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OUR ANNUAL
Shaker Home Resource Guide



march | april 2005

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The arts program also plays a vital role for many students by enriching their lives now and in the future by developing pride of accomplishment, creative self-expression and appreciation for the surrounding world.

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Cover Photographs by Marc Golub



Your Key to Luxurious Living

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Blair House

Shaker Heights

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Embodying the “Beloved Community”

In a jam-packed, emotional ceremony at Shaker Heights City Hall in late January, Earline Hooper, a well-known advocate of parental involvement in Shaker public schools programs, received the City’s 15th Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Human Relations.

Mrs. Hooper, a grandmother and former teacher in Cleveland schools, is one of the founders of the Education Committee of the Moreland on the Move Community Association (MOMCA), the base of her community activism.

“She embodies what Dr. King called the ‘Beloved Community,’ said Rev. Dr. Valentino Lassiter, pastor of the East View United Church of Christ and one of the evening’s guest speakers

Mrs. Hooper served as the president of MOMCA’s Education Committee and also was one of the creators of the association’s student Mentoring Program. As such, she has been instrumental in carrying out the association’s mission of “encouraging academic excellence and strong leadership and to develop positive role models; also, to establish meaningful relationships among the mentor, the student, the parent, and the teachers.”

Her core belief is that parents are the crucial ingredient in that mix.

She dedicated her award to her late husband, Lorenzo Samuel Hooper, Sr., whom she credited with kindling her family’s passion for grass-

roots involvement in education.

“We moved to Shaker Heights in 1963, a time when Dr. King was encouraging all Negroes to get involved in their communities,” she told the capacity audience in city council chambers. “My husband said we were going to get involved. And we did.”

She closed her remarks with the words: “Let us continue to work together, to love together, and to strive together.”

Mrs. Hooper’s broad popularity in the community was reflected in the hundreds of people, many of them in tears at the end, who turned out

for the event. The crowd spilled out of council chambers into the hallway and down the stairs.

During the ceremony, two of Mrs. Hooper’s three children, Paula and Sam, performed a song written by Sam, who has a degree in music from the University of Miami. “Heaven Made Me Too” is composed in the style of a civil rights-era folk song — as an audience sing-along. Sam played guitar while he and the audience sang. Paula, who holds a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, accompanied on flute.

The performance received

a rousing ovation.

Councilmember Brian Parker, the event’s host, drolly remarked from the



Paula Hooper



Sam Hooper



Vice Mayor Brian Gleisser presents the award to Earline Hooper

podium, “I have to believe this is a first for these chambers.”

Parker serves as co-chair of the Shaker Heights Human Relations Commission, which chose Mrs. Hooper for the award. Other commission members are Councilmember Earl Williams, Jr. (co-chair), John Murphy, Gerald Jackson, Rick Horvath, and Cecilia Wong Fungsang.

From Our Readers

“The article entitled the ‘Best police force in Northeast Ohio’ certainly demonstrated how excellent and effective the Shaker police force is. Their skill (and bravery) is greatly appreciated.”

Jim Schaefer
Shelburne Road

“I’d like to congratulate you on the outstanding editorial work you’ve done in the most recent (January/February 2005) edition. As a former magazine editor and writer for Republic Steel and in the business for about 55 years, I appreciate it when I see really outstanding work on putting together what you’re going to do and then doing it! So, keep up the good work...”

Bob Taylor
Claremont Road

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Sewer Project Begins

The City of Shaker Heights is working with the North East Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) and the City of Beachwood in the Thornton Park area of the City to construct new sanitary relief and storm sewers to increase sewer capacity.

The work for this project has begun, and is scheduled for completion by the week of June 27th, barring unforeseen complications. Portions of Farnsleigh, Halburton and Halworth roads and Belvoir Boulevard will be open to local traffic only for the duration of the project. Residents living on the closed portions of these streets will be issued a special permit allowing them to proceed past the "Road Closed" signs to their homes during the construction period. There will be times when no parking is allowed on various sections of the street.

Access to Thornton Park itself will not be affected by the construction, but it will not be possible to travel to the park from Farnsleigh heading west. Plan to use Warrensville Center to Farnsleigh east only. Regular project updates will be available on the City's website, shakeronline.com

Community Service Fair Planned at Fire House Open House

The Human Relations Commission will sponsor Shaker's first Community Service Fair on Saturday, March 12 from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the new Fire House at 17000 Chagrin.

Residents are invited to discover the many volunteer opportunities available in Shaker. Join your friends and neighbors while helping fellow residents in our community. A wide variety of projects will be available to volunteers of all ages, interests and abilities. Family participation is encouraged. Let's see what we can accomplish together as a community.

The service project has been developed as part of the City's updated observance to honor the life and mission of Martin Luther King, Jr. Atlanta's King Center recommends service programs as fitting tribute to the life of Dr. King.

While in the Fire House, take a tour of the new, state-of-the-art facility. For

more information, visit the City website, shakeronline.com.

Walk As One - Rock as One

Join friends, neighbors and community leaders! Be part of the Shaker team in the Walk As One – Rock as One diversity walk on May 14th. Now in its third year, the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) event promotes respect and understanding among all people, and invites participants to stand together against issues of intolerance.

The morning begins bright and early at 7:00 a.m. at Panera Bread, 20060 Van Aken Blvd. Colorful t-shirts sporting the motto *Shaker Heights – A Great Place to Call Home* will be on sale for \$5. Enjoy some java and ride the 7:57 a.m. rapid together to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum where the Walk kicks off.

Visit nccj.org or call 752-3000 for information about raising funds for NCCJ youth and leadership programs while walking. Call Betsy Williams with questions at 491-3196, or sign up for the Shaker Heights team by visiting shakeronline.com. The website will be updated regularly as information becomes available.

City Unions Sign Contracts

In an environment of cooperation and collaboration, negotiations with Police and Fire unions resulted in new three-year contracts. While the contracts were not due to expire until April 2005, the groups met late in 2004 and reached agreement in record time. Employees accepted a lower cost health care plan with modified monthly premium contributions; the City agreed to share the cost savings of the new plan with the employees. Subsequently Local 1099, which represents Public Works employees, voted to accept the same health care package. When Council voted to approve the package for non-union employees, health care benefits became uniform across the city staff. These collective measures will result in significant tax dollar savings, while maintaining excellent health care coverage levels.

Grass Bag Program to Go Citywide

Last fall, a group of Shaker residents participated in a test program to make grass bag pickup more efficient. The program flagged homes with specially marked Shaker grass clipping bags to be picked up on regular rubbish collection days.

An overwhelming majority of the participants were pleased with the program, prompting a citywide rollout. A door hanger is displayed outside the home on a door or railing when grass bags are in the yard for pickup. In any given week, only about 25% of Shaker homes have grass bags requiring pickup.

The new program enables crews to deliver prompt service when needed and to avoid unnecessary backyard trips, increasing crew efficiency. A letter explaining the program and including the door hanger will arrive at homes using grass bags in early spring.

Free Special Pickup Moving to August

Every year the City provides a free special pickup of household items. In previous years the free pickup was in April when Public Works crews are typically busy sprucing up the City's green spaces – clearing away winter debris and keeping up with fast growing spring grass.

For maximum efficiency, the free special pickup program will be postponed to August when maintenance of public spaces requires less manpower. This change will help keep Shaker looking its best during the beautiful spring months. Watch for information in an upcoming issue about registering to participate in the August pickup.

Moving On Up

The Shaker Prevention Coalition is planning two forums to help parents and teens transition to the middle and high schools. The programs, which also benefit youth-linked professionals, highlight these pivotal stages of adolescent development.

The transition periods can produce



Mary Lou: A Step Above the Rest

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anxiety in both teens and parents about social and academic pressures. Local and national studies identify the sixth to ninth grade age group as one of the most vulnerable to problem behavior. The forums will focus on helping parents to establish an understanding of normal teen behavior and to become empowered as protective shields for their children. Members of SHARP (Student Health Advocates Reaching Peers) will present the *Unofficial Rules of Adolescence* which govern how teens cope and behave within the popular culture. Learn strategies for supporting your teen to make healthy choices.

PARENTING THROUGH TRANSITIONS:
Helping Your Child Make the Leap
 Transitioning to High School
 (7:00 p.m., April 12, location to be determined)

TRANSITIONING TO MIDDLE SCHOOL
 (7:00 p.m., May 16, location to be determined)

The Shaker Prevention Coalition to Prevent Youth Substance Abuse is a

community coalition funded by a Drug Free Community Support Grant. For more information, contact Kristina Knight, Project Coordinator, at 491-1409.

Plant a Tree, Plant a Hope

The City will celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 29, in Southerly Park. Students from Fernway Elementary School will plant a magnolia tree at a ceremony at West Park between South Woodland and Shaker boulevards. Arbor Day is observed nationally to encourage tree planting and care. Shaker, long known for its beloved trees, marks Arbor Day each year by involving schoolchildren in a tree planting project.

Shaker Heights receives its 20th Tree City U.S.A. award on April 19th in Solon, the host city for the 2005 awards. Tree City U.S.A. is a program of the National Arbor Day Foundation, in

which towns and cities are recognized for developing a comprehensive urban forestry program. Shaker consistently meets the four standards established to become a Tree City USA:

- It has a tree board or department,
- It has a tree care ordinance,
- It conducts a comprehensive community forestry program, and
- It has an annual Arbor Day observance.

Residents interested in learning more about trees may wish to visit the Arbor Day Foundation website, linked from the City's website, shakeronline.com/cityhall/committees.

Memorial Day Plans Taking Shape

Plan to remember our nation's fallen heroes at Shaker's Memorial Day ceremony. We will assemble at the flagpole in front of City Hall to honor those who bravely gave their lives for our country. Veterans, residents, and City staff are invited to join in the traditional parade

The Hadlow & The Penbury...Bringing out the "Green" in Shaker Heights

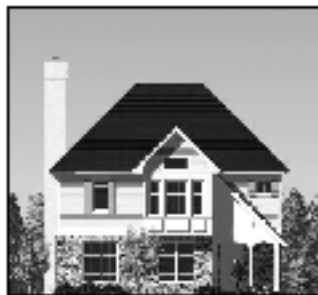
Rysar Properties and the Cleveland Green Building Coalition have partnered to integrate green building strategies into the Penbury and Hadlow models.

Green building is the design, construction and operation of a home to reduce impact on natural resources, save money and energy, and create healthy, comfortable living environments.

A green home means the house is...

- More energy efficient
- A healthier place to live in
- Built with a concern for minimal negative environmental impact

Live WELL, Live RESPONSIBLY, Live GREEN.



The Hadlow

This exceptional model features 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths including a first floor master bedroom with bath. Hip roof profiles and projecting bay windows add character to the front facades. The open floor plan brings the living and dining rooms and kitchen together. A back porch and extended master suite convey privacy and help define the rear yard.

Starting in mid \$260s

The Penbury

This beautiful model offers 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths including a master bedroom with bath. Distinctive features include an open floor plan, truncated gable roof and stained decorative and lap siding.



that follows. This year we are seeking one volunteer each from the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy to carry their respective flag in the parade.

The participation of neighborhood and community groups in the parade is also a Shaker tradition. The number of floats in the 2004 parade was up 50 percent over the previous year. Let's break that record in 2005! The annual pancake breakfast will follow at Thornton Park. Volunteers or anyone with questions, call Sandra Blue at 491-1354.

Vital Statistics

Birth and death certificates are available for people who were born or died in the City of Shaker Heights. Certified copies are \$15.00 each and can be obtained by contacting Mary Lou Trepes, the Vital Statistics Registrar, by phone at 491-1480, by e-mail at marylou.trepes@ci.shaker-heights.oh.us, or in person at the Health Department, located on the lower level of City Hall, 3400 Lee Road. Vital Statistics is available 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., except legal holidays.

New statewide security measures provide certificates printed only on special paper with newly designed seals to prevent fraudulent copies and/or identity theft.

Spring Weather Advisory

Spring in Northeast Ohio can bring more than crocuses and green grass. Changes in the weather may be accompanied by severe storms, even tornados, that produce flooding and property damage.

The Shaker Heights Fire Department provides the following information to help understand warning signs of severe weather and as a guide for protection against it:

SEVERE WEATHER TERMS

- *Watch:* Conditions are favorable for severe weather to occur. Watches can be issued for severe thunderstorms, flooding, or tornados. A watch gives you time to prepare for severe weather if it occurs.
- *Warning:* Severe weather is occurring or is about to occur in the immediate area.



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-Amy S., Shaker Heights

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-Holly J., Cleveland Heights

"I was amazed how everyone honored their scheduled commitments- this usually doesn't happen in residential contracting!!"

-Pamela L., Shaker Heights



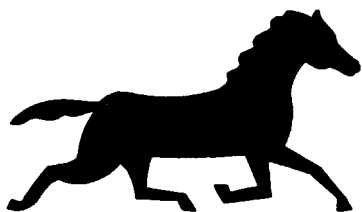
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- **Severe Thunderstorm:** A storm containing damaging winds, hail, and lightning. Severe thunderstorms may also produce funnel clouds and/or tornadoes.
- **Funnel Cloud:** A cone-shaped cloud extending below the cloud deck; a violently rotating column of air that becomes a tornado when it extends to the ground.

SEVERE WEATHER TYPES

- **Thunderstorms:** Common during the spring and summer months. Winds and lightning from severe thunderstorms injure and kill more people each year than tornadoes. Lightning can strike ten or more miles away from any rainfall and winds can reach equivalent speeds of a weak tornado. If a thunderstorm is approaching, remember:
 - Seek sturdy shelter immediately;
 - If outside, go to a car with a hard top; it is the metal roof that protects you, not the tires;
 - If no shelter is available, stay away from taller trees and seek lower ground;
 - If inside, do not use appliances or the phone, faucets or the shower.
- **Tornadoes:** Commonly occur in the late afternoon from April through July, but can happen any time. Usually preceded by heavy rainfall and hail, the sound of an approaching tornado is commonly described as like that of an approaching train.

The safest place is a basement, underneath something sturdy. If no basement is available, go to an interior room and stay away from any windows. If outside, immediately find a low area such as a ditch, but watch for rising water. Never remain in a car or try to outrun the storm.

- **Floods:** Flash floods are particularly dangerous. Most flood deaths occur in cars. Never drive into a flooded roadway. It takes only 8" of water to float a car. Never let children play near streams or storm drains.

Having a plan and being prepared is the best protection against severe weather. For further information, visit the Red Cross at redcross.org or the National Weather Service at nws.noaa.gov.



Shaker Heights Lifestyle Tour

10 a.m.-noon, April 16. For prospective buyers or renters of property in Shaker Heights who wish to learn about the full spectrum of housing options available, including Certified Shaker Rental properties. R.S.V. P. 491-1370 by April 8.

Certified Shaker Properties

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

Rental Homes

17720 Winslow (Richard Cascarelli)

3311 Warrensville
(Armin Guggenheim)

18331 Newell (Mildred Copez)

3665 Glencairn (Ann Kieger)

Landlord Tip of the Season

Just as you insure your rental property against damage, insure your choice of a tenant...*do a credit check!* Visit the Landlord Connection on the City's website, shakeronline.com for more information.

REAL NUMBERS

Housing transfers between June 1, and June 30, 2004 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	2004 SALE PRICE	PRIOR SALE PRICE	ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST
2550 East 128th Street	\$160,000	\$115,000 (2004)	\$ 4,950 (1916)
15906 Aldersyde Drive	\$395,000	\$280,000 (1997)	\$ 20,000 (1948)
3306 Ardmore Road	\$280,000	\$200,000 (1997)	\$ 20,000 (1952)
3319 Ardmore Road	\$270,000	\$189,000 (1998)	\$ 10,000 (1924)
22300 Byron Road	\$198,000	\$210,000 (2002)	\$ 27,000 (1953)
21976 Calverton Road	\$275,000	\$146,000 (1994)	\$ 12,000 (1941)
15811 Chadbourne Road	\$235,000	\$195,000 (1999)	\$ 10,500 (1922)
3019 Chadbourne Road	\$229,050	\$183,000 (2003)	\$ 9,000 (1922)
19027 Chagrin Blvd	\$200,000	\$140,000 (1997)	\$ 4,000 (1940)
19659 Chagrin Blvd	\$290,000	\$285,250 (2003)	\$270,000 (2002)
21200 Claythorne Road	\$725,000	\$540,000 (2001)	\$ 20,000 (1932)
22575 Douglas Road	\$432,000	\$350,000 (1999)	\$ 14,000 (1938)
23350 Fairmount Blvd	\$219,900	\$170,000 (2003)	\$ 26,000 (1957)
2928 Falmouth Road	\$414,000	\$235,000 (1997)	\$ 20,000 (1927)
3530 Glencairn Road	\$165,000	\$164,000 (2000)	\$ 10,000 (1940)
3726 Glencairn Road	\$178,000	\$104,000 (1994)	\$ 19,000 (1951)
2700 Green Road	\$220,000	\$160,000 (2003)	\$ 80,000 (1978)
2739 Green Road	\$273,400	\$210,000 (2002)	\$ 19,000 (1929)
3334 Ingleside Road	\$230,000	\$136,000 (1996)	\$ 6,500 (1921)
3300 Lansmere Road	\$243,500	\$180,000 (1999)	\$ 10,000 (1925)
3711 Lindholm Road	\$156,000	\$150,000 (2002)	\$ 18,000 (1952)
16721 Scottsdale Blvd	\$131,325	\$104,000 (2001)	\$ 20,000 (1956)
19601 Scottsdale Blvd	\$238,000	\$210,000 (1999)	\$ 12,000 (1931)
19810 Shaker Blvd	\$690,000	\$410,000 (1995)	\$ 30,000 (1936)
23980 Shaker Blvd	\$239,000	\$229,000 (2001)	\$ 30,000 (1956)
3193 Somerset Drive	\$278,500	\$203,000 (1998)	\$ 18,000 (1955)
3310 Stockholm Road	\$302,000	\$182,000 (1999)	\$ 9,000 (1923)
3565 Sutherland Road	\$190,000	\$115,500 (1994)	\$ 10,000 (1940)
3726 Tolland Road	\$235,000	\$162,500 (2001)	\$ 10,500 (1937)
3678 Traver Road	\$222,000	\$181,900 (2000)	\$ 10,500 (1927)
3176 Warrington Road	\$339,000	\$147,500 (2003)	\$ 12,000 (1924)
22200 Westchester Road	\$276,000	\$189,900 (1994)	\$ 30,000 (1952)
3681 Winchell Road	\$195,000	\$163,500 (2000)	\$ 12,000 (1931)
2677 Wrenford Road	\$495,000	\$230,000 (1995)	\$ 16,000 (1941)

Information Source: First American Real Estate Solutions

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Shaker News Briefs

- Police Chief Walter A. Ugrinic was one of the first recipients of the Egon Bittner Award from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The new award is presented to individuals who have served continuously for at least 15 years at the helm of an agency with 15 or more continuous years of accreditation. The Chief accepted his award at CALEA's 25th anniversary conference held in December. The award is named in Bittner's honor because of his instrumental role in establishing CALEA in the late 1970's. Shaker's Police Department first received accreditation November 18, 1989 and has been reaccredited every year since.

- The prestigious American Marshall Memorial Fellowship has been awarded to **Rasheryl McCreary** and **A. Eddy Zai**, both of Shaker Heights. The Fellowship, awarded by the German Marshall Fund of the United States, includes three weeks international travel to study and examine European institutions and transatlantic economic, political, and social issues. In total, 55 individuals were selected from 19 states and the District of Columbia. **Rasheryl McCreary** is a theatre artist and the executive director of The Living Legacy Project, Inc., a nonprofit organization that works with at-risk populations to collect their personal experiences through oral histories. She has a bachelor's degree in theater from Case. **A. Eddy Zai** is the CEO of The Cleveland Group of Companies. He completed his undergraduate work at Aiglon College in Villars, Switzerland and holds an MBA from Boston University.

- Shaker Heights City Council recently approved a resolution expressing appreciation to Jeff Heinen, Tom Heinen, and the entire Heinen family for their 75 years of business in the

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Kitchen & Bath Association

City. The business first operated as a butcher shop on Chagrin in 1929. The resolution expresses Council's deep appreciation and congratulations to the Heinen family.

- One hundred and twenty-two Shaker Heights High School students and June 2004 graduates have been named AP Scholars by The College Board in recognition of their outstanding performance on national Advanced Placement (AP) exams administered in May 2004. Seven Laurel School students, also Shaker residents, earned the same distinction.
- **Ramona Lowery** has been named the City's new Sewer Superintendent/Project Manager.

Reminders

BICYCLE LICENSING: Licenses will be sold from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 19th in the Police Department lobby, 3355 Lee Road. Cost is \$1.50 (re-issued licenses are 50 cents); please bring the owner's Social Security number, which will be recorded on the application. For children, a parent's number can be used.

BICYCLE RIDING: Helmets are required for everyone 5 and older when operating a bicycle and for all passengers regardless of age. Bicyclists may not ride more than two abreast in a single lane and must ride as near to the right side of the roadway as possible. Children under the age of 14 may ride bikes on the sidewalk, but must yield the right of way to pedestrians.

BLOCK PARTY REQUESTS: Residents who would like their streets closed for block parties, races or parades should call Sandra Blue, 491-1354.

CHILD CARE SEATS: Is your child buckled up safely? The Fire Department offers free safety checks. Call 491-1200 for information or to make an appointment.

CONTRACTORS: While the City cannot recommend contractors, lists of registered contractors can be viewed at



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shakeronline.com. Lists are updated monthly.

DOGS: Dogs are not permitted to run at large, and owners are required to immediately remove all waste deposited by their dogs on public or private property that is not their own. Dog waste must not be put in City waterways, sewers or on the curbside, as it poses a health hazard. Nuisance dogs should be reported to the Public Works Department, 491-1490.

DOMESTIC POWER TOOLS: Operating or permitting the operation of any mechanically powered saw, drill, sander, grinder, lawn or garden tool, lawn mower or other similar device used outdoors, other than powered snow removal equipment, outdoors between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m., or on Saturday or Sunday before 9 a.m. is prohibited.

FIRE SAFETY: The Fire Department offers free home safety inspections throughout the year. 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 491-1215 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

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

HEALTH SERVICES: Blood pressure screening for City residents is available on Mondays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Blood pressure clinics are held at the Health Department (3400 Lee Road), are free, and no appointment is necessary. Immunizations for children and adults and screenings for glucose and cholesterol are also available by appointment. For fees and information, call 491-1480 or visit the City website, *shakeronline.com*.

HYDRANT FLUSHING: The Fire Dept. will flush hydrants April 4 through April



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16. Signs listing specific days will be posted before flushing begins.

JOGGING: Street joggers may not obstruct traffic and are required to wear reflective clothing at night.

LANDSCAPER REGISTRATION:

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

LOST PETS: If you have lost a pet, call the Public Works Department at 491-1490 (after hours or emergencies, 491-1499).

POWER OUTAGES: Please call CEI, not City Hall: 888-544-4877.

SAFE CITY HOTLINE: To anonymously report any suspicious activity, call 295-3434.

SMOKE DETECTORS: All Shaker Heights residents are required to have a minimum of one smoke detector adjacent to the sleeping area in each dwelling unit and at least one smoke detector on each additional level, including the basement.

Smoke detectors are provided free to low-income residents. The Fire Department will install smoke detectors for residents who require assistance.

YARD WASTE: During the month of April and from October 1 to December 15, residents may place leaves and grass clippings loose on the tree lawn. During other times of the year, residents must use the specifically marked paper yard waste bags for this material. The bags are available at many area merchants and most City buildings for a cost of \$1.00 for each 30-gallon bag. Cost of the bags goes toward paying for the separate collection and composting program.

For more information on the City's Codified Ordinances, visit shakeronline.com.



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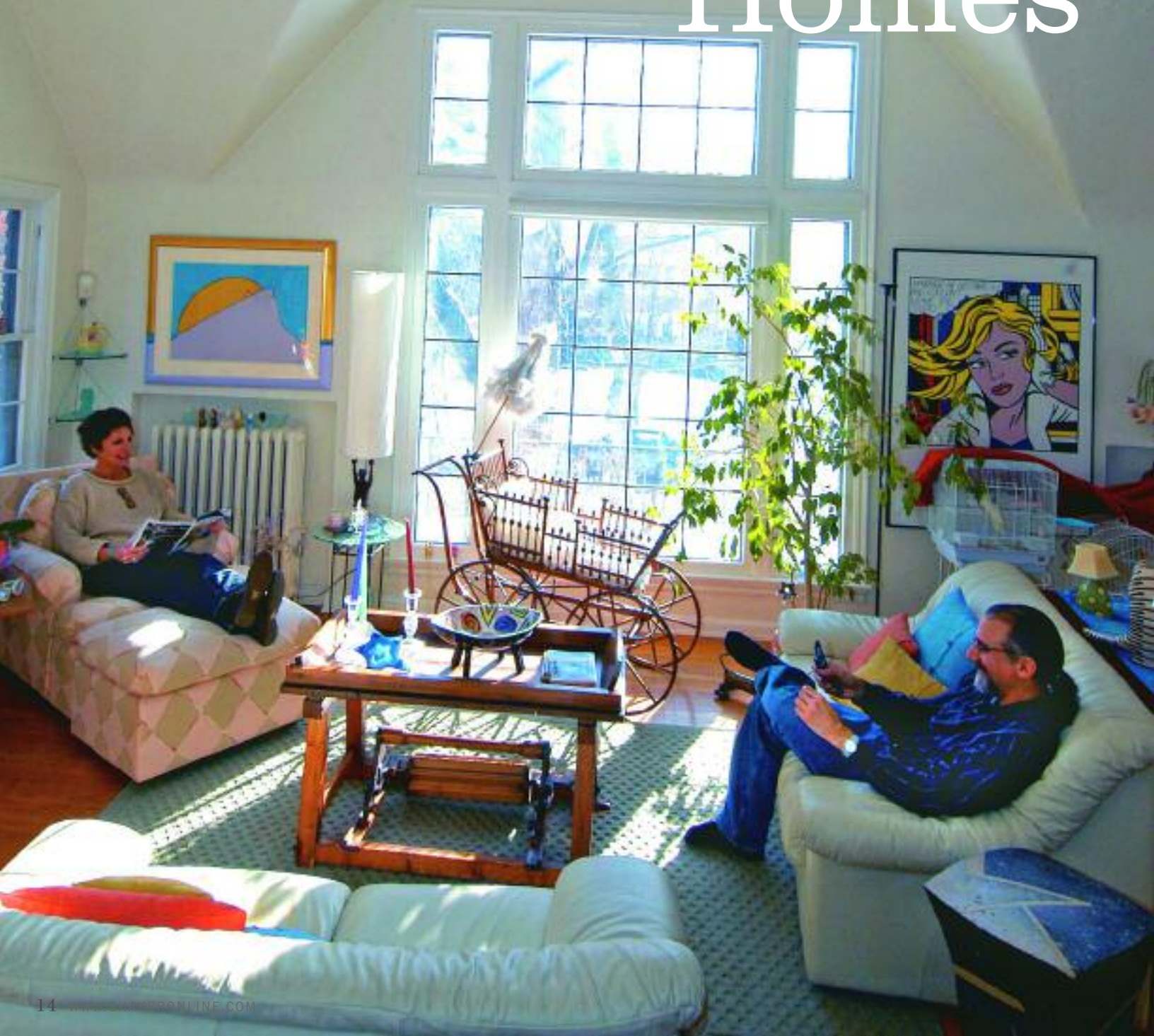
Call Toby Lagarde at University School 216-321-8260 for more information and a free brochure. Visit our web site at <http://www.us.edu>



Shaker's

Delightfully Deceptive

Two-Family Homes





Visionary home buyers and small business owners are transforming the traditional two-family house into an exceptional investment, an expansive single-family home, and an extremely convenient “workplace.”

BY NANCY O’CONNOR

Jim Karlovec doesn’t panic when he’s running late for work — he just takes the stairs two at time, down to the first floor of his two-family home where a former living room now serves as a spacious office for his residential design/build firm, Karlovec & Co.

For Susie Zimmer and family, downsizing to cut living costs unexpectedly upgraded their quality of life. “It’s like we’re living in a New York City brownstone — I just love it,” says Susie of the two-family that affords her three floors of living space. “This house has ten times the charm of our former home on Calverton.”

Other two-family homeowners are opting not to rent their second unit and instead are coming up with a host of creative uses for the extra space — a home gym, an art studio, a sewing center, a guest suite, or all of the above.

Shaker’s two-family homes are indeed deceiving. They deliberately disguise themselves as single-family houses. They bashfully boast the same high-quality construction and architectural appeal for which their counterparts are renowned. And now, even their name falls short of the truth. That’s because a growing number of visionary home buyers and small business owners are transforming the traditional two-family into an exceptional investment, an expansive single-family home, and an extremely convenient “workplace.”

While spotting Shaker’s two-family homes may not be easy, City leaders and enthusiastic two-family veterans like Jim Karlovec and Susie Zimmer are eager to help current and potential Shaker residents see the tremendous opportunities and creative possibilities they offer.

Attracting Small Businesses

When Karlovec and wife-to-be Susie Rabiah were house-hunting three years ago, they became intrigued with a two-family on the western end of Winslow Road. “We liked the idea of living and running our business under one roof,” says Jim.

“An additional revenue stream from the rental unit was also appealing.”

The couple was further swayed by the redevelopment plans for nearby Shaker Towne Center. “We felt we were buying into the neighborhood at a great time,” he says.

The Karlovecs renovated their new home one story at time, living and working on the first floor until the second and third floor living spaces were ready. They then subdivided the first floor, claiming the rental unit’s 340-sq. ft. living room for their own use as a home office.

“The work involved was rather basic,” Jim says. “We just closed off a doorway, added

Left: Susie and Bob Zimmer at home.

Two-Family Trivia

Shaker has 1,503 two-family homes, representing nearly 12% of the City’s total housing stock.

While concentrated in the Lomond, Fernway, and Moreland neighborhoods, two-families can be found in every area of the City.

Most two-families feature “upper” and “lower” living units; a few are “duplexes” with residential units built side by side.

Currently, about 36 percent of Shaker’s two-families are owner-occupied. Increasing that percentage is a City-wide mission since owner-occupants tend to be better stewards of their property.



Jim and Sue Karlovec in their first floor office.

Residential Real Estate: A Proven Investment Winner

“Two-families are a heck of an investment,” says Onaway’s Bob Clougherty, a CPA who runs his own Shaker-based accounting and tax business. “Real estate continues to be the most reliable way to get wealthy. And with two-families, your renter pays your mortgage in many cases. It’s like buying with someone else’s money.”

Running a home business from a two-family also presents significant tax advantages, he notes.

“Typically, if you have a business in your home, it’s hard to have a room set aside exclusively and strictly for the business, which is a tax deduction requirement. In addition, people often set up an office in a spare bedroom whose square footage — on which the deduction is based — is only a small percentage of the home. But by claiming extra space from a rental unit, or perhaps someday the *entire* rental unit, a business owner can see substantially greater tax benefits.”

On a practical level, says the father of two, “having a distinct office space makes meeting with clients easier and helps the business owner avoid the distractions of home life.”

soundproofing, did some painting.” Despite losing the living room, the rental unit remains spacious, with two bedrooms, a full bath, an eat-in kitchen, and a dining room.

“Having the office downstairs and not in our living space helps separate living from working,” Jim says of his live/work arrangement, one he highly recommends to others running small or home-based businesses.

Shaker’s zoning code does not currently allow two-family owners to dedicate an entire second unit to a commercial enterprise, but Karlovec is among the supporters of the idea.

“I’d love to see the City push for zoning changes to not only allow but encourage people to live and work under one roof in that way. There’s a national trend toward small and home-based businesses and Shaker has an incredible resource in its two-family homes. It’s time to think out of the box and encourage entrepreneurs to settle here. Doing so will help solidify our neighborhoods and Shaker’s tax base.”

For Patrick Campbell, the City’s director of economic development, the “live/work” opportunities presented by two-families play into his efforts to attract entrepreneurs and small businesses to Shaker to bolster the City’s commercial tax base.

“Internet start-up companies, software companies, law firms — they’re just a few of the kinds of businesses well-suited to a home-based operation,” he notes.

Two-families offer the business owner two options, he says: “Capture a portion of the rental unit for the main home and use it as an office, or better yet, convert the two-family into a single-family home by removing the divisor wall in a side-by-side or reconfiguring elements in a lower/upper home. In that way, the entire second unit can become the home office.”

Preserving Winslow Road

It wasn't the prospect of a larger home office but smaller bills that sent the Zimmers house hunting nine years ago. Cathedral ceilings, arched doorways, hardwood floors, five bedrooms, and three full baths sold them on their Winslow Road two-family. Gaining a first-floor family room complete with a fireplace just made the move sweeter, and was easily accomplished by converting the rental unit's sunken living room into their own living space.

"The only thing we don't have in this house that we had before is a mud-room," says Susie.

When the family began looking at housing alternatives, "We knew we didn't want to leave Shaker's school system," says Susie. "Our kids are fourth-generation Shaker students." Susie's 92-year-old great uncle, Sam Jaffe, was in



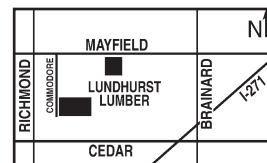
Left to right: Jim Karlovec, nephew Nolan McNamara, niece Erin McNamara and Sue Karlovec. Below: The Zimmer's kitchen.





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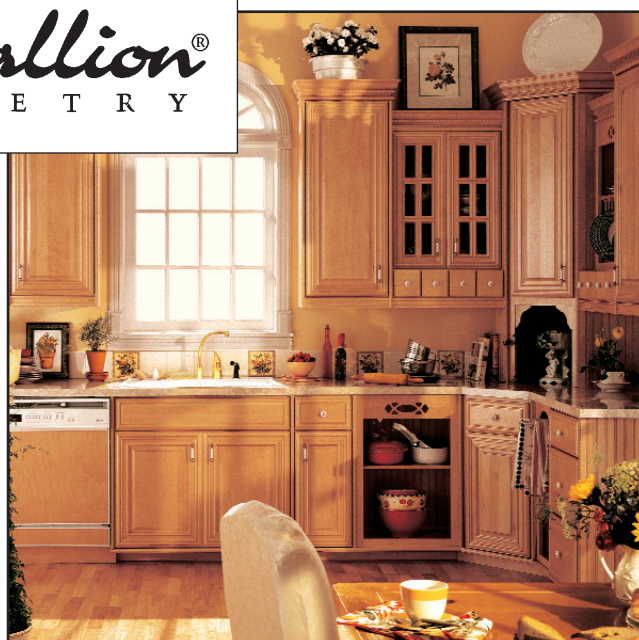
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The Zimmers in their home office.

the first graduating class at Shaker Heights High School; both her mother and mother-in-law are Shaker grads, as are she (Susie Rothenfeld, Class of 1974) and Bob (Class of 1970). Their oldest son, Sam, graduated in 2001; Ben will graduate this spring.

The Zimmers' home, built in 1928, has been featured on numerous house tours because of its beautiful architecture and high-quality restoration and renovation. Susie also enjoys showing off the home each October during her annual jewelry and crafts show. An admirer of art rather than an artist herself, she says, "I just put together 10-12 artists and open my house. It's my alternative to running a gallery!"

Well-maintained two-family homes are currently commanding \$750 to \$950 in monthly rent for first-floor units, and between \$1,100 and \$1,500 for upper units, according to the City's Neighborhood Revitalization Department. (See the City's website at www.shakeronline.com for listings of currently available rental properties.)

The Zimmer family has had the same tenant for eight years, longevity that Susie says is not uncommon on her block. "One neighbor has had the same renter for 50 years. It's part of what

For Patrick Campbell, the City's director of economic development, the "live/work" opportunities presented by the two-families play into his efforts to attract entrepreneurs and small businesses to Shaker to bolster the City's commercial tax base.

makes this a true neighborhood."

Their interest in maintaining the integrity of not only their home but the entire street recently compelled Susie and Bob, who grew up on Winslow and whose parents still reside there, to join forces with others to form the Winslow Preservation Organization.

"Our aim is to preserve Winslow Road and keep it stable so that it remains a good place to live," Susie explains. "We hope to work with the City to establish tax cuts and abatements to encourage property reinvestment and upgrades, and to offer financial and other incentives for owner occupancy."

According to Stacey Pfau of the City's Planning Department, Winslow Road is unique for several reasons. "It is the only street in Shaker consisting entirely of two-family homes, 160 in all. It's also the only street that is home to three churches (Heights Christian, St. Peter, and St. Dominic). And, because 73 percent of the homes were built by 1929, it is one of the oldest streets in the City."

All good reasons, she says, why the advantages of having Winslow Road designated a Local Historic District are being explored.

"It might enable the City to better help protect properties and their values in matters involving the exterior of the homes."

Whether through historic designation or ongoing collaboration between residents and the City, promoting the beauty, value, and flexibility of Shaker's unique two-family homes can only result in good for the entire community.



Shaker Home Resource Guide



COMPILED BY KIM PALMER

After high-quality education, Shaker Heights is all about beautiful neighborhoods and well-kept homes. Potential home owners and renters who visit for the first time are bowled over by the City's attention to detail in its residential real estate.

Newcomers also learn that along with the joy of living in one of the City's famously beautiful homes comes the hard but gratifying work of maintaining everything from paint, Stucco, and roofing to foundations, heating, and the landscape – which Shaker home owners approach with gusto.

Moreover, the recent explosion of do-it-yourself renovation, landscaping, and re-decorating books, magazines, and television shows has added fuel to the fire.

"People in Shaker are really paying attention to their property," says Gail Gibson, Shaker's neighborhood revitalization coordinator. "It's all pretty exciting."

The City, sometimes in conjunction with other organizations and local banks, offers a mildly staggering number of programs to help home owners and potential home owners keep Shaker Heights' famous neighborhoods beautiful.

Department phone numbers are included. Information can be found at shakeronline.com

Relocation

One would be hard-pressed to find a City that works as hard as Shaker Heights to bring in and welcome new residents. Shaker's **relocation service** is part of the Communications & Outreach Department. Community information specialist Judy Steehler and her colleague Betsy Williams help renters and buyers alike find homes and help make the move as smooth as possible.

"We do a lot of different things but they are all related to relocation," says Steehler, who has lived in the City for 42 years. "We have different brochures with a lot of information. We go to local realtors' staff meetings – and we can show rental properties."

There are brochures for every new resident need and a comprehensive website – but that's just the tip of the iceberg.

"Starting every January, we reach out to all the major corporations in the area," Steehler says. "We send roughly 3,500 information packets to all the professional schools at Case, to University Hospitals and the Cleveland Clinic, as well as other major area employers





and real estate agents. We make cold calls to new businesses too. If you are moving here out of the blue, you really don't know where you want to live without the type of information we provide." And for any of those new potential residents, be they students, business people, lawyers, or medical interns and residents, Steehler and Williams, and their trained volunteers, are available to give tours of neighborhoods. They will set up meetings at any one of the schools or daycare centers, and will even show Certified Shaker rental properties.

"Helping renters is a significant part of our business," says Steehler. "Very often after someone has rented in Shaker for a year or two, they need more space but don't want to leave. They become a repeat customer. We have a lot of those."

They also direct callers who are unable to visit Shaker to the Relocation section of the City's website, to take the City Tour and view the streaming video. Certified Shaker properties for rent are listed with photos and detailed information. Beginning this spring, two-family properties for sale will be listed as well.

RELOCATION SERVICES

JUDY STEEHLER: 216-491-1337

BETSY WILLIAMS: 216-491-3196

The City takes pride in its strong rental base and has programs to promote that housing stock as well. **Certified Shaker** is designed for landlords, but it assists renters by pointing them to the best rental properties in the City. Owners of rental property that have been certified (following inspection) receive free marketing assistance, including promotion on the City's website and in Shaker Life magazine. City staffers will show the rental unit to out-of-town prospects.

The City can also help with tenant screening and has group buying discounts for landlords on landscaping services and materials.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION: 216-491-1370.

In the same vein as aiding renters in their search for apartments or two-family homes, **Neighborhood Housing Services** helps new home buyers.

This is not a Shaker program, but a partnership. NHS counsels first time home buyers, offering classes and advice for anyone with questions, regardless of their financial situation.

"We have no income restrictions," says Neighborhood Housing Services Executive Director Emily Lipovan Holan. "If you haven't been through this before, we can help you."

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES: 216-361-0516



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To help reduce housing code violations while protecting potential buyers from unexpected problems, Shaker has a **Point of Sale Escrow** program for all houses on the market. The program requires that any code violation, identified by a City inspection, be addressed before a purchase agreement is finalized.

If violations are not fixed by the seller, then the estimated amount of the cost of repair, plus 50 percent, is put into escrow by either the seller or buyer. The monies are released after the repairs are finished and the City conducts a follow-up inspection to insure the work was done properly.

Bill Hanson, director of the Housing Inspection Department, says that 72 percent of sellers correct all violations before sale, and that sellers should consider having an inspection before they put their property on the market.

"The inspection is valid for one year, for the purpose of sale," says Hanson. He stresses that although the City's inspection is thorough, buyers should not rely on his department alone to determine future repairs and rehab.

"Buyers should hire an independent inspector," says Hanson. "Our inspection doesn't check things such as the longevity of a furnace or a roof because those are not code violations. Private inspectors are working for the buyer."

HOUSING INSPECTION: 216-491-1472.

Beautification & Restoration

As no man is an island, no house stands alone in a community. With that in mind Shaker has instituted a number of community-wide beautification and restoration programs.

One important way Shaker provides assistance is through its **Resource Center**, 3450 Lee Road, in the Shaker Community Building. The Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Resources include:

- ~ Building code & permit information
- ~ Housing preservation materials
- ~ Information on roofing, windows, masonry, painting, electrical, and landscaping
- ~ Technical magazines and videos, and construction cost estimating calculators

RESOURCE CENTER: 216-491-1370

This Old House, Shaker Style

It's inevitable as you age — small lines begin to appear, there's some thinning up top, sagging in other places. Things just aren't as bright and shiny as they once were.

When the march of time becomes all too obvious, it might be time to start thinking about having a little work done, a tuck maybe... or a tuck point.

"You could say that our housing stock in Shaker is hitting middle age," says Wesley Walker, a housing rehabilitation specialist in Shaker's Neighborhood Revitalization Department. "We help it stay in tip-top shape."

Walker is well acquainted with the needs of the older homes among Shaker's housing stock. Over the last three years Walker and Shaker's other rehabilitation specialist, James Bell, have provided technical assistance to a number of Shaker residents. Walker alone visited 60 residential homes, and worked with 16 Shaker residents on an energy efficiency program that provided more than \$5,000 in city funds and leveraged \$22,000 in private investment.

Any resident can call and have either Walker or Bell educate or consult on their home repair.

Whether the house has a violation or the homeowner just needs some guidance, Walker and Bell are there to help.

"We can assist in many ways. We can provide homeowners with lists of contractors," says Bell. In addition, a popular resource available to residents on the City's website is the list of contractors registered with the City. The list includes general contractors, masons, plumbers, electricians, painters, sewer contractors, HVAC, asphalt and concrete contractors, and landscapers. The list is updated monthly.

Wesley Walker and Jim Bell on:

Tuckpointing: Inexperienced contractors might use the wrong color mortar when tuck pointing an older home's façade. Just as you would demand a specialist for plastic surgery, owners of older homes need to hire the right contractor for their repair work.

"It's a big issue in the City," Walker says. "What you have to do when you tuck point these older homes is match



Wesley Walker and Jim Bell

the mortar color. Some contractors will say you can't, but that's not true."

"Matching mortar colors is sort of a dying art," says Bell. "It's easier for some contractors to replace rather than try to repair. Some contractors don't want to go through the hassle."

Energy Efficiency: Older homes often have more durable construction and fine craftsmanship, but they are not energy efficient.

"When Shaker's houses were built, heating units were enormous and the price of fuel was low," explains Walker. Unless a homeowner is willing to tear out their heating system, which can require breaking into walls and floors, the only other option is to make the house as efficient as possible.

That's where Walker's skills come in. Any Shaker resident can have him conduct an energy audit.

"It's a definite science," says Walker. "Every building has an energy load." A computer program calculates how much an owner can save by making any number of energy-efficient changes to the home. For instance, heat loss through floors and outside walls can be greatly reduced.

Roofing: There is nothing like the unique beauty of a tile, slate, or clay roof. So why is it that the first thing most contractors suggest is to rip them off and replace them with asphalt tile? "They don't see the value," says Walker.

Bell and Walker will help you find a contractor who will work with your orig-



inal roof material. "We have roofs in the city that are 75 to 100 years old. Slate roofs will last forever, but you have to tune them up every few years," says Bell.

Windows: If you listen to those in the replacement window industry, exchanging your original windows with vinyl replacements will save a lot of money.

But Walker and Bell take issue with the promised return on investment of window replacements. "If you have older windows, you are better off fixing them. Windows are easy to fix and seal," he says.

"Actually, window replacement has a

very small effect on the overall energy efficiency of a home,” explains Walker. “You end up spending ten grand while only addressing 20 percent of the problem of heat loss.”

“We have lists of companies that do window repair,” says Bell. “And the City offers a do-it-yourself window repair workshop each year.”

Paint vs. Siding: It’s like the old saying goes: Those who forget history are doomed to paint their house the wrong color. The City wants to preserve the original appearance and architectural integrity of its historical housing stock. Because of that, says Bell, “We try to keep the house close to the original colors, to retain the original look, and we try to stay away from vinyl siding.”

HOUSING REHAB SPECIALISTS:
WESLEY WALKER: 216-491-1356
JAMES BELL: 216- 491-1371

Specialty Contractors

Call the Planning Department for a list of **specialty contractors** who focus on the following areas:

- ~ Wood roofs
- ~ Slate roofs
- ~ Tile roofs
- ~ Stucco repair
- ~ Wood siding repair
- ~ Window restorations —
lead and wood
- ~ New wood windows
- ~ Cleaning of historic masonry

Design Guidelines

The Planning Department also has the following **design guidelines**:

- ~ Architectural Board of Review
Design Guidelines (available online)
- ~ Landmark Commission Design
Guidelines
- ~ Window Standards (available online)
- ~ Single Family Infill Housing Design
Guidelines
- ~ The Secretary of the Interior’s
Standards for Rehabilitation, as distributed by the National Park Service

Publications

Also call the Planning Department for the following **publications**:

- ~ Shaker Heights Fences



- ~ Shaker Heights Commercial Design
Guidelines
- ~ The Van Sweringen Influence,
Shaker Heights
- ~ Shaker Village Colors

Landmarks and Architectural Board of review

Anything regarding **Landmarks** can be obtained through the Planning Department. These include lists of Landmark properties, properties within the Shaker Square Historic District, maps of local historic districts and National Register Districts within the City, and procedures for designating Landmarks or applying for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Information pertaining to the **Architectural Board of Review** can also be found in the Planning Department.

This includes technical assistance on any exterior change to a property, procedures for applying to the ABR, sample drawings, and zoning considerations.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:
216-491-1433

Financing

Shaker has long been in the vanguard of forward-thinking housing and community policies. In 1985, with a joint grant from the Cleveland Foundation and the George Gund Foundation, and over \$200,000 in matching funds from local contributors, a group of proactive community leaders created the **Fund for the Future of Shaker Heights**. The Fund promotes neighborhood diversity and multicultural life in Shaker. The mortgage program offers new home buyers a low-interest, down-payment loan up to 10 percent of the purchase price, to a maximum of \$12,000. The Fund plans to offer new programs for existing and new home buyers later this spring.

The Fund is an independent, non-profit organization.

**FUND FOR FUTURE OF SHAKER
HEIGHTS, GAIL GIBSON: 216-491-1331**

Because Shaker has very little new construction, new home owners often need to make an initial investment for both the purchase and for renovation.

In this situation a home owner could use a **Purchase/Refinance and Rehab Loan** available through the City. This program allows buyers to finance a house and also increase its market value immediately — while improving the overall neighborhood.

Owner-occupants can borrow up to 90 percent of the combined cost of purchasing and upgrading a single- or two-family property within the city, and receive a grant of up to 10 percent of the cost of remodeling work..

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION: 216-491-1331.

The **Heritage Home Loan Program**, administered by the Cleveland Restoration Society, funds a maximum loan amount of \$150,000 and minimum of \$3,000. The program provides technical assistance to those who qualify. Shaker is one of the largest users of this program.

There are no income restrictions and projects can include anything from new roofs, painting, landscaping, porch repair, additions, window repair, driveways, storm windows, and kitchen and bath renovations.

“If your home is over 50 years old, this may be just the program for you,” says Kamla Lewis, the director of Shaker’s Neighborhood Revitalization Department “The terms include a 3.5 percent home improvement loan over a 10 year period.”

**HERITAGE HOME LOAN PROGRAM
PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER:**
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Another no-income-restriction, single- or multi-dwelling offer is the **Home Enhancement Loan Program (HELP)**. HELP offers a loan for a five-year period at three percent below market rate, which can be used for code

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Common Residential Projects Required Permits & Approvals

TYPE OF WORK	BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED	ARCHITECTURAL BOARD OF REVIEW	ZONING APPROVAL REQUIRED
AIR CONDITIONERS	YES	NO	YES
AWNINGS	YES	YES	MAY BE NEEDED
BOILER	YES	NO	NO
BUILDING (NEW CONSTRUCTION)	YES	YES	YES
CHIMNEY REPLACEMENT/REPAIR	YES	MAY BE NEEDED	NO
CEILING FANS	YES	NO	NO
DECKS	YES	YES	YES
DEMOLITION	YES	MAY BE NEEDED	MAY BE NEEDED
DRAINS: FLOOR, SEWER AND YARD	YES	NO	NO
DRIVEWAY APRONS	YES	NO	NO
DRIVEWAY REPLACEMENT	YES	NO	MAY BE NEEDED
DRIVEWAY RESURFACING	YES	NO	NO
EXTERIOR DOOR ALTERATION/REPLACEMENT			
HOUSE AND GARAGE	YES	YES	NO
DUCTWORK	YES	NO	NO
ELECTRICAL (ANY NEW WIRING)	YES	NO	NO
FACTORY BUILT FIREPLACE/STOVE	YES	MAY BE NEEDED	MAY BE NEEDED
FENCES	YES	MAY BE NEEDED	YES
FIRE DAMAGE	YES	MAY BE NEEDED	NO
FREESTANDING MASONRY WALLS	YES	YES	YES
FURNACE	YES	NO	NO
GARAGE FLOORS	YES	NO	NO
GARAGES-NEW	YES	YES	YES
GASLINES	YES	NO	NO
GLASS BLOCK WINDOWS	YES	YES	NO
GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS	NO	MAY BE NEEDED	NO
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY	YES	MAY BE NEEDED	MAY BE NEEDED
HOT WATER TANK	YES	NO	NO
INTERIOR REMODEL	YES	NO	NO
LANDSCAPING	NO	NO	NO
PAINTING-EXTERIOR	NO	NO	NO
PAINT REMOVAL	YES	NO	NO
PATIOS	YES	NO	YES
PORCH REPAIRS-STRUCTURAL	YES	MAY BE NEEDED	NO
PORCH REPLACEMENT	YES	YES	YES
PORCH ENCLOSURE	YES	YES	YES
PLAY HOUSE	YES	YES	YES
PLUMBING (ANY NEW PLUMBING)	YES	NO	NO
RE-SIDING	YES	YES	NO
ROOFS/RE-ROOFING	YES	YES	NO
ROOM ADDITIONS	YES	YES	YES
SATELLITE DISHES(OVER 18")	YES	NO	YES
SEWER REPAIR/REPLACE			
(CLEANING-MAY BE NEEDED)	YES	NO	NO
SIDEWALKS-PRIVATE	YES	NO	NO
SIDEWALKS-PUBLIC	YES	NO	NO
SKYLIGHTS	YES	YES	NO
SPRINKLER SYSTEM	YES	NO	NO
STEPS-REPLACEMENT	YES	YES	NO
STEPS-REPAIR	NO	NO	NO
STORAGE SHED	YES	YES	YES
STORM WINDOWS	NO	NO	NO
SWIMMING POOLS	YES	NO	YES
TUCKPOINTING – NEW MORTAR MUST MATCH EXISTING MORTAR IN COLOR, COMPOSITION, AND PROFILE	NO	NO	NO
WATERPROOFING FOUNDATIONS	YES	NO	NO
WINDOW REPLACEMENT	YES	YES	NO

THIS IS NOT A
COMPLETE LIST OF
PROJECTS.

TO DETERMINE IF ARCHI-
TECTURAL BOARD OF
REVIEW APPROVAL
IS REQUIRED FOR A PRO-
JECT, PLEASE
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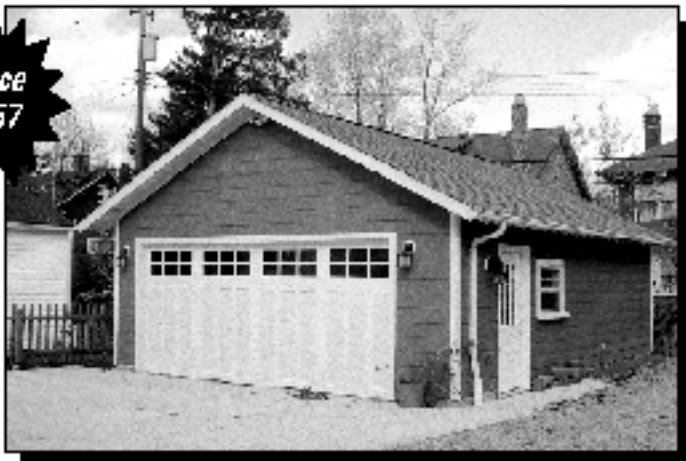
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violations and other upgrades and repairs, or for maintenance.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION: 216-491-1370.

Also, **Fifth Third Bank** offers all Shaker residents a 15-year loan of up to \$30,000 at a five percent interest rate. Loans can be used to correct exterior or interior code violations, carry out exterior enhancements, or to upgrade mechanical systems.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION: 216-491-1370.

Neighborhood Housing Services also offers a second mortgage program for home repairs. The NHS program is a bit different because it comes with more oversight than an average bank loan.

"We help the home owners to have all the tools they need to maintain their house," explains Executive Director Emily Lipovan Holan. "We provide budget counseling, we help with the estimates, itemize and bid the project out to qualified contractors — and we even provide construction management."

Holan stresses that NHS acts as a liaison between the home owner and the contractor, and the home owner and the lending institution.

"We are not just a liaison but we are also an interpreter. We speak 'contractor'," she explains. "And if the customer has a financial setback, we don't foreclose. We can work out interest-only payments."

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES:
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It is illegal to consider race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, ancestry or family status when making decisions about housing or apartment sales, rentals or loans, or when placing ads, making statements about housing availability or in the conditions or services for tenants.

Fair Housing is the Law!

The only way to put a stop to housing discrimination is to fight against it. If you suspect unfair housing practices, call the City of Shaker Heights Fair Housing Review Board 216-491-1440 or visit shakeronline.com.

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SHAKER HOMES

The Evolution of a Wine Room



It's the people with imaginations who really thrive as Shaker home owners.

Sue and Tim McCormick envisioned a wine room in the basement of their first Shaker house, in Fernway, which they bought in 1995 after a job-related move from Connecticut. When they finished the home's basement in 1999, they turned the coal chute area into a wine room.

"It was an experiment," explains Sue. "We had noticed that the temperature and humidity never varied in that space."

So, with the help of Dan Dureiko of Dureiko Construction, the couple's first wine room came into being. It was relatively small: six by ten feet, with cedar paneling.

Growing from a casual hobby to serious home improvement, the McCormicks' wine rooms have enhanced their property values, provided continuity as their circumstances have changed, and, of course, offered them a great deal of pleasure.

BY SUE STARRETT

PHOTOS BY KEVIN REEVES



Over six weeks during March and April 2004, the cinderblock walls and

Over the years, their family expanded with the birth of Caroline, seven, and Timmy, four. Sue and Tim started thinking about a larger home. When friends were transferred to Phoenix in late 2003, Sue and Tim bought their Mercer area house as much for its wonderful garage-turned-office and finished basement as for its spacious layout and yard. But there was no place for their growing wine collection.

Their new home provided the opportunity to apply some wine room innovations. Sue re-engaged Dan Dureiko and together they planned the project: the reclamation of an ugly basement pipe room.

cement floor were transformed into a very special and elegant wine room. Its combination of colors, textures, and materials evokes the satisfying complexity of wine, so much so that the room won one of four top prizes in the National Kitchen and Bath Association's 2005 Design Competition, in a field of 417 entries. (No doubt this is the wine equivalent of the icing on the cake.)

Hiding the unsightly (but necessary) basement pipes and meters made for interesting work. Dan started the renovation at the ceiling in order to enclose, rather than relocate, the water, steam, and waste pipes. This made the ceiling low, so he created an octagonal tray ceil-

ing to restore some height.

“All the other symmetry of the room followed the ceiling design,” he says.

Next, he built closets at each corner for the gas meter and water meter. He sealed the room with three layers of insulation and framed it in drywall covered with a plaster-sand mixture. The resulting Stucco-like surface was painted a dark green and then wiped with a rag for added dimension.

The wine is stored in custom-made mahogany racks, and Dan fashioned the room’s doors and trim from matching wood. The slate floor is all earth tones, and the counters are granite. Crackle tile covers three walls, one of which features two raised-tile wine labels. The focal point is the largest tiled wall, bordered by an arch. Above a jade-green marble chair rail is mosaic stone. Below it is a gorgeous tile grape arbor, and then more crackle tile. Accent lighting provides subtle illumination.

With a constant temperature of 58 degrees, controlled humidity, and low voltage recessed lighting (such as that found in museums), the 12- by 8-foot room has a hushed feeling. Yet it is inhabited by nearly 300 bottles (half of its capacity) of wine. The collecting wines and special occasion wines are stored along the “grape vine” wall. “Our favorite vineyard is Silver Oaks,” says Sue, and two of their vintages dominate the McCormicks’ Napa Valley Cabernet collection.

Other evidence of their avocation includes wine magazines and books, a





box of labels Sue has removed from most loved bottles, a crate from Dominus Vineyard, and a tall glass vase of corks.

“The kids mostly like to play with the corks and the light switch controls when they are in the room — though they really don’t pay that much attention to it,” says Sue.

The details that make the room extraordinary include a sophisticated music system, rope lighting that illuminates the bottles stored nearly upright, hanging glasses, and the thoughtful organization of their collection.

A pub table and two chairs in the center of the room provide a perfect setting for Sue and Tim to begin the evening with a glass of wine. The delight they take from the room is obvious, and they enjoy sharing it with friends. Their first formal wine tasting will be the fulfillment of a silent auction item they donated last summer to a Canterbury Country Club breast cancer benefit.

“It’s a fun room,” says Sue. Dan Dureiko says he enjoyed building it, though it was “one of the most, if not *the* most, challenging spaces we have had to work around.”

Tim McCormick worked from his home “garage” office until late last year, when Dreyfus Investments transferred him to Manhattan. And so Sue and Tim may be faced with another move — and the creation of another room for their wine.

“But it will give us a chance to tweak again,” is Sue’s optimistic take on their future.



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MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Nature and family are the predominant themes of the entries for our A Day in the Life of Shaker Heights photo contest. This isn't surprising, because these are what surround most of us every day. Shaker's commitments to keeping nature accessible and to the fostering of a healthy family life are two hallmarks of our City.

We congratulate the winners, Brian Stack in the Adult Category and Brian Gamm in the Youth Category, and we thank the sponsors for their donations of prizes for the winners.

BRIAN STACK: Dinner for two at Pearl of the Orient
\$20 gift certificate from Loganberry Books
\$50 gift certificate from MotoPhoto

BRIAN GAMM: A picture frame from Mulholland & Sachs
\$50 gift certificate from MotoPhoto
\$50 cash award from Park View Federal Savings



Lomond and Townley Looking East, by Brian Stack



Nature Center – My Father, Brian Gamm

ALL ENTRY PHOTOS, LISTED BELOW, CAN BE VIEWED ON THE CITY WEBSITE, SHAKERONLINE.COM

HARRIETT ALLEN - RAY'S POND ON CHADBOURNE (ADULT)

ROZ BETTIS - PINK ECHINACEA FLOWER (ADULT)

CAROL CONTI-ENTIN - RESIDENT GOOSE AT GREEN LAKE (ADULT)

DON FRANTZ - NINE GRADS, AND BEST FRIENDS, AT HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM GRANDSTAND (ADULT)

MARC FRISCH - THORNTON HILL WINTER (ADULT)

BRIAN GAMM - NATURE CENTER - MY FATHER (YOUTH)

DAVID HAUSER - 2+1 (ADULT)

CISSY HOLMES - CHRISTMAS DINNER (ADULT)

MARGARET MARGOLIS - THE SECRET GARDEN (ADULT)

CHARLES MODLIN - MEREDITH PUPPY DOG (ADULT)

TEJAS NANDURKAR - WATERFALL (YOUTH)

LINDA NOVICK - SHAKER LAKES (ADULT)

PENNI RUBIN - BABY WATCHING THE SHAKER HEIGHTS BAND (ADULT)

LINDA SETON - THE LADIES (ADULT)

KRIS SINNENBERG - FINCH HATCHLING (ADULT)

BRIAN STACK - LOMOND AND TOWNLEY LOOKING EAST (ADULT)

LAUREN STACK - TWO 4TH GRADE STUDENTS - LOMOND SCHOOL (ADULT)

CHARLES MODLIN - MEREDITH PUPPY DOG (ADULT)



BOOK REVIEW

Of Time Planning, a Love/Hate Relationship with Cleveland, & the Jewish Experience

BY VICKI ZOLDESSY

A trio of new books by Shaker authors is as diverse as the community itself. Like the books selected by a book club, these three cover topics I might never have explored on my own. I admit to enjoying all three.



SGRO

Valentina Sgro is the author of **Organize Your Family's Schedule in No Time** (Que Publishing, Indianapolis), the latest in a series of books promising organizational manna. I was skeptical about this book. After all, it implied that my family was failing to get where it needed to be, that we didn't have enough time to do what needed to be done, and that this was all somehow my fault. Okay, so some of that is true. Courage, I told myself. Proceed.

The book begins with a thorough and well researched guide to choosing an appropriate planner for the entire family, and/or for each individual member. Sgro covers everything from the high

tech, such as electronic handhelds, to the reliable wall calendar, paper or dry erase. It's an in-depth evaluation, and since I long ago committed myself to a Palm Pilot, I acknowledge some impatience with this step on the road to a well organized family schedule.

It wasn't long, though, before I grabbed my highlighter and started making note of some helpful hints. And it wasn't long after I'd completed the book that I found myself referring back to some of its suggestions and tips and incorporating them into my life. Here are some of my favorites:

Don't limit the things you schedule to events; schedule reminders, chores, errands, you name it. And build in pockets of unscheduled time between scheduled items to protect you from unexpected time gobblers.

Schedule time to wrap things up. It's easy to feel defeated when you've got a long list of to do items. If you plan closure, like cleaning up, putting things away, thank-you notes, etc., you are more likely to feel the full measure of your achievements.

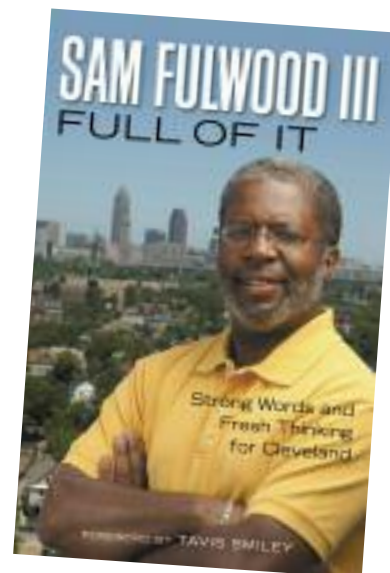
Good scheduling can save you money. Consolidating errands saves gas; time on your calendar to pay bills saves late fees; meal planning saves dining out dollars; a house whose maintenance schedule is in your planner costs less in unanticipated repairs.

Got a teen with a fuzzy idea of when curfew is? Need a good night's sleep? Instead of sleeping with one eye open until she comes home, set an alarm clock for curfew outside your bedroom door. When she arrives home safely, have her turn it off so you get an uninterrupted night's sleep. If the alarm goes off, so do

you...

I'm a fan, I confess, of the organized life that Sgro describes. I do wonder, however, if it is really possible, as she claims it is, to get everyone in a family to participate in the process. And I still think, in spite of her conviction that it can be otherwise, that it's Mom who is going to keep all these organizational balls in the air by being the planner monitor.

My family isn't as out of scheduling whack as I feared, but that's mostly because the kids are older, use planners themselves, and pretty much take care of their own schedules. I definitely have mined some gold from Sgro's approach. It's worth a try, especially for younger families for whom an organized schedule may seem a pipe dream.



FULWOOD

If you're a reader of *The Plain Dealer*, you are familiar with Shaker columnist Sam Fulwood's thrice-weekly column.

A compilation of some of his first four years of columns is called **Full of It: Strong Words and Fresh Thinking for Cleveland**. (Gray & Company, Cleveland)

In his early columns, in the preface, and as part of the publicity generated for this book, we are reminded that Fulwood is a huge fan of Cleveland, and is here to stay. Okay, I'm convinced. But I couldn't help noticing that the bloom of Fulwood's romance with Cleveland has begun to fade. Having established the depth of his affection, Fulwood moves on to the constructive criticism stage of his relationship. Phrases about the "slow and painful death of this region," and "kissing Cleveland good-bye" have gradually crept into his columns.

And so Sam, you are truly one of us now; for living in Cleveland is inevitably a love/hate relationship. Whether it is the weather or the politics or the vagaries of daily living, there is much to appreciate and much about which to be fearful.

As a columnist, Fulwood explains, his role is a privileged and awesome responsibility. He is foremost a journalist, and it's clear that he takes his reporting very seriously. He also has the joy of speaking the truth through the unique prism of his own sensibilities. These Fulwood-colored essays were a pleasure to explore, even when his conclusions differed from my own.

More often though, Fulwood and I saw eye to eye. A column written after President Reagan's death last June recounted Fulwood's memories about the failings of that era. Given the hyperbolic reminiscences of the national media at the time, I was relieved to read Fulwood's dead-on assessment. Our sympathies coincide on subjects ranging from casinos in Cleveland to the war in Iraq. His essays on racism and being black in America are honest and often poignant. There's a lot to appreciate here.

Particularly delightful to me was the discovery that Sam Fulwood is a very good writer. I was especially impressed with some beautiful phrases, such as this one, describing a distraught parent: "He sound-

ed sober, but drunk with concern. The intensity of his voice suggested a man pacing through the predawn hours to arrive at his wit's end." I love it.

Even if you've read the columns, but especially if you've missed a few, take a look at **Full of It**.



MALLET

The third book, which is a selection of my book group, is Eleanor Mallet's **Tevye's Grandchildren, Rediscovering a Jewish Identity**. (The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland) It is an oft repeated proverb that where two Jews exist, three opinions result. That proverb kept occurring to me as I read about Mallet's personal journey toward an understanding of her Jewish experience. I am also Jewish, and hoped to find some recognition and greater understanding of my own. We are two Jews, but a myriad of Jewish experiences result.

This is, in fact, part of the meat of Mallet's book. She describes a Jewish-American sensibility that is plagued by contradictions: a struggle between the inherited Jewish identity – the one our immigrant ancestors brought, which in itself is fractured – versus the multicultural American experience. Throw in reconciliation with our understanding and identification with the modern Israel, and you have a lot to sort through.

Mallet's done a good job with that sorting. In this thoughtful and scholarly book, she compiles a series of footnoted essays about her odyssey. It begins when her adult sons confront her with questions about the lack of Jewish "content" she provided them. Their yearning for a Jewish life began as adults and they wondered why their upbringing had neglected to provide it. Mallet wondered as well. To answer those questions, she determined to travel to Israel – a trip that provided her with greater understanding, but which also created new questions. Some of those questions would be answered in Germany, a cathartic episode, one that enabled homecoming to complete the quest.

Along this exhaustive and enlightening trip, Mallet digs deep into the meanings of Jewish existence. Inherent in that existence, for example, is anti-Semitism. She cites Theodor Herzl, the father of Zionism, "Wherever Jews exist, anti-Semitism exists..." Mallet probes the historical and modern impact of anti-Semitism and finds that grief is a pervasive thread in Jewish culture. She attempts to untangle the impact of the Holocaust in the Jewish experience, nationally, internationally, and personally. The Jewish identity is elusive and intangible, but Mallet tackles it from all angles. She writes, "You have to sort out what you wish to take from this complex heritage and find a way to live it in this varied society. That was not possible for me until I had faced squarely some of the discomforts that emanated from the difficult history."

She has faced it, and in so doing, has made it easier for others to face those discomforts. She has helped me. Her exhaustive search, its travels and study, have produced a lovely, very personal account.

My book club will soon weigh in on **Tevye's Grandchildren**. I look forward to hearing their views, particularly those of our non-Jewish members. I suspect there is much here for them as well.



SHAKER PEOPLE

Robert Gruca: *A Road-Trip-with-Tuxedo-Hanging-in-the-Back Kind of Endeavor*

BY AMY GARVEY

A rising star on the classical guitar scene has taken up residence in Shaker Heights. Former funk band front man Robert Gruca is focused on conquering the classical guitar world from his Van Aken apartment headquarters.

Gruca already has conquered Cleveland; he performs with the Cleveland Orchestra when they play pieces that call for classical guitar talent. Lately, that has been, for the most part, Mahler's seventh symphony, which Gruca performed with the orchestra on its summer 2004 European tour and its Boston-Philadelphia-New York tour in 2003. (Kurt Weill's "Little Threepenny Music" has a guitar part and gets a workout by the orchestra once in a while.)

Jason Vieaux, head of the guitar department at the Cleveland Institute of Music and a musician of international stature, says Gruca is one of the best local performers. It was Vieaux, one of Gruca's teachers and mentors, who illuminated the Cleveland Orchestra about Gruca's talent.

"In the last few years he's really developed into a fine interpreter of many different styles and periods of classical music," Vieaux says. "The first time I heard Bob play I was really amazed by his facility on the instrument, and by his technique."

A classical guitar, no matter how well-made, has very little sustain; its tones die almost as soon as they're played. Playing the instrument to optimum effect in a huge orchestra is a challenge even for a master of technique, even if his conductor is a musical genius. In rehearsals for

a performance of the Mahler piece in Germany last summer, the orchestra's music director, Franz Welser-Möst, segregated Bob and the mandolin player in a loge above the stage in an experimental attempt to get the sounds of their instruments to cross into the audience at the same time as the rest of the orchestra.

"The halls were all different on that tour, so it was a challenge to be heard the way you should be heard from one place to the next," Gruca says. "That particular experiment didn't work, but Welser-Möst at least will try things like that. It was as much for dramatic effect as it was for the sound, but it's all part of him wanting the best performance possible."

Gruca was lured to Cleveland by the opportunity to study at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He was working towards a bachelor's degree in music performance at Grand Valley State University in his native Michigan when he attended a recital by John Holmquist, then head of CIM's guitar department. The emotional impact of Holmquist's playing on Gruca was instantaneous and deep. Gruca arrived at CIM in 2000 earned his masters degree in 2002.

The roots of contemporary classical guitar are in Renaissance and Baroque lute music. Flamboyant Spanish performer Andres Segovia legitimized classical guitar as a concert-worthy solo instrument only as recently as the 20th century, as well as inspiring composers to write for the instrument. New arrangements and compositions interpreted and played by young performers like Gruca keep the art alive.

Building a career as a classical guitarist begins, largely, by entering — and win-

ning — competitions. Since graduating from CIM in 2002, Gruca has come out on top in three competitions and placed in three others. Sometimes a first place finish guarantees a small road tour. Placing at all makes it easier for the musician to break into the concert world.

"The classical guitar world is not that big," Gruca says. "I've made the decision to focus on marketing myself in the eastern United States."

Gruca relies on himself and the help of his wife, Melissa, a dancer, to get the word out to arts festivals, music schools, performing arts series, and other venues likely to feature classical guitar performances.

The Grucas felt that Shaker Heights was a good place to call home, in part because of its proximity to a number of venues; most classical guitarists aren't flying first class with an entourage (there are a handful of exceptions). It's much more of a road-trip-with-tuxedo-hanging-in-the-back-seat kind of endeavor.

"You have to love the art form," Gruca explains. "That's what keeps you going."

While he's building his performing career, Gruca teaches at Muskingum College near Cambridge and offers lessons in his home studio. "I'm not a purist," he notes. "I enjoy and teach all types of guitar music."

For more information on Gruca's performing schedule, visit his website, www.robertgruca.com. For information on lessons, email him at robertgruca@hotmail.com, or phone 235-4264.



Robert Gruca at Kulas Hall, Cleveland Institute of Music, January 2005. Photo by Marc Golub



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Library Sponsors Teen Volunteer Fair

The Library will sponsor a Teen Volunteer Fair from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6 in community rooms E & F at the Main Library for middle and high school students interested in volunteer service.

The Teen Volunteer Fair will provide an opportunity for teens ages 12 to 18 years of age who are seeking community service opportunities to connect with agencies seeking volunteers. Too young to be employed? The Teen Volunteer Fair is designed to provide students and their parents an opportunity to investigate a variety of opportunities for structured summer volunteer jobs.

High school students seeking government hours or volunteer service to add to their college applications will also find the Teen Volunteer Fair a helpful resource.

Volunteer agencies interested in participating in this event should call teen librarian Audrey Leventhal at 991-2030.

Celebrate National Library Week

Shaker Library offers something for everyone – books, movies, magazines, and more. During the month of March, the Library invites residents to share their family stories about the Library.

From making social connections with other mothers at a Toddler Storytime, to learning English as a second language, to finding the right resource to finish a term paper, the Library wants to hear what impact it has had on each member of your family.

Tell the Library why it is special to you. Forms are available at all public

service desks and should be returned by March 31. The Library will display the stories along with photos during National Library Week April 10 – 16.

Library Offers Seasonal Specials for Children at Woods Branch

In addition to the regular schedule of children's programs, the Library has scheduled two special programs at the Bertram Woods Branch.

7 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 10, the Murphy Irish Dancers will perform in

their traditional Celtic costumes. Children and parents will have an early opportunity to get in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day during this evening of Irish jigs, reels, and lively music.

4:15 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 28, celebrate Lei Day. Get a jump on the 'Aloha' spirit (May 1 is Lei Day in Hawaii) with Annette Tabar when she introduces Hawaiian native language and myths, and teaches the meaning and movements of hula.

Registration begins April 14 by calling the Bertram Woods Branch Children's Department at 991-2421.

Reader of the Month

KIKI MCCORMICK

AGE: 79

LIVE IN: Fernway area

USES: Bertram Woods Branch

OCCUPATION: Real estate sales with Smythe Cramer

LIKES TO READ: Fiction and biography

ALL-TIME FAVORITE BOOK: *Kristin Lavransdatter* by Sigrid Undset

OTHER FAVORITES: *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger, *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo, *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck, *The Other Boleyn Girl* by Philippa Gregory, and *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder

DOESN'T READ: Mysteries

OTHER INTERESTS: Needlepoint, swimming, spending time with grandchildren – especially at their sporting events

INFLUENCES: Friends from "The Book Club." KiKi has been with her book club for 40 years!

LIBRARY SERVICES: Reserves, new books. "What I like best about the library is the willingness of the staff to help and to do research when needed."

FAMILY: A widow, McCormick has five adult children, Harold McCormick, Pam McCormick, Kevin McCormick (deceased), Daniel McCormick and Tim McCormick.

BRIEF BIO: KiKi McCormick grew up in Shaker's Fernway area and attended Shaker Schools until her senior year in high school when she became a member of the first graduating class at Beaumont School.





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Business Book Discussion

The Library will host its second Business Book Discussion Club Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 5 at the Main Library with a discussion of *Black Enterprise Titans of the B.E. 100s: Black CEOs Who Redefined and Conquered American Business* by Derek T. Dingle.

The first book in the Black Enterprise series tells the stories of eleven remarkable leaders of the largest black-owned businesses offering positive, successful role models in a variety of industries.

Register for the discussion and pick up books at the Main Library fiction desk beginning March 7.

the Bookshelf

STORIES IN VERSE

Think you don't like poetry? Try one of these books written in verse.

Beauty is Convulsive: The Passion of Frida Kahlo by **Carole Maso (2002)**

Using pieces of Kahlo's biography, letters, and diary entries, the author develops a story in poetry and prose that reflects the pain of the Mexican artist's life after being maimed in an accident as a young woman.

The Beauty of the Husband: A Fictional Essay in 29 Tangos by **Anne Carson (2001)**

Narrated by a wife, this series of poems describes the pleasures and pain of a failed marriage. Filled with literary and historical allusion, the poems written by this MacArthur "genius grant" winner are both intellectual and emotional.

Blue Suburbia: Almost a Memoir by **Laurie Lico Albanese (2004)**

Written in free verse, this short memoir describes a woman's life from childhood through parenthood.

Eugene Onegin: A Novel in Verse by **Alexander Pushkin (1963)**

This English translation of Pushkin's 1831 novel in verse focuses on the

ironic twists of fate in the life of Eugene Onegin, a young Russian aristocrat, and includes notes by Walter Arndt.

The Golden Gate by **Vikram Seth (1986)**

Set in San Francisco in the 1980s and written in sonnet form, this book tells the stories of young professionals and their relationships with each other.

Locomotion by **Jacqueline Woodson (2003)**

Using a series of poems, Woodson tells the story of young Lonnie Collins Motion (aka Locomotion). Orphaned with his sister Lili, Lonnie copes with life as a foster child by writing. (2004 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book.)

Love That Dog by **Sharon Creech (2001)**

In touching and sometimes humorous verse, a young boy reveals his own story, which comes together in the last poem.

One of Those Hideous Books Where the

Mother Dies by **Sonya Sones (2004)**

When 15-year-old Ruby's mother dies, she moves to California to live with her famous movie star father, whom she has never met. Through e-mails and letters to her best friend, her boyfriend and to her mother, she gradually moves beyond her grief and anger.

Witness by **Karen Hesse (2001)**

Eleven distinct voices bear witness to this story about the turmoil caused by the Ku Klux Klan when it moves into a small Vermont town in 1924, affecting the lives of a 12-year-old African-American girl and a 6-year-old Jewish girl.

Call for Local Authors

The Moreland Room at the Main Library houses a growing collection of books by authors who grew up, lived for a significant period of time, or currently reside in Shaker Heights.

All genres are represented, from poetry and mystery through history and memoir, and the collection includes writers, such as Susan Orlean, Sam Fulwood III, Ben Kamin, Virginia P. Dawson, Ted Schwarz, Laurel Blossom, Martin Goldsmith, Jean Harris, Alix

Kates Shulman, Teri White, and many others. A complete list of authors and titles is available at the Library.

The Library is always interested in acquiring new works by Shaker authors, as well as learning about authors that are not yet represented in the collection. If you are a Shaker author and wish to be included in the Library's collection, please contact Local History librarian Meghan Hays at 216-367-3016.

Join in the North Coast Neighbors Reading Promotion

This year's North Coast Neighbors Share A Book selection is *Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam. The Library joins 25 other libraries in this community-wide reading promotion that continues through April 15, 2005. Pick up a copy of the book, read it and join in the discussions and program opportunities at the Shaker Library and beyond!

2 P.M. SUNDAY, MARCH 6 watch *October Sky* at the Main Library. An anagram of the title *Rocket Boys*, *October Sky* is the appealing film version of Homer Hickam's novel. Watch the movie, then read the book and join in a book discussion at 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 8 or one at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 9 at the Main Library.

7 P.M. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16 at Woods Branch, Clyde Simpson from The Cleveland Museum of Natural History will present, *Space Travel: 48 Years and Counting*, an overview of the advances in space flight from the early Sputnik years to the outlook for future travel to Mars and beyond.

Simpson is the coordinator of the at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Observatory, where he maintains a 10 1/2 inch-diameter 1899 Warner & Swasey refracting telescope that is available to the public. Simpson also teaches astronomy in the museum's Nathan and Fannye Shafran Planetarium.

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7 P.M. MONDAY, MARCH 21 at Woods Branch, meet "Rocket Girls," Connie Luhta and Virginia Dawson, who will talk about the many contributions women have made to the space program. Meet these pioneers, hear their stories and ask them questions.

Connie Luhta is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University and worked as a research chemist at Standard Oil of Cleveland for 16 years. In 1962 she earned her pilot's license and currently works as a commercial pilot. She has also competed in several air races in Michigan and Indiana and has served as treasurer, vice president and president of the International Women's Air & Space Museum.

Shaker Heights resident **Virginia Dawson** is an historian of science and technology. She received her Ph.D. in History of Science and Technology from Case Western Reserve University in 1983 and, in 1996, co-founded the history consulting firm History Enterprises, Inc.

She wrote the history of the Lincoln Electric Company, and co-wrote the script for an award-winning film on Frances Payne Bolton, Congresswoman from Ohio. She has written a number of books and articles on NASA and the history of rocket technology.

7 P.M. TUESDAY APRIL 12, Shaker Library salutes Shaker Middle School's rocket boys and girls at their annual rocket launch. Shaker Middle School science teacher, **David Strauch**, and SMS librarian, **Kelly Jones**, help students get first-hand experience in watching their creativity soar when they launch rockets they have built in their science classes. In the event of rain, the launch will take place on Wednesday, April 13.

Library Announces Student Writing Contest Winners

Winners of the Library's 7th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Writing

Contest read their *Expressions of Freedom* and were awarded prizes, including ribbons, certificates and printed bookmarks of their contributions.

The contest was judged by Shaker resident Cheryl Darden and a group of teachers including, Corinne Croom, Carol Hanna, Rhonda Eberhardt and Sharon Siggers.

Dominique Lou Mercer, a 4th grader at Boulevard School, won first place for grades 3 & 4. **Natasha Simske**, a 3rd grader at Lomond School, took second place and **Zaylon Green**, a 4th grader at Onaway School won third place.

In the 5th and 6th grade category, **Claire Sophia Levin**, a 5th grader won first place. **Lizzie Stotter**, a 6th grader took second place and **Kelly Heikkila**, a 6th grader took third place. All three girls attend Woodbury Elementary School.

In the 7th & 8th grade category, **Jiazhou Yang**, an 8th grader at University School, took first place.



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Arielle Stambler, a 7th grader at Hathaway Brown School took second place and **Samantha Goldfarb**, a 7th grader at Shaker Middle School garnered third place honors.

Residents can read the youthful *Expressions of Freedom*, printed as written, on the backs of bookmarks that are available at both libraries.

Teen Scene

TEEN SCAVENGER HUNT

3:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, March 7 – Thursday, March 21, 2005.

Think you know your way around the Teen area and the Teen Center at Main Library? Pick up a Scavenger Hunt entry form in the Teen Center. Winners will be selected from all correct entries.

T.A.B. TEEN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IN THE TEEN CENTER

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 16.

6 - 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6.

EXPRESSIONS: **Games and Crafts at**

Woods Branch

3 - 4:15 p.m. Thursdays, March 17 and April 14.

TEEN CENTER MOVIE AT MAIN

4:30 p.m. Thursdays, March 17 and April 14.

TEEN VOLUNTEER FAIR AT MAIN LIBRARY

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6.

Teens ages 12 – 18 can get information about many different area volunteer opportunities. Fill a need and earn service hours. Parents welcome.

THE TEEN CENTER WILL BE CLOSED

MARCH 28 – 31 FOR SPRING BREAK.

Meet Author Valentina Sgro and Get Organized

Meet Lomond area resident Valentina Sgro, author of *Organize Your Family's Schedule in No Time*, who will speak at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 15 at Bertram Woods Branch. A professional

organizer, Sgro wrote her book to help families find more time for fun and relaxation.

Sgro earned a B. S. in business administration from John Carroll University and a J. D. degree from the University of Michigan Law School. In 1985, she left a busy law practice to be a stay-at-home mom. Realizing that family life was getting out of control, she began to design a system that would organize their busy lives and free up time for fun. In 1997, with order established in her own life, Sgro founded SGRO Consulting — Solutions for Getting Really Organized.

Sgro is a Certified Chronic Disorganization Specialist and a member of the National Association of Professional Organizers' Golden Circle. A former treasurer of the National Study Group on Chronic Disorganization, she is the current treasurer of NAPO.

Following her talk, books will be available for sale and signing.

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Library and City Co-Sponsor Free Computer Classes for Seniors

Seniors who seek to become Internet savvy can attend a free series of classes designed to familiarize them with accessing and exploring the Internet from home as well as from the Library. Participants will explore the treasures and pitfalls of the Internet, and discover some of the many online resources for seniors.

Classes are held from 2 – 4 p.m. Wednesdays in May at the Main Library. For more information about the classes, call Walter Lesch at 991-2030 extension 3156. To register for the series, call the city's Office for Senior Adults, 491-1360.

Learn New Computer Skills this Spring

The Library offers a variety of free computer classes to teach residents how to use software programs, including Excel, PowerPoint and Access. In addition, an *Internet with the Experts* class will teach residents how to avoid Internet scams and reduce unsolicited, commercial e-mail called Spam.

To register for a class, call the Computer Center, 991-2030 extension 3185.

INTRODUCTION TO MICROSOFT ACCESS:

6:30 – 8 p.m. Monday, March 7

Learn how to build databases.

Registration began February 28.

CREATING AND USING FORMS IN

ACCESS: 6:30 – 8 p.m. Monday, March 14.

Learn how to design and use form in a database. Registration begins March 7.

INTERNET WITH EXPERTS: Scams &

Spam: 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 15. Learn how to avoid Internet pitfalls. Registration begins March 7.

CREATING AND USING QUERIES IN

ACCESS: 6:30 – 8 p.m. Monday, March 28. Learn how to ask the right questions to get what you need from a database. Register for this class between March 8 – 16 by calling Walter Lesch at 991-2030 extension 3156.

INTRODUCTION TO EXCEL: 6:30 – 8

p.m. Monday, April 4. Learn the basics of spreadsheet construction, including design and formatting. Registration begins March 28.

INTRODUCTION TO POWERPOINT: 6:30

– 8 p.m. Monday, April 11. Learn how to use this exciting program to create a slide show using text and graphics. Registration begins April 4.

Let's Talk About It: A Mind of Her Own Book Discussion Series Continues

The Library continues its *Jewish Literature: Identity and Imagination* series focusing on the father-daughter relationship with March and April programs at the Main Library.

Rabbi Eric Bram will lead a discussion on *1185 Park Avenue: A Memoir* by Anne Roiphe at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10. Set in the 1940s, this is the story of a wealthy but dysfunctional Jewish family written by a daughter who remembers.

7 p.m. Thursday, April 7 at Main Library, CWRU Professor Judith Oster will lead the discussion on *American Pastoral*, Phillip Roth's story of a New Jersey family's adjustment to the tumultuous 1960s and a life turned upside down.

Register for each individual program and pick up books at the Main Library fiction desk.

Main Library Shows Free Movies

Thanks to the Friends of the Shaker Library, who generously underwrite the public performance rights, the Library shows popular films at 1 p.m. the first Friday of each month and newly released movies at 6:30 p.m. at the

Kids' Corner

MAIN LIBRARY 16500 VAN AKEN BOULEVARD 991-2030
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BOOK BABIES

Stories, songs, games & rhymes for 1-year-olds with an adult.

Spring Session: March 8 – May 4, 2005.

Babies 12 – 18 months old. (Baby must be 12 months old by Mar. 1, 2005.)

9:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Woods Branch.

9:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Main Library.

Babies 18 – 24 months old. (Baby must be 18 months old by Mar. 1, 2005.)

10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Woods Branch.

10:30 a.m. Wednesdays at Main Library.

Registration began Feb. 12; call the library where your child will attend to see if there are still spaces.

TODDLERS

Stories, songs, games & rhymes for 2-year-olds with an adult. (Child must be 2 years old by March 1, 2005.)

Spring Session: March 7 – May 5, 2005.

10 a.m. Mondays or Wednesdays at Woods Branch.

10 a.m. Tuesdays or Thursdays at Main Library.

Registration began Feb. 12; call the library where your child will attend to see if there are still spaces.

PRESCHOOL STORIES

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

10 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Mondays at Main Library.

1:30 p.m. Tuesdays or 10 a.m. Thursdays at Woods Branch.

No registration is required; however, groups are asked to make special arrangements.

PAJAMA STORIES AT WOODS BRANCH

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

7:15 p.m. Mondays, March 21 and April 18.

Registration is required and begins 2 weeks before each program.

MAKE-IT-TAKE-IT WEEK AT WOODS BRANCH

March 28 – April 2: School's out, but the library's open for craft fun. Visit the library, make a craft and take it home!

AFTERSCHOOL AUTHORS AT WOODS BRANCH

Writing activities for children in grades 2 – 5.

Spring Session: March 16 – May 4, 2005.

4:15 p.m. Wednesdays

Registration begins March 2.

BOOK BUGS AT MAIN LIBRARY

A book-centered writing club for children in grades K – 3.

Spring Session: March 10 – May 5, 2005.

4:15 p.m. Thursdays

Registration began February 24.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP AT WOODS BRANCH

A librarian-led book discussion for girls in grades 4 – 6 and their mothers.

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 5

Read and discuss *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Reilly Giff.

Registration and book pickup begins March 8.

SCHOOL-AGE SPECIALS AT WOODS BRANCH

Irish Dance

7 – 8 p.m. Thursday, March 10

To register, call the Woods Branch Library Children's Department at 991-2421.

Hawaiian Lei Day

4:15 – 5 p.m. Thursday, April 28

Registration begins April 14 by calling the Woods Branch Children's Department at 991-2421.

THERE ARE NO PROGRAMS THE WEEK OF MARCH 28.

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Main Library on selected Thursday evenings. For reel entertainment watch a free flick this spring at the Library!

6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 3 watch Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez in the romantic comedy *Shall We Dance?*

1 P.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 4 Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore star in *50 First Dates*, the story of a man who falls in love with a woman with short-term memory loss.

6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 17 bring the family to see the animated superhero comedy, *The Incredibles*.

1 P.M. FRIDAY, APRIL 1 watch *Without A Paddle*, a comedy about the adventures of three hapless city slickers who set out in a canoe to find lost treasure.

Book Discussions Opportunities Abound

The Library offers residents many opportunities to discuss a variety of books. Mystery lovers can deliberate about whodunit during Tuesday evening book discussions led by librarian Peter Brown at 7:30 p.m. at the Main Library.

The Etruscan Chimera by Lyn Hamilton is the mystery for March 8. On April 10, residents can share clues on how they solved the mystery, *Ash Child* by Peter Bowen.

Other book discussions at the Main Library include: *Green City in the Sun* by Barbara Wood at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 12; *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22; *Where Trouble Sleeps* by Clyde Edgerton at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 9; *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 12, and *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26.

Residents can attend an informal book talk at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 10 at Woods Branch when librarians will offer reading suggestions, or a book discussion on *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 21.

Register and pick up books at the library where the discussion will be held.

Digital Photography Class

Do you print to the computer or take your disk to a photo outlet for reprints? How do you save your memories – in a photo album or on a disk or CD?

Rick Santich of MotoPhoto Portrait Studio at the Van Aken Center returns to the Main Library at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 22 to teach a class on *The Basics of Digital Photography*. Learn how to take digital pictures and how to store your photos.

The program is free; however, reservations are requested by calling 991-2030.

Poetry Not in the Woods

The Library continues its poetry series with a reading at 7 p.m. March 29 featuring Susan Grimm, Brian Taylor and Mary Weems.

Susan Grimm teaches poetry at Cleveland State University. The founding editor of *Ohio Writer*, Grimm was named 1999 Ohio Poet of the Year by the Ohio Poetry Day Association.

Brian Taylor has participated in many poetry slams and was one of six poets who represented the United States at the First Annual Canadian Spoken Wordlympics in Ottawa.

Mary Weems teaches in the English department at John Carroll University. The poet, playwright and educational consultant has published three collections of poetry.

7 p.m. Thursday, April 28 poetry will be performed by Katie Daley and F. Keith Wahle accompanied by a dance performance by Sharon Manuel.

Daley has performed at clubs and universities around the country and has produced a CD, *Full Blast Alive: Voices from the Ruby Side*. Cincinnati poet F. Keith Wahle has been involved in performance poetry and alternative theatre for years. Sharon Manuel, a choreographer with the Mather Dance Collective, will accompany his performance.

The poetry series is funded in part by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

Footnotes

- The Library Board meets at 6:30 p.m. Mondays, March 14 in the Woods Branch Community Room and

April 11 in the Main Library Boardroom.

- The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Main Library from 2 – 7 p.m. Monday, March 21 in Community Rooms E & F for residents who wish to donate blood.

Friends Sponsor Spring Used Book Sale

The Friends' Spring Book Sale will be held from April 14 through April 17 on the second floor of the Main Library. New this sale is an Afternoon Preview Sale for Friends members from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at which time *checks only* will be accepted. The Friends will reopen for a Friends' Evening Preview from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. April 14. (Nonmembers may join at the door for \$15 for either afternoon or evening sale.) The sale opens to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16. Sunday, April 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. Friends will sell bags of books for \$5.

Residents who would like to help set up before and volunteer during the book sale should call the Library and leave their names and telephone numbers.

BOTH LIBRARIES WILL BE CLOSED FOR STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM FRIDAY, MARCH 11. THE LIBRARIES WILL RE-OPEN FROM 1 – 6 PM
MAIN LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27.



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Events for March

MARCH 1 – APRIL 30: 27th Annual

Geranium Sale, SHAKER HIGH SCHOOL. PTO fund-raiser to support more than 25 student clubs and activities. Choose from a variety of annuals and perennials in assorted colors, including geraniums, petunias, New Guinea impatiens, purple fountain grass, spikes, and vinca vines. New this year: terra cotta patio pots. All orders must be prepaid by check, cash, or credit card. Download order forms at www.shaker.org/parents/pto or pick them up at all Shaker schools, Shaker Administration Building, and both Shaker libraries. Pick up dates in May with optional delivery available for a fee. INFO: HOLLY WANG, 991-8248, OR CAMELIA SUTORIUS, 991-2473.

MARCH 1 – APRIL 23: Pool Passes.

THORNTON PARK. Early Bird pool passes on sale. 491-1290. *Get in the swim and stay afloat!* Sign up early for Thornton Park Pool and get a discount. \$65/75person; \$95/100/family of 2; \$120/130/family of 3 with \$25 for each additional swimmer; \$40/60/senior; \$55/senior couple. 491-1295.

1 Preparing Your Federal Tax Return, 10:00 – NOON, FAIRHILL CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL RD. Taxes age all of us and all ages are welcome to get help! \$5/person. INFO: TOM CERJAK, 216-421-1350 EXT 125.

1 Environmental Town Hall Brown Bag Lunch, NOON TO 1 P.M., NATURE CENTER, 2600 S. PARK BLVD. Learn how solar energy is viable — even in cloudy Northeast Ohio — when Erika Weliczko of REpower Solutions presents *Here Comes the Sun: Solar Energy in Cleveland*. FREE. 321-5935.

2 The Goddess Culture Panel Discussion, 7 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. UCC Minister Kate Huey, biologist Eva Janecek, and actress Nina Dominigue discuss women and the goddess culture as part of the Cleveland Public Theatre talk-back programs surrounding their production of *Venus* by Suzan-Lori Parks. 991-2030.

3 Movie @ Main, 6:30 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Watch Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez in *Shall We Dance?* FREE. 991-2030.

continued

Ongoing Senior Activities

Tuesdays & Fridays thru April 15: Tax Assistance, 9 A.M. - 3 P.M., SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. AARP Tax Assistance for middle or low-income taxpayers, age 60+. Bring last year's state and Federal tax returns, W-2's, stockbroker's statements and all 1099 forms. Returns filed electronically. *This service is not for businesses, self-employed, or income-producing property owners.* Friday hours begin at 10 a.m. APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED. 491-1360.

Wednesdays: Coffee, Cookies & Conversation, 10 – 11 A.M., COMMUNITY BUILDING. Coffee and camaraderie. 491-1360.

Thursdays: Open Bridge, 1 – 4 P.M., SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Drop-in, all levels. Hone your card playing skills. REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED. \$1/SESSION.

Destinations...

BERTRAM WOODS BRANCH LIBRARY
20600 Fayette Road

MAIN LIBRARY
16500 Van Aken Boulevard

THE NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES
2600 South Park Boulevard

**SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING
COMMUNITY COLONNADE**
3450 Lee Road

SHAKER FAMILY CENTER
19824 Sussex Road

SHAKER HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL
15911 Aldersyde Drive

SHAKER HISTORICAL MUSEUM
16740 South Park Boulevard

SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
20600 Shaker Boulevard

THORNTON PARK
20701 Farnsleigh Road



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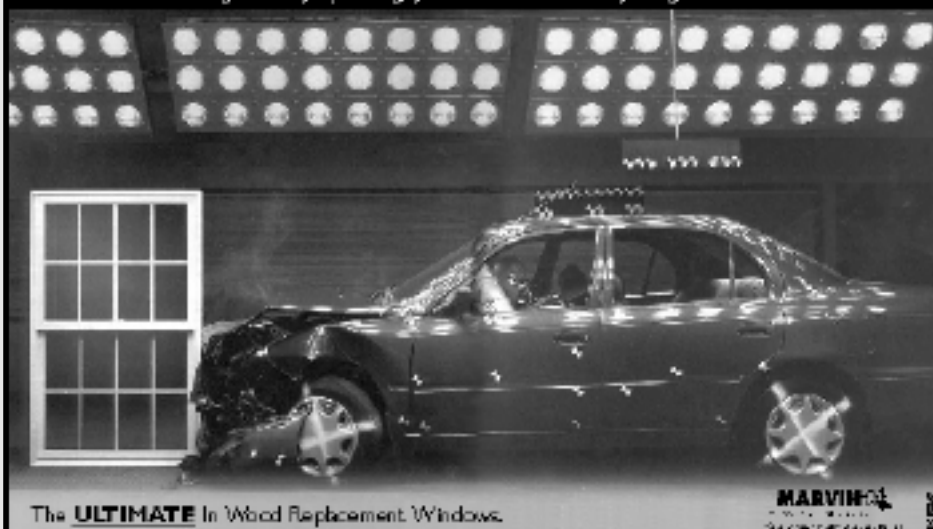
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4 Professional Day. No school for public school grades K – 8.

4 First Friday Flick, 1 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Watch Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore in *50 First Dates*, a romantic comedy about short-term memory loss. FREE. INFO: 991-2030.

4 & 11 Fish Fry, 5 – 7:30 P.M., ST. DOMINIC CHURCH, 19000 VAN AKEN BLVD. *Nearer my cod to thee!* Baked or fried fish or fried shrimp, with all the extras. Take-out orders welcome. 991-1444.

4 Guys and Dolls, 7:30 P.M., SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL. The Save-a-Soul Mission of the Salvation Army clashes with a motley crew of Broadway gamblers and night-clubbers in this musical comedy performed by middle school students. Saturday March 5 matinee at 2 p.m.

5, 12, 19 & 26 Nature Walk, 3:30 TO 4:30 P.M., NATURE CENTER. Family hikes. Meet at the front door for a naturalist-led walk around the trails. FREE. 321-5935.

6 Reaching Out for Liberty and Light: The Life of Frances Payne Bolton, 2 P.M., SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING, 3450 LEE RD. Watch the color video of late Congresswoman Bolton created by Virginia Dawson of History Enterprises followed by refreshments. Free program co-sponsored by Shaker Historical Society and the City, RESERVATIONS REQUESTED: 921-1201.

6 Movie at Main, 2 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Watch *Rocket Boys*. FREE. 991-2030.

6 Nature Fireside Tales 3:30 TO 4:30 P.M., NATURE CENTER. Harriet the Great Blue Heron tells tales for families around the fireside, followed by tasty refreshments. FREE. 321-5935.

7 Spring Computer Classes at Fairhill Center, 12200 FAIRHILL RD. Computer classes taught by seniors especially for seniors. 4-week courses in computer fundamentals, Internet & E-mail and Computer Applications. \$40/person or 8-week courses in Digital Photography, Quicken, Power Point, Microsoft Word, Excel and Genealogy \$60/person. Classes are 2 hours a week, either 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. or 1 - 3 p.m. INFO: TOM CERJAK, 421-1350 EXT 125.

7 Band Boosters, 7:30 P.M., SHAKER HIGH. Meeting for parents who give a toot about the best band in the land. INFO: HOLLY WANG, 991-8248 OR MARK GREGG, 751-8380.

8 Registration for Spring Recreation Classes begins. THORNTON PARK. 491-1290.

8 Book Discussion, 10 A.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *Rocket Boys*, Homer Hickam's memoir about growing up in a West Virginia coal-mining town during the space age. Evening book discussion at 7:30 p.m. March 9. 991-2030.

8 Babes in Nature, 10 A.M. OR 11 A.M., NATURE CENTER. A nature class truly for strollers! Designed for children two weeks to two years, this class offers a variety of sensory experiences to introduce babies to nature. FEE PER STROLLER: \$5 MEMBER, \$7 NON-MEMBER. MAXIMUM 10 STROLLERS PER CLASS WITH ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED: 321-5935.

8 Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:30 P.M., SHAKER HIGH TEACHERS' CAFETERIA. Sports supporters rally for all Shaker athletes. INFO: JANE GLADDEN, 378-0613 OR NANCY GOLDSMITH, 591-9279.

8 Who Dunnit?, 7:30 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *The Etruscan Chimera* by Lyn Hamilton. 991-2030.

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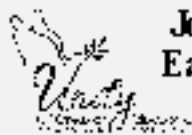
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March:

Maundy Thursday Service;

March 24, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service;

March 25, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Celebrational Services;

March 27, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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Unity Coffeehouse

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9, 10 11 & 12 New Stages

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10 Podiatry Care, 9 A.M., SHAKER

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10 Recent and Recommended, 3

P.M., WOODS BRANCH. Looking for a
good book? Hear what the librarians are
recommending this spring. 991-2421.

10 Nature Center Photography

Club Meeting, 6 TO 8 P.M., NATURE

CENTER All adults welcome in the
Meeting room of the Nature Center. INFO:
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WWW.SHAKERLAKES.ORG/PHOTOGRAPHY-CLUB.HTM

10 A Mind of Her Own, 7 P.M.,

MAIN LIBRARY. Let's Talk About It:
Jewish Literature: Identity and Imagination
series on father and daughters. Judith
Oster and Rabbi Eric Bram lead a discus-
sion on the book 1185 Park Avenue by
Anne Roiphe. A grant-funded program by
ALA and Nextbook. 991-2030.

10, 11 & 12 Smile The

Musical, 7 P.M., LAUREL SCHOOL, ONE

LYMAN CIRCLE. Find out what goes on
behind the scenes at one of the most
respected beauty pageants on earth in this
campy show set in the 1980s written by
Marvin Hamlisch and Howard Ashman
and based on the screenplay by Jerry
Belson. TICKETS & INFO: 464-1441.

11 Shaker libraries closed in the morn-
ing for staff development. Both libraries
reopen from 1 - 6 p.m.

12 Book Discussion, 2 P.M., MAIN

LIBRARY. Read and discuss *Green City in
the Sun* by Barbara Wood. 991-2030.

14 & 28 Low Vision Support Group, Shaker Community Building.

Free support sessions for those dealing with vision loss. Transportation provided. 491-1348.

15 Organize Your Family's Schedule in No Time, 7:30 P.M., WOODS BRANCH. Meet Shaker author Valentina Sgro, who will talk about her book and give tips on how to get organized. 991-2421.

16 Space Travel: 48 YEARS AND COUNTING, 7 P.M., WOODS BRANCH. The Cleveland Museum of Natural History's Clyde Simpson will present an overview of the advances in space flight from the early Sputnik years to the outlook for future travel to Mars and beyond. 921-2421.

17 Health Roundtable, 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M., HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 3400 LEE RD. Join an interactive group discussion on a variety of topics and get medical advice from City Nurse Sandi Hurley. Snacks provided.

17 Movie @ Main, 6:30 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Watch *The Incredibles*, an animated comedy adventure of a dysfunctional

family of undercover super heroes. FREE. 991-2030.

17 Urban Nature, 7:30 P.M., NATURE CENTER. Friends of the Nature Center presents Lisa Couturier, author of *The Hopes of Snakes: And Other Tales from the Urban Landscape*, who will talk about her experiences in big cities. A Senior Fellow with Ecos Systems Institute, Couturier writes and teaches in the Washington D.C. area. 321-5935.

18: Shaker Schools Conference Day. NO SCHOOL FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADES K - 8.

18 Shaker Chapter AARP, 1:30 P.M., SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Monthly meeting for the 50+ set. 491-1460.

19 St. Patrick's Day Show, 7 P.M., ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL, 3544 NORWOOD RD. 'Tis a good night for the Irish . . . even two days after St. Paddy's Day! 561-4400.

19 A Night for the Red and White, 7 P.M., INTERCONTINENTAL

EXHIBITS

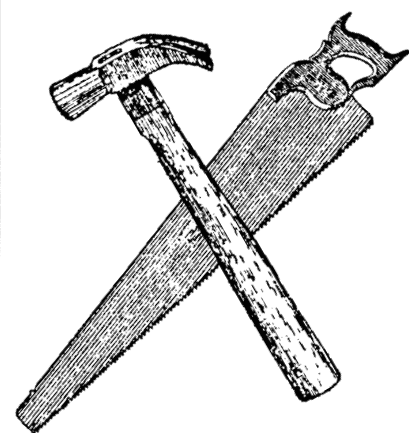
Thru April: Communal Life In A Shaker Village. Shaker Historical Museum, 16400 S. PARK BLVD. View an exhibit of tools used by the Shakers in their daily farm chores, including milking, food preparation, field work, sewing, and mending. Plus a collection of related historical photos on loan from the Sabbathday Lake, Maine Shakers. \$2/ADULTS; \$1/CHILDREN 6 YEARS & UP. 921-1201.

Thru March 4: Scene It, Shaker Community Building. Paintings and photos by Penni Rubin.

Thru March 6: Barbara Luton Art Show. MAIN LIBRARY. View the artwork juried into the 6th annual competition.

March 8 - April 21: Art of Jennifer Rohrer, Shaker Community Building. Exhibit of paintings and photo collages.

March 14 - April 25: My View of the World: The Photography of Richard J. Santich, MAIN LIBRARY.



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Circle the date of March nineteen — then gussie up for the benefit scene.

Shaker Schools Foundation will really rock — A Night for Red and White at 7 o'clock!

20 Pancake Breakfast, 10 A.M. – 1 P.M., ST. DOMINIC CHURCH, 19000 VAN AKEN BLVD. Start your day right with heavenly hotcakes! Walk-ins welcome. TICKETS & INFO: 991-1444.

21 Red Cross Bloodmobile, 2 – 7 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. GIVE BLOOD. 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

21 Choir/Orchestra Tour Preview Concert, 7:30 P.M., SHAKER HIGH.

21 Rocket Girls, 7 P.M., WOODS BRANCH. Meet Connie Luhta and Virginia Dawson, pioneers in air and space, who will speak about the many contributions women have made to the space program followed by a Q & A session. 991-2421.

22 Reservations for Horseshoe Lake Park Open, THORNTON PARK, 20701 FARNSLEIGH RD. In-person reservations for the Shaker's premier park begin. Phone-in registrations begin March 23. 491-1290.

22 Nature Reads, 6 P.M., NATURE CENTER. Bring a brown bag supper and discuss *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession*, Mark Obmascik's humorous book about three quirky characters in search of birding fame. Free. INFO: LESLIE 321-5935 EXT 226.

22 Book Discussion, 7:30 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali. 991-2030.

22 Basics of Digital

Photography, 7 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. MotoPhoto and Portrait Studio's Rick Santich returns to offer another helpful workshop on digital photography. FREE. 991-2030.

23 Sports Awards, 6:30 P.M., SHAKER HIGH. Parents and students celebrate athletic accomplishments.

24 Life Line Screening, SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Get checked for vascular disease or osteoporosis as a health preventative measure through non-invasive imaging technology. FEES RANGE FROM \$45 - \$129; PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: 1-800 324-1851.

25 - APRIL 1 Spring

Break. Shaker Schools closed. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY'S FUNDAZE, CALL 491-2583.

25 & 26 Vernal Thaw, 7:30 P.M., SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Verleza Dance Company performs. 491-1460.

29 Poetry Not in the Woods, 7 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Enjoy original poetry read by Susan Grimm, Brian Taylor and Mary Weems. 991-2030.

29 Immortal Paw Prints, 7 - 8:30 P.M., SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Tina W. Bulucea, MSSA, LISW leads support session for grieving pet owners. 407-4037 or tina@immortalpawprints.com

31 How to Select an Internet Service Provider, 10:00 - NOON, FAIRHILL CENTER, 12200 FAIRHILL RD. Coming unplugged by all the options? This workshop is designed to help get you connected. \$5/person. INFO: TOM CERJAK, 421-1350 EXT 125

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Events for April

1 First Friday Flick, 1 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Watch the comedy adventure *Without a Paddle*, about three city slickers who seek lost treasure. FREE. 991-2030.

1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 Shaker Center Stage, 7:30 P.M., TBD.

"Unpack Your Adjectives!" The former Boulevard Community Theatre has morphed into Shaker Center Stage and presents the pop culture phenomenon *Schoolhouse Rock*, based on the 1970s Saturday morning cartoon series.

Matinee performances at 2 p.m. April 2, 9, 10, 17. Tickets: \$15/adults; \$12/students & seniors; \$10/children. Group discounts available. 491-1360.

2, 9, 16, 17, 23, 24 & 30 Nature Walk, 3:30 TO 4:30 P.M., NATURE CENTER. Meet the week-

end naturalist at the front door for an informed talk and walk along the trails. FREE. 321-5935.

3 Daylight Savings Time. SPRING AHEAD! TURN YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR.

5 Environmental Town Hall Brown Bag Lunch, NOON, NATURE CENTER. Bring lunch, learn about an environmental issue and discuss it. FREE. 321-5935 EXT 236.

5 Business Book Discussion, 7:30 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *Black Enterprise Titans of the B. E. 100s: Black CEOs Who Redefined and Conquered American Business* by Derek T. Dingle. INFO: ED ROSSMAN, 991-2030.

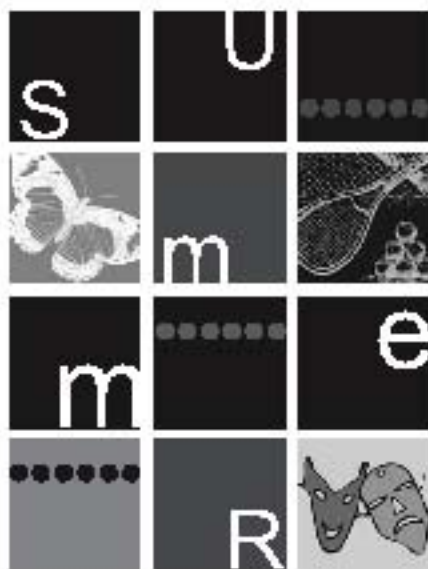
6 Teen Volunteer Fair, 6:30 – 8:30 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Teens 12 – 18 can find volunteer opportunities for commu-

nity service hours. Parents welcome. INFO: AUDREY LEVENTHAL, 991-2030.

7 A Mind of Her Own, 7 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature: Identity and Imagination series on father and daughters. Judith Oster and Rabbi Eric Bram lead a discussion on the book *American Pastoral* by Phillip Roth. A grant-funded program by ALA and Nextbook. 991-2030.

9 Armor & Sturtevant, 1 P.M. & 3 P.M., NATURE CENTER. *Resonant rubbish!* The celebrated environmental folk duo returns for a workshop on Creating Musical Instruments with Recycled Junk followed by a family concert at 3 p.m. 321-5935.

9 Book Discussion, 2 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *Where Trouble Sleeps* by Clyde Edgerton. 991-2030.



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Sports Camp for girls in basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, volleyball; coed camps in track & field/conditioning.

Robotics Camp for girls entering 4th – 8th grade.

Project Adventure/Outdoor Leadership Camp for girls entering 4th – 8th grade.

The Fairmount Performing Arts Camp for girls & boys entering 4th – 12th grade. This exciting new partnership between Laurel School and The Fairmount Center will offer workshops in musical theatre, contemporary theatre, and Shakespeare.

A wide variety of camps are offered for girls and boys of all ages and all interests.

For more information or to request a brochure, call Laurel School at 216.464.1441 Ext. 203.

11 & 25 Low Vision Support Group, SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Free support sessions for those dealing with vision loss. Transportation provided. 491-1348.

12 Babes in Nature, 10 A.M. OR 11 A.M., NATURE CENTER. Children two weeks to two years old can stroll over for nature's sensory experiences. Fee per stroller: \$5/member, \$7/non-member. Maximum 10 strollers per class with advance registration required: 321-5935.

12 Book Discussion, 10 A.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. 991-2030.

12 Rocket Launch, 3 P.M., SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL. Watch student creativity soar as middle school students launch rockets built in science class. This program is offered as part of the CAMLS North Coast Neighbors Share a Book promotion. (RAIN DATE: APRIL 13.) 991-2421.

Ongoing Senior Activities at the Community Building

Wednesdays: Coffee, Cookies & Conversation, 10 – 11 A.M., COMMUNITY BUILDING. Hear a speaker, enjoy entertainment, and socialize. INFO: 491-1360.

Thursdays: Open Bridge, 1 – 4 P.M., SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Shuffle over to the Community Building to see what's in the cards for you. Refreshments provided. \$1/session.

13 Early Childhood Education at St. Dominic School, 7:30 P.M., ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL, 3455 NORWOOD RD. Learn about early childhood education from St. Dominic School principal Joan Agresta, and teachers Heather Kinney, Agnes Maynard, and Jan Cicerchi. 561-4400.

14 Podiatry Care, 9 A.M., SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Simple foot care services on a first

come-first-served basis. \$15/person. 491-1460.

14 Nature Center Photography Club Meeting, 6 TO 8 P.M., NATURE CENTER. All photographers welcome in the meeting room. Info: Crystal Birns, 321-5935 ext 237 or e-mail: birns@shakerlakes.org. View Nature Center Photographers' album at www.shakerlakes.org/photographyclub.htm

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ONGOING FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays: Patricia S. Mearns Family Playroom, 9:30 A.M. – NOON, SHAKER FAMILY CENTER, 19824 SUSSEX RD. Indoor fun for families with children up to three years old. Afternoon playtime from 4 – 6 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays Thursdays & Fridays. FEES & INFO: 921-2023.

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays: Play and Learn Station and Play and Learn Babies, 10 A.M. – NOON, MAIN LIBRARY SECOND FLOOR. Free, drop-in, literacy-based play for parents and caregivers with children up to five years old, co-sponsored by Shaker Library and Shaker Family Center. Evening hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 – 8 p.m. 991-2030 OR 921-2023.

Saturdays: Open Gym, 10 A.M., SHAKER FAMILY CENTER, 19824 SUSSEX RD. *Tumble tots.* Indoor gym activities for parents and children up to five years old, through March. Discount passes available. FEES AND INFO: 921-2023.

Saturdays thru March 19: North Union Farmers Market, 9 A.M. – NOON, SHAKER TOWNE CENTRE, 16800 CHAGRIN BLVD. Stop and shop fresh and local! Buy maple syrup, jams, cashew crunch, honey, farm- fresh eggs, Meadowview Farms cheeses, winter greens, herbs, apples, organic grains, mushrooms, specialty baked goods, root vegetables, beef, and pork. Enjoy neighborly chitchat over hot Phoenix coffee at the Conversation Café. Browse the Artisan Gallery, and be sure to introduce yourself to winter market manager Helen Cherry.

Sundays: Recovery, Inc., 2 P.M., SOMERSET POINT RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, 3550 NORTHFIELD RD. Self-help group to help those with panics, depression, and anger learn to manage symptoms. INFO: NATALIE SILVERBERG, 595-9276 OR WWW.RECOVERY-INC.ORG



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14 – 17 Used Book Sale, MAIN LIBRARY. Friends of the Library sells a huge selection of gently used books in a variety of interesting categories. 991-2030.

15 Shaker Chapter AARP, 1:30 P.M., SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Meeting for 50+ set. 491-1460.

15 & 16 Spring Concert in Dance, 8 P.M. SHAKER HIGH.

16 Shaker Heights Lifestyle Tour, 10 A.M. – NOON, SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Buying or renting? Learn about all the options in Shaker including *Certified Shaker* rentals. 491-1370.

19 Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare, 7 P.M., HATHAWAY BROWN SCHOOL, 19600 N. PARK BLVD. *New York Times* Best Selling Author Stephen Greenblatt will talk about his book. A brief question and answer session will follow. TICKETS & INFO: 932-4214.

19 Mystery Book Discussion, 7:30 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss whodunit in *Ash Child* by Peter Bowen. 991-2030.

20 Instrumental Music Concert, 7 P.M., LAUREL SCHOOL, ONE LYMAN CIRCLE. Students perform. 464-1441.

21 Friends Program, 9:30 A.M., NATURE CENTER. Molly Flanagan, Director of Lake Erie Programs for the Ohio Environmental Council, will speak about ongoing environmental concerns that affect Lake Erie. 321-5935.

21 Health Roundtable, 11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M., HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 3400 LEE RD. Join an interactive group discussion on a variety of topics and get medical advice from City Nurse Sandi Hurley. Snacks provided.

21 Book Discussion, 3 P.M., WOODS BRANCH, 20600 FAYETTE RD. Read and discuss *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder. 991-2421.

21 An Evening of Jazz, 7 P.M., SHAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL. High School students heat up the gym with sizzling jazz.

23 Celebrate the Earth, 1 TO 5 P.M., NATURE CENTER. Enjoy live music, wildflower and nature walks, recycled crafts, Jungle Terry with his live animals, a b'earth'day cake, and more at this celebration for the whole family! Special earth stations include: information/education tables, Duck Pond gift store, energy efficient cars, meditation station, Earth Day chalk art, and, of course, face painting. Free. Rain or shine. 321-5935.


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23 How to Design and Plan Your Landscaping, 10 A.M. - NOON, SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. No more trowel and error! Let a landscape architect, help you develop a landscape plan and teach you how to select plants that will thrive on your property! Enjoy before and after pictures of good landscaping. FREE. 491-1370.

26 Nature Reads, 6 P.M., NATURE CENTER. Bring a brown bag supper and discuss *Walking* by Henry David Thoreau. Free. INFO: LESLIE, 321-5935 EXT 226.

26 Immortal Paw Prints, 7 - 8:30 P.M., SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Tina W. Bulucea, MSSA, LISW leads support session for grieving pet owners. 407-4037 or tina@immortalpawprints.com

26 Book Discussion, 7:30 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Read and discuss *Empire Falls* by Richard Russo. 991-2030.

27 Internet for Seniors Class, 2 - 4 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. You're never too old to surf... the Internet, that is! Sign up for this series of five informative classes through the Community Life Department. 491-1430.

27 Beam Invitational Art Opening, LAUREL SCHOOL.

27 Spring Concert, 8 P.M., LAUREL SCHOOL. Upper School students raise their voices. 464-1441.

28 Poetry Not in the Woods, 7 P.M., MAIN LIBRARY. Featured poets include Katie Daley and F. Keith Wahle with dancer Sharon Manuel. 991-2030.

28, 29 & 30 Spring Theatre Ensemble Show, 8 P.M., SHAKER HIGH. Bravo for stellar student performances.

29 Arbor Day 2005, SOUTHERLY PARK AT WEST PARK BLVD. BETWEEN S.

WOODLAND AND SHAKER BLVD. Fernway Elementary School students help the city celebrate Arbor Day by planting a Magnolia tree in the park. Seeking free tree topics? FOR VIRTUAL HELP VISIT WWW.ARBOR-DAY.ORG

30 How to Maintain Your Landscaping, 10 A.M. - NOON, SHAKER COMMUNITY BUILDING. Get the *dirt* from a landscape architect, who will talk about caring for shrubs, trees and perennials. Enjoy a hands-on demo of pruning, weeding and mulching to help make your landscaping look its best. Free. 491-1370.

Save the Date

June 11 & 12: Shaker Historical Museum Gracious Gardens Tour Benefit. *Estate plantings!* Save the dates for an evening benefit followed by a day of garden touring to benefit the Shaker Historical Society. 921-1201.

shaker | life

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Recommended Out of Shaker

AN ✓ DESIGNATES A NOT-TO-BE-MISSED EVENT

March 3: Yuri Lane and Sharif Ezzat – Tri-C Cultural Arts Showtime at High Noon, NOON, OHIO THEATRE AT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE, 1511 EUCLID AVE. *Middle Eastern mosaic.* Excerpts from the artists' hip-hop theatre piece, *From Tev Aviv to Ramallah: A Beatbox Journey*. Free.

March 11: Dino-Mite Dino Night, 7 P.M. – 8 A.M., CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, 1 WADE OVAL DRIVE. BYOB*, spend the night and learn about the bird-dinosaur connection. Adults must accompany children. \$33/person. 231-4600. (*BRING YOUR OWN BEDDING.)

✓ **March 11: Mary Black: Songs for Ireland, 7:30 P.M., CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, 11150 EAST BLVD.** An evening with the magnificent Irish singer Mary Black. \$28 - \$31/person. 707-6659.


March 15: Writers Center Stage, 7:30 P.M., OHIO THEATRE PLAYHOUSE SQUARE CENTER, 1511 EUCLID AVE. Author Frances Mayes (*Under the Tuscan Sun*) speaks about her life as a writer. Benefit for Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation. Tickets: \$35/person. 749-9486.

March 20: A Golden Future, 3:30 P.M., BEACHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, 25100 FAIRMOUNT BLVD. The Suburban Symphony Orchestra presents the Annual Young Soloists' Concerto Concert. TICKETS & INFO: 291-1596.

✓ **March 23: Defying Gravity, 7:30 P.M., CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, 11150 EAST BLVD.** Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, violin, with world-renowned Brazilian classical guitar duo Sérgio and Odair Assad, explore the many traditions of gypsy music from Spain to Russia and Hungary to France. TICKETS & INFO: 421-7350.

✓ **April 5: Writers Center Stage, 7:30 P.M., OHIO THEATRE PLAYHOUSE SQUARE CENTER, 1511 EUCLID AVE.** An evening with pre-eminent American novelist E. L. Doctorow (*Ragtime*, *Billy Bathgate*, *The Book of Daniel*). Doctorow has won the National Book Critics Circle Award, the National Book Award, and the PEN/Faulkner Award, and is a recipient of the William Dean Howells Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Proceeds benefit the Cuyahoga County Public Library Foundation. TICKETS \$35/PERSON. 749-9486.

April 6: Romantic Fervor, 7:30 P.M., CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, EAST BLVD. Enjoy one of the world's leading piano trios - The Peabody Trio with



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Walter Van Dyke, narrator. TICKETS & INFO: 421-7350.

April 8: 2nd Annual Cleveland Cabaret, 6 – 10 P.M., INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER, 9801 CARNEGIE AVE. Swing the night away at the Cleveland cabaret to benefit Young Audiences of Greater Cleveland. Enjoy the music and dance of the 1930s, '40s and '50 with the sounds of **Blue Lunch** and dance of **Get Hep Swing**. TICKETS \$150 - \$250/PERSON. 561-5005.

✓ **April 11 – May: 35th Annual Jewish Community Center Photography Show, 24001 S. WOODLAND RD.** Herb Ascherman, one of northeast Ohio's best known photographers, is the chairman of this show, which attracts hundreds of submissions from amateur, professional, and student photographers. 382-4000 EXT 215.

April 14: 6th Annual Faculty Lecture Series, URSULINE COLLEGE, 7 P.M., LITTLE THEATRE, IN THE MULLEN ACADEMIC CENTER LANDER RD. Ursuline College's Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences, Christine DeVinne, O.S.U., Ph.D., presents *The Shakers: Life as Gift*. DeVinne will speak about the Shaker's religious commitment and expression in word, work and worship based on her visits to Shaker sites in New England and the Midwest. Free. 440-646-8111.

April 17: Circle of Masks Festival, 1 – 4 P.M., CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, 11150 EAST BLVD. Mask making and performances kick off the parade season. 707-2483.

April 19: Tree City U.S.A. Awards Presentation, SOLON. *Tilling it like it is!* The City of Shaker Heights will receive its 20th Tree City U.S.A. Award. The award is part of a National Arbor Day Foundation program that recognizes U.S. towns and cities that have urban forestry programs.

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The Attack of the Stopwatch Nerds

BY JOHN R. BRANDT

Everywhere the Shakerite turns this spring, yet another neighbor or friend or local author is turning over a new leaf—simplifying his life or de-cluttering her house or adopting a more effective daily planner, blah, blah, blah. This is bad enough for Shaker Man, but these reformed slackers make it even worse by talking, incessantly, about their conversions from sloth to superefficiency. The *coup de grace* occurs when one of these well-meaning types actually foists a 300-page book about something called *The Promise of Organized Living* upon our hero.

“Can you believe it?” he says to Ms. Shaker Man. “As if.”

“As if what?”

“As if. You know. Like the teenagers say. As if, like, I needed that.”

“Are you trying to sound like a 14-year-old girl?”

“I’m trying to figure out where Mrs.-I’m-So-Perfect gets off telling me I need to be more organized.”

“Has she seen your desk?”

Shaker Man extends his hand as if reaching for a crisp, perfectly filed memo. “I know where everything is on that desk.”

Ms. Shaker Man reflects on this. “That’s true,” she offers at last. “Give or take 50 feet or so.”

Shaker Man’s clever retort—“Harumph”—leads to inspiration: He will outline his own Guide to Disorganized Living, a Manifesto of Messiness outlining the benefits of a low-stress approach to getting things done, sort of, eventually:

Conservation of Energy: The best thing about Shaker Man’s Theory of Disorganized Living is that it requires little or no action. While others are busy filing their credit card bills and tax receipts, Shaker Man is taking the air in

the back yard. While more anxious types are arranging their screwdrivers on a pegboard, Shaker Man is reading a newspaper in the den. As the hyper-organized carefully label boxes containing each season’s decorations, Shaker Man is relaxing with a glass of wine in front of the fire.

“That’s all just guilt and marketing, you know,” he says to his wife one afternoon as she arranges cans, boxes, and bags in the pantry.

“These cereal boxes?”

“The whole “Getting Organized” thing. It’s a cottage industry of stopwatch nerds who prey on people with low self-esteem. It’s all a scam to sell lame advice at high markups.”

“Interesting theory,” his wife replies, handing him six jars of marmalade. “So, because I like a neat house, I’m some kind of a victim of marketing?”

“I didn’t mean you.”

“OK, Mr. Laid Back, Let’s put it to the test: Tax day is April 15. Round up the receipts we need in less than a week, and then I’ll buy into this goofy Disorganized Living thing.”

It turns out that getting an enormous box and filling it with every single scrap of paper that comes into his home office isn’t quite as good an idea as it seemed 11 months ago. Spilling a Super-Venti Skim Latte into the boxes was even worse. Shaker Man’s usual method of extracting a particular piece of paper—eyeballing the pile and guessing that all the June stuff would be, oh, about 17 inches deep—doesn’t work when the entire pile has been fused together by coffee into one giant, wavy, crinkly lump.

Physical Fitness: Paradoxically, given the **Conservation of Energy** principle inherent in Disorganized Living, another benefit of this low-efficiency approach to life is improved physical fitness. Shaker

Man, for example, runs approximately 13.2 miles each morning without benefit of a treadmill, simply by racing up and down the steps, out to the van, back into house, down into the basement, up the stairs again, etc., as he shouts, at the top of his lungs:

“WHERE ARE MY CAR KEYS?”

“I NEED MY CELL PHONE!! DID ONE OF YOU KIDS MOVE IT?”

“DID YOU PRINT OUT THE DIRECTIONS?”

“HAS ANYBODY SEEN MY *^!%&&% WALLET?”

Increased Resourcefulness:

Perhaps the greatest benefit of Disorganized Living is the creativity and ingenuity it inspires in its adherents. Dullards who maintain orderly control over their home and belongings never experience the brain-clearing shot of adrenaline that comes with a realization that your mother-in-law will arrive in 30 minutes and there are still piles of newspapers, magazines—everything, really—all over the house. These unfortunate organizers will never thrill to the accomplishment a man feels upon stuffing all that clutter into grocery bags in 28 minutes. These sad neatniks will never comprehend the full strength of their own minds and bodies, a kind of understanding that only comes after a man’s third heave-to, which finally closes the door on a closet full of stuffed bags.

Then again, they will also never experience the cold, stinging chill of that singular moment in time when a mother-in-law says, upon taking off her coat and reach for the bulging closet door: “Don’t be silly. I can hang it myself...”



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