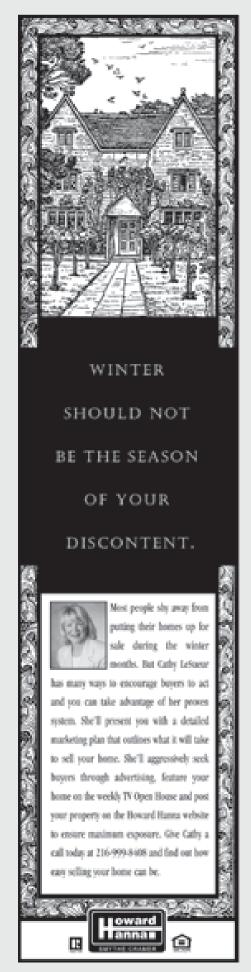
"It was terrible," she says. "There were old cabinets, a broken, leaky dishwasher, and a freestanding stove." She opened the wall between the kitchen and breakfast nook, installed white maple cabinetry, Corian counters, and all new appliances, including a refrigerator with dual French doors and a pull-out bottom freezer compartment. "Nobody should have to sit on the floor to reach their vegetables," she jokes.

The new kitchen is light, airy, and very efficient. "I talked to lots of women who had redone their kitchens, and they all told me to put drawers everywhere, they're much easer than cabinets. So I did."









She also added a recycling center and mudroom, and there's even a handy pull-out stepstool to reach the tallest shelves. (This short reporter definitely wants one of those.)

After all the work Mary has put into the house, its excellent "bones" finally shine. The rooms are graciously proportioned and full of natural light. The master bedroom features a bonus room, which could be used as a study, exercise room or nursery. A large flagstone screened porch and brick patio provide outdoor living space. Mary's favorite feature is the third-floor suite, a peaceful retreat with full bath, sitting room, and two walk-in closets, one cedar.

Mary concludes, a little wistfully, "It was a great house to begin with. I would have liked to have lived here myself."

Integrity

continued from page 35

Since 2002, the City has reinvested \$1.7 million in the housing stock through its nuisance abatement program, and helped preserve the curb appeal of its neighborhoods.

Another way the City has minimized the negative impact of foreclosures is through the use of emergency nuisance provisions, which allow for quick response when a property is found unsecured, and to remove boards placed over windows and doors, which is prohibited in Shaker.

City officials are also moving to prosecute institutional owners (banks or

trusts) who buy back properties at Sheriff's sale and then fail to make repairs.

Maintaining stable neighborhoods

The City has several programs in place that encourage home renovation or property upgrades to keep neighborhoods looking fresh and welcoming. These include the Go Green program, which provides discounted energy audits and grants to assist residents in making energy efficiency upgrades, and the Certified Shaker program, which helps keep rental properties competitive by encouraging reinvestment.

In 2008 the City will launch a pilot program to encourage owner occupancy of two family homes, starting on Winslow Road. The City's infill program, in combination with tax abatement, encourages the construction of new houses on vacant lots, expanding the market of housing options. Also this year, the City hopes to expand its land-banking program to acquire strategically located vacant or unproductive lots for future development.

Along with public education, the City refers residents requesting legal help to entities such as Legal Aid and the Cleveland Bar Association. For questions or concerns about a home loan, or for those who are already in or near foreclosure, call the County's 211 Help line, the consumer's first line of defense. You will be directed to the resource best able to help you.



Rehabbers Linda Macklin and Troy Grela throw in the kitchen sink.

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Jill Davidson, M.S.S.A., Director of Children and Day Camping Services

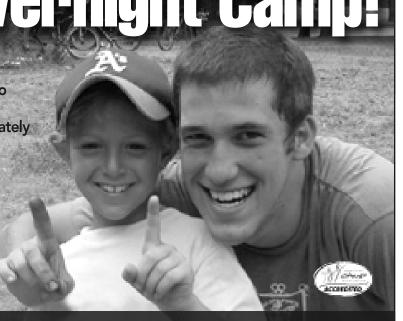


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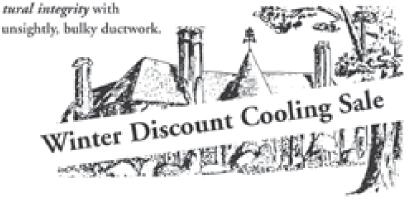
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Kindergarten

continued from page 41

makes a child ready academically. Some experience with coloring and drawing is also very helpful, as the student will be asked to draw a picture of himself or herself or something from the story we've read. Students may lag behind if they're still adjusting to holding the crayon or pencil."

Teachers do not expect all children to begin kindergarten knowing their letters, she says. "Sure, it would make our lives easier, but if the child can listen and follow directions, we can teach them those letters real quickly. If we don't have to spend too much time teaching them to follow directions, we can progress more quickly."

Most of the students in her class come from preschool or from daycare where preschool activities were encouraged. "But for the rest, this may be their first experience in a large group setting. That doesn't mean they're not ready if they've been at home," she emphasizes, "but they just haven't experienced large group settings yet."

While a whole lot of learning will take place between the start of school in late August and the end of the school year in mid-June, Paskewitz believes her mission goes beyond instruction.

"A lot of what I do in here is about building confidence. I help the children to feel comfortable at school and confident in themselves as learners. Whether we're doing math or our calendar work or reading stories, I really strive to make experiences here enjoyable and the learning fun. I don't want students to feel overwhelmed or that they can't be successful."

Fellow kindergarten teacher Susan Mears, who has taught in the Shaker schools for 21 years, the majority of them in an Onaway Elementary kindergarten classroom, finds most incoming kindergarteners are eager and ready to be successful.

"The kids are excited about anything and everything. That's why I love my job. I love their wide-eyed wonder and their interest in any subject. They are just so easy to hook into learning."

Today's kindergarteners, she finds, are more prepared than in years past. "The majority of them attend a preschool or daycare before they enter. They have been exposed to computers, cell phones, TIVOs. They are much more tech savvy. But," she interjects, "they still like to play. I think it's wonderful that they would all choose recess over a computer any day."

The children most ready to learn "are those who can converse and listen and have been read to daily. In a perfect world, every incoming kindergartener would come to school ready to sit quietly, pay attention, and get along with others. But they aren't. I always tell the parents that not much can surprise me."

The most recent Ohio state guidelines

call for teaching kindergarten students what used to be a first-grade curriculum. "But I think the kids are ready for that," Mears says. "They are guided to the next level, not pushed."

She speaks excitedly about the writing program that she uses in the classroom. She also uses a program called "Phonics in Motion" that teaches children hand motions for the sounds in the alphabet, "which also helps them in writing."

Moreover, every Shaker Heights elementary school has at least one Kindergarten Resource Program (KRP) professional on staff whose mission is to identify those kindergartners who need extra assistance and to provide it to them.

The identification takes place each September, when the KRP personnel conduct one-on-one assessments with each kindergartner to determine his or her knowledge and skills in the areas of letter recognition, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and more. The Kindergarten Readiness and Literacy Assessment and Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test are among the assessment tools used.

"Students are selected to take part in the Kindergarten Resource Program if we find they would benefit from more concentrated individual or small group work," explains Alice Hampton, one of two KRP professionals at Lomond School. "If they test into the program, the children will see their KRP teacher for 30 minutes each day during regular school hours for additional instruction."

There is no stigma attached to participation in the program, Hampton says. In fact, just the opposite. "Kids I'm not working with will often plead, 'Take me! Take me!' They're jealous of the special time and attention."

The experienced mother and grandmother sympathizes with parents whose busy lives limit the amount of time and energy they have for preparing their child for school. But informal teaching opportunities are available at every turn, she insists.

"When you're riding in the car and see a road sign, you don't have to stop, but just ask, 'What shape is that sign?' At home,



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Pointers for Kindergarten Preparation

How can parents best prepare their child for kindergarten? What can they do at home? According to Susan Mears, it's simple: "Talk to them. Listen to them. And answer every one of their 'What's this?' questions for the tenth time."

"Take them places," she continues. "To the Nature Center, the art museum, the zoo, the Metroparks, an apple farm, around the block. Most importantly, read, read, read! Don't wait until you child has started school – begin reading when they are little. Get them a library card and go on adventures in books. Read a lot, and read often."

Lena Paskewitz echoes Mears' emphasis on the importance of reading and talking about books with the youngster, and recommends ways that "play" can become educational. "Encourage your child to play with Legos to build finger muscles and coordination, and use board games like Candyland and Chutes and Ladders to reinforce skills in counting, color recognition, and taking turns."

She also suggests that parents require that their children care for their belongings at home so they'll be prepared for what's expected of them in the classroom. "Have them hang up their own jacket, carry dishes to the sink, put toys away. Here at school, they will be responsible for taking care of their materials, getting the supplies they need, and so on, from day one. We train them very quickly to become independent and resourceful."

Just as important as preparing a child for school is supporting their success once in school. "Get involved," Mears urges parents. "Volunteer with the PTO, come to Curriculum Nights and Open Houses, volunteer to read a book to your child's class, talk to them about their day. And enjoy every minute because before you know it they'll be grown."

Transitions Made Easy

Kindergarteners aren't the only ones walking into new situations at the start of school each year.

For students "graduating" from a Shaker K-4 elementary school to Woodbury School (5-6), from Woodbury to Shaker Heights Middle School (7-8), or from Middle School to High School, there are new buildings to navigate, new administrators and teachers to meet, and new routines to learn.

But thanks to the coordinated efforts of school district personnel and PTO volunteers, the transition is made easier through a series of introductory programs that begin as early as the prior spring. As a result, by the first day of classes, many students feel right at home in their new school.

Shaker's fourth graders make an official visit to Woodbury during the spring. They tour the building, talk with administrators, and hear directly from Woodbury

students. An orientation session is also offered to parents, and several days before the start of school, students and parents can participate in a scavenger hunt sponsored by the Woodbury PTO to help the newcomers learn their way around the building.

"I have been impressed all three times with the ease of the transition for my kids between the K-4 buildings and Woodbury," says Jenny Kidd. "It helps that the kids get a chance to visit Woodbury for science labs and occasional other activities while they are still fourth graders, because it increases their comfort level. In addition, the fifth-grade teachers all stress organization and parental communication to help with the change."

Two years later, when readying for the move to the Middle School, onsite visits in the spring, parent orientations, and PTO-sponsored special events once again work to make the transition as stress-free as possible for students and their families.

Similar events are scheduled for incoming students at the High School.

In addition to the formal introductory and orientation programs, school tours can be arranged for parents and their children at any time of the year, and all schools are open to visitors during the annual Tour Your Schools Day each fall and Shakerfest special events each spring.

Eligibility, Hours, & Registration State law requires children who are five years old on or before September 30 to attend a formal kindergarten program. Parents are notified by mail regarding the dates of kindergarten registration. This takes place in the spring prior to the child's entrance into kindergarten in the fall. To find out how to enroll your child, lease contact the Office of the Registrar at (216) 295-4321 or visit www.shaker.org/prospective.



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Ongoing Activities for Families

MONDAYS: Learning English as a Family (LEAF), 6:45-8 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Literacy for non-English speaking families. Weekly group time for children, adult ESL class and bi-weekly home visits. INFO: 216-921-2023.

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS: Parent and Child Play Sessions, 9:30 AM-NOON, MEARNS FAMILY PLAYROOM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Parents and caregivers with children from birth to age 3 can play and make friends. Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays 4-6 pm and Fridays 3:30-5:30 pm for parents and caregivers with children from birth to age 5. FEES AND INFO: 216-921-2023.

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. FEES & INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

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. INFO: 216-921-2023 OR 216-991-2030.

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS: Dropin 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. FEES & INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

WEDNESDAYS: Play and Learn Station for Home Day Care Providers, 10 AM-NOON, MAIN LIBRARY. Free, dropin literacy play sessions for home day care providers and children birth to age 5, co-sponsored by Shaker Library and Shaker Family Center. INFO: 216-921-2023 OR 216-991-2030.

SATURDAYS: Open Gym, 10 AM-NOON, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Come indoors and play on the climbing equipment and other activities in the gym and muscle room. (There is no gym on 2/16.) Drop-in rates: \$7/family with 1 child with a \$10/family maximum. Save on fees with a 5- or 10-session discount Family Pass, which can be purchased at gym sessions or at Shaker Family Center office. INFO: 216-921-2023.

SATURDAYS THRU MAR. 22: Indoor Winter Market, 8 AM-NOON, 13207 AND 13209 SHAKER SQUARE. Mosey over to the indoor market next to Dewey's, where you can stop in for a warm cup of java before or after your productive morning of shopping. INFO: 216-751-7656.

Art Around Town

FEB. 1-MAR. 31: Exhibit, SHAKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM. Long Forgotten Tools and Other Obsolete Objects. Experience the craftsmanship of the Shakers and other early residents of the region through their tools and equipment. Free to members; \$2/non-members & children (6-18). Children under 6 free. INFO: 216-921-1201.

THRU FEB. 7: Play and Learn Station Photographs by David Bergholz, MAIN LIBRARY. Photographer, former Library trustee and Play and Learn volunteer captures the charm of children at play. INFO: 216-991-2030.

continued on page 66

Destinations...

BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH LIBRARY

20600 Fayette Road 216-991-2421

MAIN LIBRARY

16500 Van Aken Boulevard 216-991-2030

THE NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES

2600 South Park Boulevard 216-321-5935

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19824 Sussex Road 216-921-2023

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15911 Aldersyde Drive 216-295-4200

SHAKER HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

16740 South Park Boulevard 216-921-1201

SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

20600 Shaker Boulevard 216-295-4100

THORNTON PARK

3301 Warrensville Center Road 216-491-1295

february highlights

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					First Friday Flick "Madea's Family Reunion," 1:30 pm, Shaker Community Building. (pg. 66)	The Wizard of Oz 2/1-2 7:30 pm, Heights Youth Theater, Wiley Middle School. (pg. 73)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Open House 10:15 am, St. Dominic School. (pg. 66) 17th Annual Black Heritage Concert, 4 pm, Cleveland Institute of Music. (pg. 74)	3)	Environmental Town Hall: The Thunderhead Alliance, 1 pm, Nature Center. (pg. 66)	Woodworking for Boys and Girls, 4 pm, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 66)	Play & Learn Station Photographs by David Bergholz, Thru 2/7, Main Library. (pg. 63)	School Day Open House for Grades 5-10, 8:45 am, Laurel School (pg. 66)	Backyard Bird Count Extrava- ganza, 9 am, Nature Center. (pg. 66) Backbeat A Tribute, 6:30 pm, CIM. (pg. 74)
10	Kids Cooking, 4:15 pm, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 67)	Classic Movie Tuesday, "12 Angry Men," 1:30 pm, Shaker Community Building. (pg. 67)	Flyers, Brochures & Newsletters, 9:30 am, Fairhill Computer Center. (pg. 67)	Nature Photography Club, 7 pm, Nature Center. (pg. 67)	Drop-in Play Sessions, 9 am, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 63)	16
A Collectors' Forum, 3 pm, Shaker Historical Museum. (pg. 67)	PRESIDENTS' 18 DAY-Off-In- Nature Camp, 9:30 am, Nature Center. (pg. 68)	Play and Learn Station, 10 am, Main Library. (pg. 63)	Miniature Orchids, 6:30 pm, Cleveland Botanical Garden. (pg. 74)	Knit Night, 7 pm, Bertram Woods. (pg. 68) University School Speakers' Series, 7:30 pm, University School. (pg. 68)	LUNAFEST: Films By, For and About Women, 8:30 pm, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 68)	Coming of Age, 2 pm, Main Library. (pg. 68)
CityMusic, 2 pm, Fairmount Presbyterian Church. (pg. 74)	25	Dona Nobis Pacem, 3 pm, First Baptist Church. (pg. 69)	Meet the Author, Margaret Bernstein, 7 pm, Bertram Woods. (pg. 69) Teen Poetry Slam, 4 pm, Main Library. (pg. 69)	28	Footloose, 2/29, 3/7, 3/14 Heights Youth Theater, 7:30 pm, Wiley Middle School. (pg. 74)	

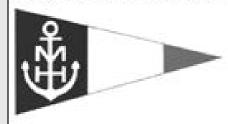


march

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Exhibit, 2/1-3/31 Long Forgo Obsolete Objects, Sh Society and Museum (pg. 63)	aker Historical		The Magic Flute 2/27, 2/28, 3/1 8 pm, Cleveland Institute of Music. (pg. 74)
2	Case Symphonic Winds, Univ. Circle Wind Ens., Cleve. Youth Wind Symphony II, 7:30 pm, Severance Hall. (pg. 75)	Drop-in Play Sessions, 2 pm, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 63)	Woodworking for Boys and Girls, 4 pm, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 70)	Damn Yankees, 3/6-8 7:30 pm, Laurel School. (pg. 70) Parenting Class, 6 pm, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 70)	First Friday Flick, "A Mighty Heart," 1:30 pm, Shaker Community Building. (pg. 70)	A Night for the Red & White 7 pm, Intercontinental Hotel. (pg. 71)
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins Turn clocks ahead one hour.	Toy Donation Drop-off, 3/10-3/11 9 am, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 71)	Classic Movie Tuesday, "Casablanca," 1:30 pm, Shaker Community Building. (pg. 71)	4th Annual Used Toy Sale, 3/12-13 9 am, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 71)	Knit Night, 7 pm, Bertram Woods. (pg. 72)	Bretano String Quartet with Todd Palmer 7:30 pm, Plymouth Church. (pg. 72) St. Patrick's Day Show, 7 pm, St. Dominic School. (pg. 72)	Open Gym, 10 am, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 63)
16	17	18	19	20	GOOD FRIDAY 21	22
	Parent and Child Play Sessions, 9:30 am, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 63)	Parent University, 7:30 pm, Shaker Family Center. (pg. 72)	Parent and Learn Station for Home Day Care Provid- ers, 10 am, Main Library. (pg. 63)	Drop-in Play Sessions, 9 am, Hanna Perkins Center. (pg. 63)	Shaker Schools closed.	3-on-3 Basketball Tournament 7:30 am, Shaker Middle School. (pg. 73)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Barbara Luton Art Competition Gal- lery Opening & Awards, 2 pm, Main Library. (pg. 73)		Play and Learn Station, 10 am, Main Library. (pg. 63)	Meet the Authors, Kristin Ohlson and Thrity Umrigar, 7 pm Bertram Woods. (pg. 73)	New Stages XXVI 3/26-29 8 pm, Shaker High. (pg. 73)	W.	

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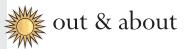
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Art Around Town

continued from page 63

FEB. 7: Gallery Opening, 6-8 PM, ANNEX GALLERY, 13015 LARCHMERE BLVD. Mark Yasenchack exhibits *Collage and Valentine's Skulls* through March 3. INFO: 216-795-9800.

FEB. 11-MAR. 21: Recycled Reflections by Barbara Earley, MAIN LIBRARY.

MAR. 6: Gallery Opening, 6-8 PM, ANNEX GALLERY, 13015 LARCHMERE BLVD. Carolyn Fitzgerald's exhibit entitled, *Conscious*, is on display through March 31. INFO: 216-795-9800.

MAR. 30-MAY 9: Barbara Luton Art Show, MAIN LIBRARY.

Events for

February

Feb. 1-29: Dichroic Designs of Shaker Heights, 10 AM-5 PM MONDAYS-SATURDAYS & NOON-5 PM SUNDAYS, 24060 WIMBLEDON RD. A jeweler with heart. 50% of all sales during the month of February will be donated to The Gathering Place for Families Touched by Cancer. Shop in person by appointment or online at http://dichroicdesigns-shaker.com. Evening hours may be arranged. INFO: MIMI TESTEN, 216-751-8624.

Feb. 1: First Friday Flick, 1:30 PM, SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Watch the PG-13 comedy, *Madea's Family Reunion*, about a brash but loving African-American grandmother with her own way of doing things. INFO: 216-491-1360.

Feb. 3: Open House, 10:15 AM-1 PM, ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL, 3455 NORWOOD RD. Tour the co-educational Catholic elementary school (pre-K-grade 8), meet the principal and teachers and enjoy coffee and donuts. INFO: 216-561-4400 OR EMAIL stdominic@leeca. org.

Feb. 5: Environmental Town Hall: The Thunderhead Alliance, NOON-1 PM, NATURE CENTER. Learn about the Thunderhead Alliance, a North American Coalition of state and local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organizations working for safe bicycling and walking. Interim Director Dominic Liberatore will talk about Thunderhead's National Complete the Streets Campaign. Free. INFO: 216-321-5935.

Feb. 5: Genealogy Just for Teens, **7 PM**, MAIN LIBRARY COMPUTER LAB. Learn how to trace your roots. INFO: 216-991-2030.

Feb. 6: 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 learn to use tools safely for woodworking projects, including assembling precut wood kits as well as constructing projects from scrap wood. \$58/4-week session (Feb. 6-27). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

Feb. 8: School Day Open House for Grades 5-10, 8:45-10 AM, LAUREL SCHOOL, ONE LYMAN CIRCLE. Visit Laurel School's classrooms during the school day. INFO: 216-464-1441 OR www.laurelschool.org.

Extravaganza, 9 AM-4 PM, NATURE CENTER. Learn all about birds when the Nature Center kicks-off the Great Backyard Bird Count, a national event held each February. Enjoy a bird of prey show, activity stations, and nature hikes. Optional pancake breakfast served from 8-10 am. Activities are free; pancake breakfast tickets are \$10; \$5 for Nature Center members. INFO: 216-321-5935 OR www.shakerlakes.org.

out & about



Feb. 11: Basic Digital Photography, 9:30-11:30 AM, FAIRHILL COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER, 1220 FAIRHILL RD. Learn to transfer photos from a camera to a computer to edit, email and print them in a 4-week course taught for seniors by seniors. \$40/person. INFO: 216-421-1350 EXT. 125.

Feb. 11: Kids Cooking, 4:15 PM, HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Young Children (ages 3-8) cook real food with a parent's help and prepare simple, wholesome recipes. \$58/4-week session (Feb. 11-Mar. 10). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS. 216-929-0201.

Feb. 12: Classic Movie Tuesday, 1:30 PM, SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Watch 12 Angry Men starring Henry Fonda, Ed Begley, Sr., Jack Klugman, and Joseph Sweeney. INFO: 216-491-1360.

Feb. 12: Parent University, 7:30-9 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Carol Nursery School early childhood educator, Susan Pfaff, presents Promoting Early Childhood Learning and suggests ways parents/caregivers can promote early learning for their young children. \$5/in advance; \$7 at the door. INFO: 216-921-2023.

Feb. 12: Wild About You, 4:15 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Learn what animal mommies take care of their young and which ones teach their offspring to fend for themselves. INFO: 216-991-2421. Program repeats at Main Library on February 13.

Feb. 13: Early Childhood Preview, 8:45 AM, LAUREL SCHOOL, ONE LYMAN CIRCLE. Visit Laurel School's coeducational preschool and pre-kindergarten programs. INFO: 216-464-1441 OR wwwlaurelschool.org.

Feb. 13: Flyers, Brochures & Newsletters, 9:30-11:30 AM, FAIRHILL COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL RD. Learn to create eye-catching flyers and newsletters using MS Word. Mouse and basic word processing skills are required for this 3-week class. \$30/person. INFO: 216-421-1350 EXT. 125.

Feb. 13: Laurel School Middle School Preview for Parents of 4th Graders, 7 PM, LAUREL SCHOOL, ONE LYMAN CIRCLE. Learn how Laurel School manages the transition from 4th to 5th grades. INFO: 216-464-1441 OR www. laurelschool.org.

Feb. 14: Nature Photography Club: Show it Off!, 7-9 PM, NATURE CENTER. Got hang ups about how to hang 'em up? Meet Michael Gentile of M. Gentile Studio who will share tips and techniques for matting, framing, and hanging photographs. The Nature Center's Nature Photography Club meets on the second Thursday of every month, unless otherwise noted. INFO: www.shakerlakes. org OR SARA THORNE-BRIECHLE AT thorne@shakerlakes.org, OR 216-321-5935 X 237.

Feb. 15-18: Presidents' Day Weekend. Shaker Schools closed.

Feb. 17: A Collectors' Forum, 3 PM, SHAKER HISTORICAL MUSEUM. Ever wonder what motivates passionate collecting or how to get started? Meet three local collectors, learn why they collect what they do, and see examples from their treasure troves. INFO: 216-921-1201.

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Feb. 18: Day-Off-In-Nature Camp, 9:30 AM-3 PM, NATURE CENTER. One-day camp on Presidents' Day for school-aged students in grades K-6, who will enjoy winter activities, hiking, crafts, snacks, and more. (Bring a bag lunch.) Camp ends at 3 pm with extended care available until 5 pm. \$40/members, \$50/non-members. Extended care costs \$5/hour. INFO: 216-321-5935.

Feb. 21: **Thursdays-Roller Skating, 4 PM,** HANNA PERKINS CENTER FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT PARENT/CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, 19910 MALVERN RD. Children (ages 2½-8) learn to roller skate safely. Beginning skills include learning to get up from the floor, rolling forward and picking up one foot at a time. Music is used for simple rhythm and movement activities that coincide with skating skills. \$69/6-

week session (Feb. 21-April 3). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

Feb. 21, 22 & 23: 9th Grade Theatre Experience.

Feb. 21: **Knit Night, 7 PM**, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. *Needle* little help on a project? Come to the library to get some. INFO: 216-991-2421.

Feb. 21: University School Speakers' Series, 7:30 PM, UNIVERSITY SCHOOL, 20701 BRANTLEY RD. Dr. Stephen Post, Professor of Bioethics in the CWRU School of Medicine, speaks on "Why Good Things Happen to Good People." INFO: 216-831-1984 EXT. 7392.

Feb. 22: LUNAFEST: Films By, For and About Women, 8:30 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Fund-raising film festival. Wine and cheese reception and silent auction begin at 7:30 pm. Watch 9 short films by women filmmakers that highlight women's issues. Proceeds benefit Shaker Family Center and the Breast Cancer Fund. Space is limited. Tickets at \$35/person must be purchased by February 19. INFO: 216-921-2023.

Feb. 23: Coming of Age, 2-4 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. The Anioma Association cosponsors a special ceremony and celebration of a young girl's coming of age in Nigeria. Music, dance and, of course, food, are highlights of the program. INFO: 216-991-2030.

Feb. 25: Art, 10:30 AM, OR 11:30 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. \$45/5- week session (Feb. 25-Mar. 31). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.







Feb. 26: Dona Nobis Pacem, 3 PM, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 3630 FAIRMOUNT BLVD. Fairmount Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church and Plymouth Church choirs join forces, with orchestra, to present Ralph Vaughan Williams' Dona Nobis Pacem and other works. Robert Porco, guest conductor. Tickets required. INFO: 216-932-7480.

Feb. 27: Meet the Author, 7 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Meet author Margaret Bernstein. INFO: 216-991-2421.

Feb. 27: 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-3) and their parents experience the joy of music through group singing, finger plays and experimentation with instruments and dance. \$69/7-week session (Feb. 27-April 16). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

Feb. 27: Teen Poetry Slam, 4-6 PM., MAIN LIBRARY. Teens' words come alive in this spoken word performance. Performers between the ages of 13 and 18 must pre-register February 13-22. INFO: 216-991-2030.

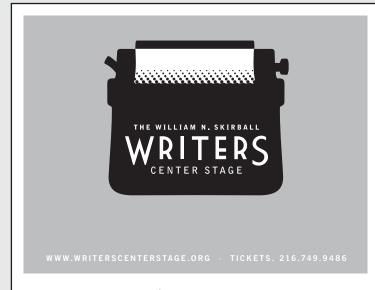
Feb. 28: High School Writers' Festival Facilitator Readings, 7-9 PM, HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL, 19600 NORTH PARK BLVD. The High School Writers' Festival facilitator readings include presentations by Sarah Willis, Katie Daley, and David Hassler. This event is free and open to the public. INFO: JOHN VERBOS, DIRECTOR OF THE OSBORNE WRITING CENTER, 216-320-8796 EXT. 7252 OR writersfestival@hb.edu.

Feb. 29: Barbara Luton Competition Art Drop-off, 12:30-5 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Artists age 18 and up can enter the juried art competition and vie for cash prizes. Entry fee is \$25 for up to 2 pieces. INFO: 216-991-2030.

Events for Marci

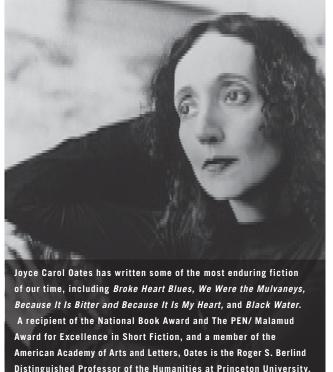
Mar. Barbara Luton Competition Art Drop-off, 10 AM-2 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Artists age 18 and up can enter the juried art competition and vie for cash prizes. Entry fee is \$25 for up to 2 pieces. INFO: 216-991-2030.

Mar. 1: High School Writers' Festival Student Readings, 12:30-2 PM, HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL, 19600 NORTH PARK BLVD. The High School Writers' Festival student readings include presentations by students attending the High School Writers' Festival. Free and open to the public. INFO: JOHN VERBOS, DIRECTOR OF THE OSBORNE WRITING CENTER, 216-320-8796 EXT. 7252 OR writersfestival@hb.edu.



ON STAGE OHIO THEATRE **PLAYHOUSE SQUARE**

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR **JOYCE CAROL OATES** 03.04.08 · 7:30 PM



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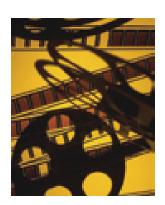
Mar. 4: Primary Election. Local Issue: Library Levy. Exercise your right to vote.

Mar. 5: 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 learn to use tools safely for woodworking projects, including assembling precut wood kits as well as constructing projects from scrap wood. \$58/4-week session (Mar. 5-April 2). INFO: KAREN GOULANDRIS, 216-929-0201.

Mar. 6: Parenting Class, 6-8 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. 8-week parenting series to help parents learn to solve problems, manage feelings, give positive attention and more. A light meal and childcare is provided free, thanks to the generous support of the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. Space is limited; pre-registration is required. INFO: 216-921-2023.

Mar. 6, 7 & 8: Damn Yankees, 7:30 PM, LAUREL SCHOOL, ONE LYMAN CIRCLE. Laurel School students perform this high-spirited, Broadway musical romp. TICKETS & INFO: 216-464-1441.

Mar. 7: First Friday Flick, 1:30 PM, SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Watch the R-rated film, A Mighty Heart, Mariane Pearl's memoir recounting the abduction and murder of her husband, Daniel Pearl, in Pakistan. INFO: 216-491-1360



Mar. 8: A Night for the Red & White, 7 PM, INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, 9801 CARNEGIE AVE. Celebrate the schools at this black-tie block party that includes a silent auction, treasure chest, dinner and dancing to benefit the Shaker Schools. To donate an item, service, gift certificate, vacation, etc., call Silent Auction chair Gia Ilijasic 216-295-0136. Tickets: \$125-\$295/person. INFO: 216-295-4325.

A diller, a dollar, a \$295 scholar! All give the schools a boon. The party starts at seven o'clock, And is over much too soon!

Mar. 9: Daylight Savings Time begins. Fast forward! Turn clocks ahead one hour.

Mar. 10 & 11: Toy Donation Drop-off, 9 AM-3 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Spring cleaning? Remember Shaker Family Center for tax-deductible donations of gently-used or likenew children's toys, books, games, puzzles, riding toys, baby equipment, etc. Items must be clean, working, contain all pieces and parts, and appropriate for infants to age 6. Include batteries for battery operated and electronic toys. NO stuffed animals or car seats, please. INFO: 216-921-2023.

Mar. 11: Babes in Nature, 10-10:45 AM, NATURE CENTER. You're never too young to start learning about nature. Explore a variety of sensory experiences to introduce babies, two months through two years, and their caregivers to the natural world. If it is too cold outside, we'll bring the natural fun of the outdoors inside! Fee per stroller is \$5/members; \$7/non-members. INFO: 216-321-5935.

Mar. 11: Classic Movie Tuesday, 1:30 PM, SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Watch Casablanca starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, and Paul Henreid. INFO: 216-491-1360.

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Perhaps you are thinking it may be time to prepare for your future. We urge you to give Kendal at Home a close look. Attend a seminar, ask questions, have an in-depth meeting in your home. Kendal at Home presents the options, and explains in detail every aspect of the program. You owe it to yourself and your family to learn about Kendal at Home.



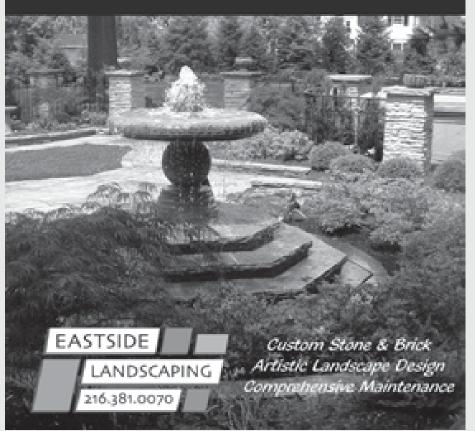
CALL TODAY TO ATTEND A SEMINAR NEAR YOU!

Kendal at Home is an affiliate of The Kendal Corporation, a Quaker-related, not-for-profit organization providing communities and services for older people for over 35 years. Kendal at Home is available to residents of Northeast Ohio.





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Mar. 12 & 13: 4th Annual Used Toy Sale, 9 AM-6:30 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Buy new to you toys, games and puzzles. Sale continues Mar. 13 from 9 am-3 pm. INFO: 216-921-2023.

Mar. 13: Knit Night, 7 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Get or give help on knitting projects. INFO: 216-991-2421.

Mar. 14: St. Patrick's Day Show, 7 PM, ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL, 3455 NORWOOD RD. 'Tis a night of fun to be had at the 48th annual show celebrating those who are Irish and those who wish they were. INFO: 216-561-4400.

Mar 14: Shaker Libraries closed for Staff Professional Development, 9 AM-2 PM. Both libraries re-open at 2 pm.

Mar. 14: Brentano String Quartet with Todd Palmer, clarinet. 7:30 PM. PLYMOUTH CHURCH. 2860 COVENTRY RD. Cleveland Museum of Art presents this award-winning quartet playing music by Mendelssohn, Janacek, and Brahms. TICKETS & INFO: 216-421-7350 OR www.clevelandart.org/

Mar. 17-28: Vacation Camp, 8 AM-6 PM, HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL. 19600 N. PARK BOULEVARD. Vacation Camp for boys and girls ages 3-14. Select from a calendar of activities, with regard to specific days. \$300/ week or \$60/day. INFO: SIVA GROSSMAN, 216-320-8085.

May. 18: Parent University, 7:30-9 PM, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Parenting workshop features Joan Morgenstern, MA, and Director of Early Childhood Services at the Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland who will discuss Toilet Training Success and offer tips for achieving success in that area. \$5/in advance; \$7/ at the door. INFO: 216-921-2023.

Mar. 21: Good Friday. Shaker Schools closed.

Mar. 22: 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, 7:30 AM, SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL. Hoop it up when Shaker Heights Youth Center holds its 15th annual fund-raiser for youth ages 10-18. All participants receive a 3-on-3 T-shirt and winners get bragging rights. FEES & INFO: 216-752-9292.

March 24-28, March 31-April 4: Spring Break Camp, 9 AM-3 PM, NATURE CENTER. Children in grades K-5 enjoy a week filled with adventure and discovery exploring nature in and around the Nature Center. Hikes, games, crafts and interactive learning with a new theme each day. Extended Care is available from 3-5 pm. INFO: 216-321-5935.

Mar. 26, 27, 28 & 29: New Stages XXVI, 8 PM, SHAKER HIGH. Friday & Saturday performances at 7 pm & 9:15 pm.

May. 26: Meet the Authors, 7 PM, BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH. Meet authors, Kristin Ohlson and Thrity Umrigar. INFO: 216-991-2421.

Mar. 30: Barbara Luton Art Competition Gallery Opening & Awards Presentation, 2 PM, MAIN LIBRARY. Meet the artists juried into the 9th annual competition named in honor of former library director, Barbara Luton.

Spring Breaks:

MAR. 15-MAR. 31: Independent Schools' Spring Break MAR. 31-APR. 4: Shaker Schools Spring Break

In the Circle and Beyond

FEB. 1 & 2: The Wizard of Oz, 7:30 PM, WILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL, 2181 MIRAMAR BLVD. Follow the yellow brick road to the Heights Youth Theater production. Saturday matinee at 2 pm. Tickets: \$9/adults; \$8/children 6 & under & seniors. INFO: www.heightsyouththeater.

FEB. 2008 Sustainability Symposium: Linking Land to Lake: Gardening for a Healthy Lake Erie, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN, 11030 EAST BLVD. Annual symposium co-sponsored with the Nature Center. Participants are encouraged to rethink their yards and gardens to practice gardening for a healthy Lake Erie. The full-day symposium features national and local speakers to share knowledge in lectures and breakout sessions. Topics include sustain-





able landscape design and plant choice, organic lawn care, rain gardens and how they support a healthy Lake Erie ecosystem and economy. \$99 or \$90 for members of either the Nature Center or the Botanical Gardens. Fee includes lunch, parking, and a sustainable landscaping Market-place. INFO: 216-721-1600 OR www.cbgarden.org

FEB. 3: 17th Annual Black Heritage Concert, 4 PM, CLEVELAND INSTITUTE OF MUSIC, 11021 EAST BLVD. Concert features ensembles from the Cleveland School of the Arts. Free. INFO: 216-791-5000.

FEB. 9: Backbeat...A Tribute, 6:30 PM, CIM. Friends of CIM presents a funfilled evening celebrating the Beatles - plus cocktails, silent auction, reception and dancing to benefit the CIM's Young Artist Program. TICKETS & INFO: 216-295-0681.

FEB. 13: The Uxbenka Archaeological Project: Recent Discoveries in Belize, 7:30 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 10600 EAST BOULEVARD. Phil Wanyerka, Co-Principal Investigator for UAP, project epigrapher and archaeologist discusses recent findings from this early Maya site. Reception follows lecture. INFO: 216-231-4600 OR ALICE WEBSTER, 216-932-6219.

FEB. 17: Heights Chamber Orchestra, 7:30 PM, ST. ANN'S CHURCH, 2175 COVENTRY RD. Eric Gratz conducts.

FEB. 20: Miniature Orchids, 6:30 PM, CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN, 11030 EAST BLVD. Lecture with wine and cheese. Professional horticulturist Steven A. Frowine speaks about orchids. \$20/members; \$27/non-members. INFO: 216-721-1600 EXT.143.

FEB. 24: CityMusic, 2 PM, FAIRMOUNT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2757 FAIRMOUNT BLVD. James Gaffigan directs the chamber orchestra in Strings Attached. Free concert and art exhibit plus free child care, INFO: 216-321-8273.

FEB. 27, 28 & MAR. 1: The Magic Flute, 8 PM, CIM. CIM Opera Theater and CIM Orchestra present Mozart's masterpiece of music and myth. Tickets: \$15/adults; \$10/students and seniors. INFO: 216-791-5000, EXT. 411, OR www.cim.edu.

FEB. 29, MAR. 7 & 14: Footloose, 7:30 PM, WILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL, 2181 MIRAMAR BLVD. Lose your blues when Heights Youth Theater presents this fun, fast, footloose musical. 2 pm. matinees on March 2, 8 & 15. Tickets: \$9/adults; \$8/children 6 & under & seniors. INFO: www.heightsyouththeater.com.





MAR. 3: Case Symphonic Winds, University Circle Wind Ensemble, Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony II, 7:30 PM, SEVERANCE HALL, 11001 EUCLID AVE. Gary M. Ciepluch, music director. Tickets: \$15-\$25; \$5 CIM/CWRU students with ID. INFO: 216-231-1111.

MAR. 7: Addy: An American Girl, 7 PM, PLAYHOUSE SQUARE, 1501 EUCLID AVE. American Girl Addy comes to life in this family production. Pick up order forms at either library and a portion of each ticket sold will benefit the Shaker Library. \$18/person.

MAR. 12: Reunion of Body and Soul: Sexuality and Resurrection in the Netherworld, 7:30 PM, CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 10600 EAST BLVD. Lanny Bell, Adjunct Professor of Egyptology at Brown University speaks about tomb decorations in the Valley of the Kings and how they express Egyptians' faith in the power of life

over death. Reception follows lecture INFO: 216-231-4600 OR ALICE WEBSTER, 216-932-6219.

MAR. 26: Designing the Mixed Perennial Bed, 6:30 PM, CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN, 11030 EAST BLVD. Lecture with wine and cheese. horticulturist Professional Scarfone of Oasis Design Group, a landscape architecture, planning, and design firm in Baltimore, Maryland, speaks about perennial planning and plantings \$20/members; \$27/nonmembers. INFO: 216-721-1600 EXT.143.

MAR. 30: Heights Chamber Orchestra, 7:30 PM, ST. ANN'S CHURCH, 2175 COVENTRY RD. Matthew Brown conducts.

MAR. 30: The Shakers vs. the Secular Life: A Dramatic Dialog, 2 PM, DUNHAM TAVERN, 6709 EUCLID AVE. Offering a bit of historical, dramatic fiction, Shaker Historical Society and Dunham Tavern Museum cosponsor a program exploring the differences between life in a rural, communal, Shaker village and life in an urban tavern. Experience a fictitious conversation that takes place in 1855 between Elder James Prescott (1803-1888), a leading Shaker at North Union village, and Rufus Dunham, owner of Dunham Tavern, INFO: 216-921-1201.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES: For children birth-5 years at SHAKER FAMILY CENTER. Parties can be booked any Saturday during the Saturday Gym season (subject to availability) from 11:00 am-1 pm. Included is private use of the gym and "Party Room" where party guests can enjoy lunch and cake. Add-on options, such as craft activities, use of a bouncer and more, are available for an extra cost. Party rates start at \$125 which includes a \$50 non-refundable booking deposit. INFO: 216-921-2023.



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February 8 • 8:45 - 10:00 a.m. School Day Open House for Grades 5-10

> February 13 • 8:45 a.m. Early Childhood Preview

February 13 • 7 p.m Middle School Preview for Parents of 4th Graders

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One Lyman Circle, Shaker Heights, OH 44122 216.464.0946 • www.laurelschool.org

shaker observer

Mourning Becomes the Dancing Shrub

BY JOHN R. BRANDT

With snow on the ground, it must be time again for high school theatre. "Ah," waxes Shaker Man at the merest mention of it, "The sweet thespian nights of my youth. The bright lights. The creak of the boards. 'Alas, poor Dorick! To be or not to be—'"

"It's a musical, Dad," says his teenage daughter. "Not Shakespeare. And it's Yorick, not Dorick."

"'Whether 'tis nobler—'"

"You're the Dorick. Are you going to run me through my lines or what?"

And so begins our hero's crash course in modern high school theatrics, including:

Auditions: From what Shaker Man can glean, this is not only a tryout, but an important part of the overall learning process for parent and child. The teenager learns that life is full of anxiety, most of it self-inflicted: Everyone else can sing and dance and act way, way better than she can, and her voice cracked in all the wrong places, and she just felt really, really stupid. The father learns, with astonishing speed and clarity, that a distraught daughter isn't really all that comforted by a long story about how his long-ago failure to make the high school golf team made him a better person in the long run, blah blah blah.

"Not helping, Dad," she says, stomping from the room and waving her hand above her head (the international female-to-male signal for You-Are-Such-An-Idiot-I-Can't-Even-Believe-It).

"What?" he says, but Ms. Shaker Man merely waves, too, before following her daughter up the stairs.

Rehearsals: There are approximately 234 of these, with all manner of castmates requiring pickup and delivery all across the city at wildly inconvenient

times (e.g., during dinner, the NCAA basketball final, the first good afternoon for golf in six months, etc.). Even worse, parents are expected to help, whether by building sets (Shaker Man's "scary tree" collapses in a heap of wood and papier mache), making costumes (he ends up in the ER after harpooning himself stitching an oilcloth cape) or delivering food (in calculating pizza quantities, 20 teenagers = U.S. Army Second Division). Even better, the closer to opening night it gets, the less sleep both faculty and students enjoy – just when production stresses peak. (Who's running the %^\$!! lights? Where's the \$\%\\^\\$\#\%!! accompanist?) Shaker Man learns to treat this period among the cast and crew like a Northeast Ohio weather forecast: Anxious and jittery during the afternoon and early evening, but calming toward midnight. Chance of head-banging or door-slamming nearly 70 percent. New tearfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch likely.

Opening Night: A successful Premiere requires many things, but most of them can be summed up in one word: Flowers. If a parent has them, ready for presentation immediately after the show -

"You were wonderful!"

"I was a dancing shrub."

"But a wonderful shrub. Completely believable!"

—he or she can be late, forget to take pictures, fall asleep in the front row, even snore during the main production number ("How did I like 'Oklahoma'? Uh, I, ah... well, honestly... I never heard anything like it!"). But should a father forget his lone pre-show assignment?

Shakespeare said it best: "Alas, poor Dorick!"







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things to do:

- a) explore
- b) relax
- c) explore relaxing



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