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LIFE



a fresh look for a legacy house



THE VAN AKEN DISTRICT - GOOD VIBES START HERE!

2026 EVENTS

Bloom & Buzz:	May 8
Block Party:	July 10
Fall Fest:	Oct. 17
Small Business Saturday:	Nov. 28
Chill & Toast:	Dec. 12

SUMMER LIVE MUSIC

May 28th through September 26th
5:30-8:30pm



Check our socials or website for more activities to be announced. [f](#) [in](#) [@](#)

THEVANAKENDISTRICT.COM/EVENTS

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When Support Matters Most

The Shaker Heights City School District advances educational equity through a multi-tiered system of support.



Art in Unexpected Places

Around a corner, on a green space, or on the walk home from school, Shaker's public artwork sparks conversation and embraces community.

A Fresh Look for a Legacy House

Heather and Arnoud Krijt had never owned a historic home before they purchased the stately home at the southwest corner of South Park Boulevard and Lee Road.



ON THE COVER

The newly renovated kitchen of the Krijt's historic home.

Photo by Kevin Reeves

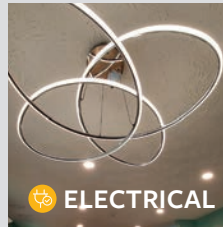
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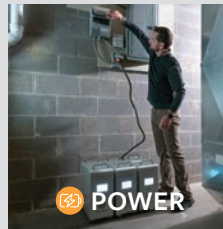
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SHAKER LIFE

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SHAKER LIFE does not accept unsolicited editorial material, but story suggestions, comments, and observations from residents are welcome. Contact the editor at shaker.mag@shakerheightsoh.gov, or SHAKER LIFE, 3400 Lee Rd., Shaker Heights, OH 44120. We cannot respond to every suggestion but each will be given consideration.

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APEX Awards recognize the country's best in graphic design, editorial content and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence published by professional communicators.



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Browse the Archives



The Subtle Power of Storytelling

Winter 2025

Veteran storyteller Nicolette Petrone proves storytime offers so much more than hearing a well-told tale. While Petrone agrees that running storytime is an art, much of her planning is informed by science.



Teaching Dog Owners New Tricks

Fall 2023

Chris Ramsay, owner of Shaker Hound Academy, helps owners train their dogs to be their best, thereby improving quality of life in the home, neighborhood, public spaces, and at work.



Finding the Perfect Home

Winter 2024

After 30-plus years in Florida, a Northeast Ohio native and her husband find their dream home. Donna Nahley bubbles over with excitement about Shaker Heights' trees, architecture, and the kindness of its community.



Shaker City News



2026 Will Be a Constructive Year

It's going to be a productive, but sometimes messy "construction season" in the months ahead, as the City embarks on, continues, and wraps up various major projects. Here's a primer to keep you informed.

Arcadia Construction will continue through early 2027 on this five-story, 250,000- square-foot mixed-use development at Warrensville Center and Farnsleigh roads. Arcadia will feature first floor retail and amenity spaces, second floor offices, and three floors of multifamily apartments with onsite parking. For regular construction updates, visit buildingarcadia.com.

Horseshoe Park The revitalization of Horseshoe Park will include stream restoration, new trails, a nature play area, outdoor classroom, overlooks, lounge swings and native paintings. Construction is expected to begin this fall.

Lee Road Complete Street Lee Road Complete Street will start this summer with utility work and later include road reconstruction and repaving, a three-lane re-configuration and, south of Van Aken, an off road, two-way cycle track, planters, benches, and lighting. The City has engaged community members on the design at community open

houses and discussions with business owners and neighbors. Temporary traffic detours will likely begin late this summer. Construction is expected to continue until 2029.

The Lynnfield/Lomond Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) project including road restoration – will likely wrap up by late summer. This ambitious project will expand the capacity of the area's sewer system in order to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows.

RTA Comfort Station The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, in cooperation with the City and the owners of the Van Aken District, is constructing a comfort station that will provide facilities for RTA staff, a public restroom, indoor and outdoor areas for those waiting for trains and buses, and new benches, landscaping, fencing, signage, and lighting. Estimated completion date: fall 2026.



For more information, go to the Construction Zone section of the City's website at: shakerheightsoh.gov/610/Construction-Updates or use this QR code.



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Note from Colleen:

Creative Play, College Exploration, Community Poetry Supported by Latest Community Empowerment Grants

By Colleen Jackson, Chief Culture and Engagement Officer

Established by the Culture & Engagement Committee, Community Empowerment Grants support initiatives that encourage meaningful community engagement in Shaker Heights.

The program provides grants of up to \$2,500 to individuals or groups who are passionate about addressing systemic barriers, promoting cultural understanding, and creating opportunities for underrepresented voices to be heard.

The most recent awardees are:

I-Play An organization that focuses on helping children build confidence, resilience, and emotional wellness through group therapy, mentorship, and creative expression, I-Play received a grant for an “Electronics Down, Activities Up” campaign. This youth wellness initiative was designed to reduce screen dependency while promoting physical activity, mental wellness, and positive peer engagement through structured programming. The campaign replaces excessive electronic use with daily movement, mentorship, and skill-building activities.

My Brother’s Keeper Some 20-25 students in the Shaker Heights High School group, My Brother’s Keeper, will tour the following institutions: Central State University, Wilberforce University, Ohio University, Kent State University, and The University of Akron. Each visit on this College Exposure Experience will allow students to

engage with admissions staff, explore academic programs, and gain firsthand exposure to campus life, helping them make more informed decisions about their future educational pathways. The group is led by Frederick Clemon, the high school’s student support coordinator, and Bryson Haynes, senior director of education and youth development with the Urban League.

Poetry Jam 2026 organized by Monica Boone, Poetry Jam 2026 will feature powerful spoken-word and heartfelt performances with voices from a range of ages and backgrounds, fostering dialogue to address social issues under the central theme of “Overcoming, Thriving, and Finding Purpose.” The event aims to inspire both participants and audience members to reflect deeply, connect through shared experiences, and spark meaningful conversations that extend beyond the stage, encouraging collective growth and a renewed sense of hope for the future.

Past Community Empowerment Grants have funded a design empowerment and vendor connection day; a youth lacrosse clinic; SkateFest and community workshop; the THRIVE Together Program, which teaches holistic resilience; and a lecture series focused on personal safety and protection.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at colleen.jackson@shakerheightsoh.gov.

2026 RECREATION SIGNATURE EVENTS

Map out some summer fun with a variety of family-friendly events organized by the Shaker Heights Recreation Department.

Use the QR code below for dates and details, or go to shakerheightsoh.gov/250/Signature-Events.



Kicking off with the Spring Ice Spectacular at Thornton Park in early May, the festivities continue with the Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade, followed by the first of several holiday pool parties, including the annual observation of Juneteenth.



National Night Out returns

National Night Out (NNO) is celebrated annually in communities across the U.S. to promote positive police-community partnerships and build safer neighborhoods. Held this year on Tuesday, August 4, 6-8pm, at Van Aken District, NNO promises an evening of music, food, giveaways, demonstrations, and more.

“National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for residents to come together in one location and engage with the first responders who serve and protect Shaker Heights,” says Police Chief Wayne D. Hudson. “I truly enjoy seeing our community and staff interact in such a positive and meaningful way. At the SHPD, we value our strong partnership with the community and remain committed to working together to keep our city safe.”



Nominate a Project for a 2026 Preservation Award by April 30

Through April 30, the Shaker Heights Landmark Commission is seeking nominations for 2026 Preservation Awards. This biennial program recognizes and highlights success in preserving, rehabilitating, restoring, or interpreting the architectural integrity and cultural heritage of a Shaker Heights home or building.



Nominations may be submitted by property owners, architects, or contractors for all residential and non-residential building types by using the QR code on this page or visiting shakerheightsoh.gov/Preservation-Awards-Form.. Exterior projects completed after March 2024 are eligible.

PROJECTS MAY BE NOMINATED IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- > Retention of Original Materials
- > Exterior Restoration
- > Excellence in Stewardship
- > Architecturally Appropriate Addition
- > Distinguished Landscape
- > Other

Submissions will be accepted online through April 30, 2026. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in fall 2026. View the 2024 Preservation Awards recipients at shakerheightsoh.gov/2024-awards.



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Doan Brook Watershed Partnership Names New Executive Director

The Doan Brook Watershed Partnership Board of Trustees (DBWP) has appointed Emily J. Kao its new executive director. Kao will lead the organization’s efforts to protect and restore the Doan Brook watershed, advance environmental education, and strengthen community engagement across the region.

“Emily brings an exceptional combination of leadership, environmental expertise, and community-centered vision,” says DBWP Board of Trustees President and Shaker Heights Councilmember Nancy R. Moore. “Her understanding of watershed science, commitment to ecological stewardship, and ability to build collaborative partnerships make her an ideal leader for this next chapter of the organization.”

Kao earned a bachelor’s degree in Environment and Sustainability from Cornell University. She served most recently as DBWP watershed program manager.

“Doan Brook is a vital part of our region’s ecosystem and culture,” Kao says. “I look forward to deepening collaborations with community partners and watershed residents as we work together to restore native habitat, improve water quality, and build ecological resilience in Greater Cleveland and beyond.”

DBWP is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Doan Brook and its surrounding watershed through stewardship, education, and community engagement. The partnership is funded in part by the City of Shaker Heights.

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At left, a recent image of Sara Miller with students at Carol Nursery School. Above and right, Miller's early days of teaching. All photos courtesy of Carol Nursery School.

43 Years of Teaching Through Play and Exploration Beloved Carol Nursery School Director to Retire

As the current school year winds down, Carol Nursery School Director Sara Miller has reason to feel extra nostalgic. Miss Sara, as her students know her, is preparing to retire after more than 40 years of teaching and directing at this beloved Shaker institution.

"It's a really special place, and it's very bittersweet leaving," says Miller. "I love working with the children, but I also really enjoy working with parents. I think that's why I moved into the director role. I enjoy that piece of working with the whole family."

At a time when the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the median employee tenure is less than four years, Miller has devoted a four-decade career to Carol Nursery School. She joined the school as a teacher in 1982 and spent 27 years in the classroom before becoming director in 2009.

Over those years she touched the lives of more than 4,000 children, many of whom have returned over the years to enroll their own children at Carol.

"I always wanted to work with young children," says Miller. "That's what I went into in college, and I volunteered at an elementary school while in college. Honestly, I always thought I would teach kindergarten, but when I found Carol Nursery School and their philosophy, and just observing the classrooms before I worked there, I was hooked. And I never left!"



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“I still remember sitting with then-Director Mimi Ormond during my interview and being immediately struck by her warmth, passion, and enthusiasm for the school,” Miller recalls. “It became clear right away that Carol embodied everything I was looking for – a place that truly partnered with families and honored learning through play and exploration.”

Her connection to the community deepened further when her own daughters attended the school.

As director, Miller focused on nurturing both children and educators. Under her leadership, Carol expanded its programming while staying rooted in its child-centered philosophy. Notable initiatives include:

- > The Discovery Lab, designed to encourage hands-on STEM exploration
- > An afterschool enrichment program for Pre-K students, offering sports and creative arts
- > The Grads Give Back Fund, which supports Carol families and staff facing unexpected hardships

“Sara Miller has done more for the Carol Nursery School community than can ever be fully described,” says Board President Tessa Miller. “Through her steady and compassionate leadership, she has helped shape the very foundation of what makes Carol so special. Her leadership has created a legacy rooted



DOAN BROOK RESTORATION
AT HORSESHOE PARK, MARCH 2025 RENDERING

Work in the watershed

DOAN BROOK RESTORATION AT HORSESHOE PARK

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District has completed the design phase of this project. We hope you will continue to be a part of the conversation and the future of this important community space. neorsd.org/DoanBrook

LOWER SHAKER LAKE PROJECT

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has determined that Lower Lake’s Class 1 High Hazard dam is out of compliance with state safety standards. The Sewer District continues to work with the Cities to resolve this public risk. Learn more about our recommendation and what we’ve learned: neorsd.org/LowerLake



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in care, connection, and community that will continue to guide Carol Nursery School for many years to come.”

Looking to the future, the board president is extremely confident the school will continue to thrive.

“Our incoming director, Erin Magaw, has worked closely with Sara – including the past five years as assistant director. Erin, along with the entire teaching staff, embodies the same values, care, and commitment that have long defined the school. With such a strong and dedicated team in place, Carol is well positioned to uphold its mission and carry forward the goals and beliefs that have made it such an incredible place for families,” Tessa Miller says.

Sara Miller concurs. “While leaving after so many years is emotional, I do so knowing Carol is in caring hands. Erin Magaw is deeply dedicated to the philosophy and community Carol is known for.”

Magaw joined Carol 16 years ago as a teacher after working as a nanny for a family whose children attended the school. “I was immediately drawn to its thoughtful, child-centered philosophy,” Magaw says.

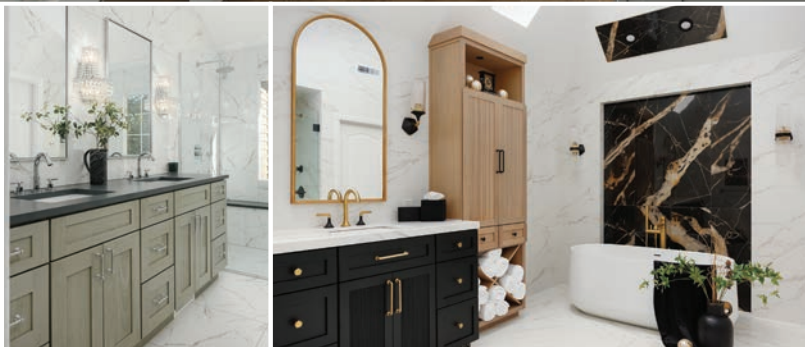
“Sara has been an exceptional mentor. She demonstrated the importance of leading with empathy and staying grounded in what’s best for each child,” Magaw says.

As she prepares to step into the director role, Magaw sees the transition as a continuation of Carol’s mission. “Carol’s philosophy and commitment to children will continue to guide everything we do.”





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Shaker Social



The Shaker Heights Community

f Neighbor #1 Ms. Frizzell at Boulevard is helping make sure kids have what they need during the school day – things like a snack, dry socks after a wet walk to school, or extra layers when the weather turns cold. Kids can simply raise their hand, and support is there. It's pretty special.

Neighbor #2 Thank you for sharing! We'll get some from Costco and I'll message you when we have them.

Neighbor #3 Wait... is there literally a teacher named Ms. Frizzell?

Neighbor #1 Yup – she really is just as magical. Imagine having a hard moment at school and being able to simply raise your hand, talk to a trusted adult, or grab a snack – no questions asked. I wish we talked about this kind of care more when we talk about what makes our schools special.

Neighbor #4 She works for Shaker Heights Youth Center and is a full-time social worker at Boulevard. She is great!



Living in Shaker Heights

f Neighbor #1 How's the ice skating at Thornton Park? I'm dating someone from Brazil and they wanted to try ice skating. I've always driven past it but never tried it myself. **Neighbor #2** Definitely fun. If you or your date don't know how to skate, they have stacks of buckets you can hold on to for balance. Everyone is friendly and there will be the full range of skating abilities so you don't have to feel weird if you're just hobbling around the outside (which is what I do, lol). **Neighbor #3** It's fun. Sometimes gets crowded on Friday nights when it's open-skate, but still fun. **Neighbor #4** Certain sessions are less busy than others. Ice quality is pretty good.



Lomond Association

f Neighbor #1 Today, I'm grateful for this community. I needed to break down a very beloved piano in order to move it out of my house. So, I posted here to see if anyone could possibly repurpose any parts of it. It turns out our neighbor Jared Lemberg is an exceptional woodworker and came to the rescue! Jared made this beautiful table out of a piece of my piano – and

I could not be happier. Thank you, Jared, and thank you, Lomond Association!

Neighbor #2 It was great to meet you, Nora! I hope your table is a good reminder of your piano.

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Shaker Grams

We see you seeing Shaker.

- > H/T to those capturing the community.
- > Tag your photos to #shaker365.
- > You might just see them on these pages!



@bantercleveland | Mom's meatloaf poutine



@bloomandbeyond2025 | Forever flowers



@blddcdesign | Design dynamos



@crowleysdive | Savory sustenance



@shakerlakes | Awaiting the sprouts



@chutnipunch | Punched-up fried rice



@rayeliving | Expansive view



@shakerockscimbing | Reach new heights



@billthelawyer | Modern nostalgia

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- To provide quality training to property owners & real estate professionals.
- To engage in outreach to the public.



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Thursday, April 30, 4-6 pm

Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Building (3450 Lee Rd.)

This event is designed to bring together homeowners, tenants and landlords, and many community resource organizations with information on housing discrimination, landlord tenant law, home repair and improvement, foreclosure and property tax assistance, lead paint, and more! Featured presenters include Shaker Heights Municipal Court Judge Anne Walton Keller, along with staff from The Fair Housing Center and the City's Building & Housing Department.

Register with the QR code or at
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Shaker Schools News



Watch the SHHS Commencement Livestream on June 4

Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 4, 2026 for Shaker Heights High School Commencement! The Class of 2026 is an incredible group of leaders, learners, and creators with remarkable skills and talents. With the Class of 2026, the sky is the limit! Please join us in celebrating their accomplishments. Community members may watch the livestream at shaker.org/commencement.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SERIES

 Shaker Heights Schools

Superintendent's Series Introduces Timely Topics to Community

Earlier this spring, the Shaker Heights Schools hosted a four-part Superintendent's Series to engage in timely conversations about the ideas and initiatives shaping Shaker Heights Schools. Superintendent David Glasner and key leaders across the District discussed generative AI, inclusive excellence, the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme, and detracking with community members. Visit shaker.org/superseries to view a recording of each session.



Enroll Now for the 2026-27 School Year

Enrolling your student in the Shaker Heights City School District is easy. And if you have an incoming preschooler, register your child for the Ludlow Early Learning Center. Parents and guardians of students in Grades PreK-12 can visit shaker.org/enroll and complete all the necessary documents online, then schedule a by-phone appointment to review the completed forms and to complete registration for your student. For more information, please contact the Registration Office, 216-295-4321. The office is located in the Shaker Heights Schools Welcome Center in the Shaker Heights Main Library. Telephone support is available from 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. In-person office hours are 9am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.



Evolution of Excellence: Growing the Shaker Schools Foundation

As Ohio's first private foundation for a public school system, the Shaker Schools Foundation has evolved to meet the changing needs of our students. Beyond traditional grants, the Foundation now champions social emotional learning, equity, opportunity assistance, and cutting-edge career paths.

Over the years, the Foundation's core belief has remained constant: Strong community investment builds strong public schools. Whether the Shaker Schools Foundation is funding a new playground, a new course, international travel, or a field trip, its team ensures that every student has access to enrichment that goes beyond the traditional classroom.

The Shaker Schools Foundation is powered by the generosity of neighbors like you. Join us in providing the 'extra' that makes a Shaker education life-changing. Learn more or make a donation at shakerschoolsfoundation.org/donate.



The planetarium upgrades in 2025 were made possible by the Shaker Schools Foundation.

A LEGACY OF IMPACT

1981

The Foundation is established with an initial investment of \$620.

1992

The first "A Night for the Red & White" gala debuts, beginning an annual signature community tradition.

2008

Major renovation of the High School's Large Auditorium is completed.

2011

The Legacy Fund (*general endowment*) is established to ensure long-term stability.

2019-2020

Launched robotics, advanced engineering, and manufacturing courses to bridge the gap between school and career.

2021-2022

Installation of Lomond and Boulevard design labs, transformation of the Fernway playground, and opening of the Raider Athletic Center.

2023

Expansion of creative arts with the High School's fashion design course.

2025

Creation of a community playground at Ludlow Early Learning Center, planetarium upgrades, and installation of a recording studio at SHHS.

2026

With over \$7M in assets, the Foundation fuels over 50 annual awards, innovative teaching grants, opportunity assistance, and major capital projects that define the Shaker experience.

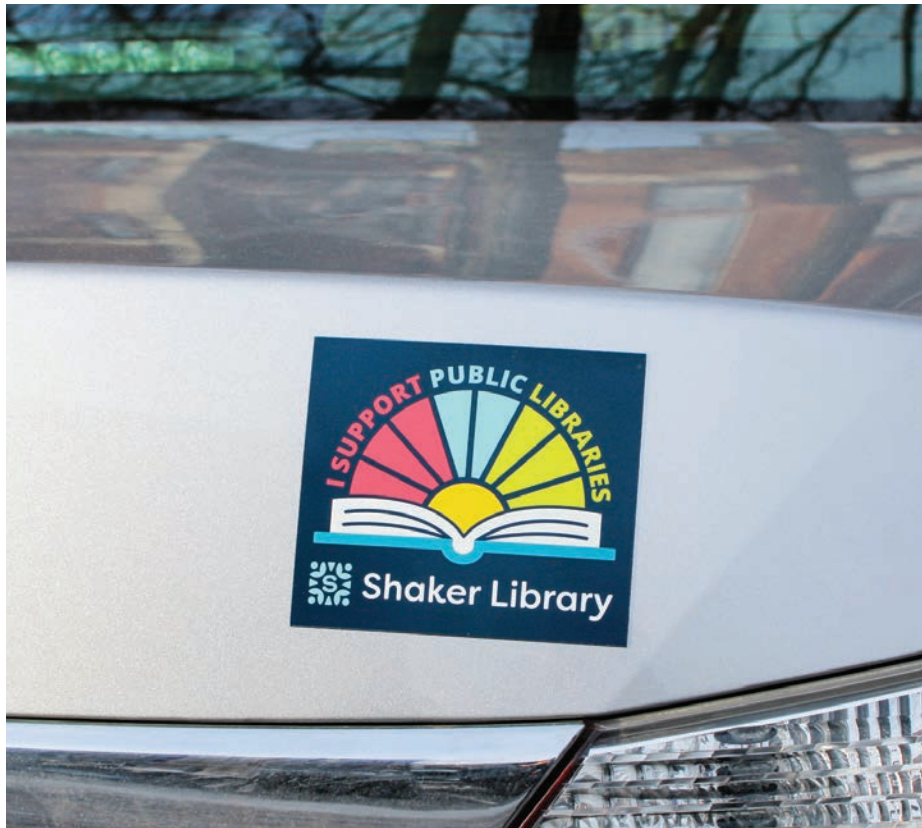
Shaker Library News



Authors Melody Chu and Margaret Wong to Unite for AAPI Heritage Month Celebration

Shaker residents and longtime family friends Melody Chu, author of *Mathey Girls*, and renowned immigration attorney Margaret Wong, author of *The Immigrant's Way*, will speak at Shaker Main Library on Tuesday, May 5 at 7pm. They plan to discuss the writing process, the Chinese American community of Cleveland, the state of U.S. immigration policy, living in Shaker, and more. Books will be available for sale and signing through Loganberry Books.

Co-sponsored by Shaker Library and the Shaker Historical Society, this conversation is part of the America 250-Ohio celebration of Ohio Arts, Culture & Literature, and recognizing May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Register at events.shakerlibrary.org.



Shaker Library to Launch Year-Long Adult Reading Challenge

You asked for a reading challenge for adults. We listened.

This year, Shaker Library invites you to expand your literary horizons with our 2026 Reading Challenge, a mix of fun book prompts, library resources, branded swag, and a midsummer celebration.

Pick up a bingo board at either library branch or visit shakerlibrary.beanstack.org to get started. Mark off a square every time you finish a book or complete an activity.

Complete one bingo and select a free book from the Friends of the Library Neverending Book Sale. Complete three bingos for a bumper magnet or sticker of your choice. Fill the whole board by February 1, 2027 and take home the grand prize, a coveted Shaker Library mug adorned with our beautiful new logo.

Save the date for a midsummer celebration at Bertram Woods to share favorite reads and mingle with fellow readers on July 8 at 7pm. Learn more at shakerlibrary.org/readers-challenge.




Tara Pringle Jefferson to Speak at Shaker Library April 21

Cleveland native and author Tara Pringle Jefferson will speak about her book *Bloom How You Must: A Black Woman's Guide to Self-Care and Generational Healing* at Shaker Main Library on Tuesday, April 21 at 7pm.

A unique blend of guidebook and journal, Jefferson's book explores how self-care and community care sustained Black women for generations and transforms her findings into a blueprint women can follow in their daily lives. *Bloom How You Must* is a love letter to the millions of Black women who want a less stressful life but don't know where to begin.

Books will be available to preorder through Loganberry Books or to purchase at the event. Register at events.shakerlibrary.org.



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Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale Slated for April 29 – May 3

Mark your calendars. The Friends of the Shaker Library are hosting their Spring Book Sale on the second floor of Main Library the last week of April and first week of May.

The sale offers thousands of books in well-organized categories at prices as low as 50 cents. All proceeds fund library programming for all ages, including Summer Reading.

The Spring Book Sale hours are as follows:

Wednesday, April 29, 4-8pm
Friends' Preview Night: Friends members get first dibs on book bargains. Not a Friend? Join at the door.

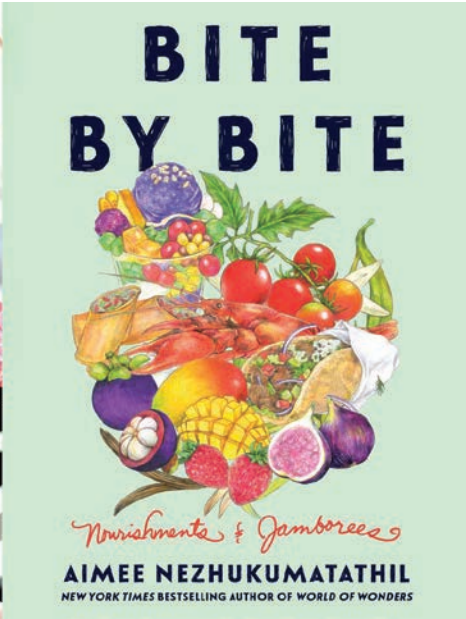
Thursday, April 30, 10am-7pm

Friday, May 1, 12-4pm

Saturday, May 2, 12-4pm

Sunday, May 3, 1:30-3:30pm
Bag Sale Sunday: Fill a bag of books for \$8. Items in the Specials Room are half price.

Learn more at shakerlibrary.org/friends



Eight Public Libraries to Host County-Wide Read of *Bite By Bite* this Spring

Join eight public library systems across Cuyahoga County, including Shaker Library, to read, gather, and share stories about food and community.

After being awarded the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read grant, library leadership selected Aimee Nezhukumatathil's memoir, *Bite by Bite: Nourishments and Jamborees*, from a list of potential titles.

The book, published in April 2024, is a collection of short essays that connect the author's experiences with foods

like mangoes, shaved ice, and lumpia to her Filipino and Indian heritage, as well as broader themes of nature and human connection.

Nezhukumatathil uses 40 different foods as a lens to explore memory, identity, family, and culture, blending personal stories with botanical facts, history, and Fumi Nakamura's illustrations.

Nezhukumatathil will speak at a Guided Tasting event, open to all, at Cleveland Public Library's Main Branch on Wednesday, April 29 at 6pm. Attendees will sample flavors as the author guides us in a writing activity to spark creativity and reflection. Then, on Thursday, April 30 at 11:30am, Nezhukumatathil will visit the City Club of Cleveland.

To reserve tickets for these author events and learn more about the book discussions, cooking workshops, open mic nights, and other related programming hosted by area libraries, visit cuyahogareads.org.








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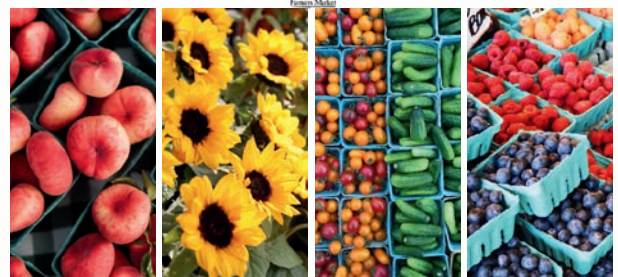
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18 months - Grade 12 Open House
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The Library's New Look

There are hours of thoughtful conversation behind even a simple change in the way an organization presents itself, which is true for the effort that sparked a new brand and website for Shaker Library, set to launch later this spring.

Written by [Lyndsey Brennan](#)

In the summer of 2024, a dozen neighbors sat around a table at Shaker Main Library: A teacher. A lawyer. A stay-at-home parent. An elected official. An author. A Girl Scout troop leader. A city planner. A fitness instructor.

An outsider looking in may have detected little in common among group members. But during their conversation, a throughline emerged: Each attendee was a diehard library user. An opinionated diehard library user.

They'd been invited to give no-holds-barred feedback on just about every aspect of the library's communications – its website, its email newsletters, quarterly event brochure, and other forms of communication, its social media pages, its logo and brand – and they had a lot to say.

The conclusion was unanimous: The way they felt about the library was overwhelmingly positive. They loved the friendly, helpful staff. They loved the airy, calming buildings stacked with meeting spaces and resources. They had fond memories of enjoying books and events with family and friends. They felt proud to call Shaker their home library.

But the brand? That is to say, the visual representation of the library's identity that includes colors, fonts, and the logo? That didn't inspire the same kind of pride in the group, and it didn't align with how they felt and thought about the library.

But that was about to change.



A Word About Color

The colors in our new palette were pulled straight from the Main Library building.

The reliable administrative colors, teal and navy, work well with the fun accent colors of ice, watermelon, and lime, which read playful, fresh, energetic, and exciting – like our library and its staff.

Bill Sattler and Ashley Lawson of Madhouse Creative in Toledo, worked to ensure the colors had sufficient contrast (technically called luminance contrast ratio) for easy readability in digital and print formats, especially for people who struggle to see.



Bill Sattler and Ashley Lawson of Madhouse Creative.

An Ode to Community

If the first phase of Shaker Library's renovation were the actual buildings, the second was the look of its communications.

"We knew we wanted to be accessible in every sense of the word," says Shaker Library Director Amy Switzer. "It wasn't going to work if we had these beautiful, accessible buildings but no one could read the signs to get around."

As communications and marketing manager with a background as a reporter, my priority was accessibility – removing barriers to reading library communications.

My grandma, raised in the Great Depression, never got to finish third grade, and in journalism school, we learned how to write so someone like her could access the news, too.

We used simple sentence structure, practical vocabulary, and short paragraphs with exciting quotes to carry the story forward, so that readers at many skill levels could understand and process the big ideas we were writing about.

Overhauling the library's communications design would involve writing too, but more importantly, design. We'd use color, shapes, and typeface to ensure our communications were visible, literally, to people who struggle to see. And we'd use clean, understandable design structure to help people who have trouble reading to digest the information.

To help with the brand redesign, we hired Bill Sattler and Ashley Lawson at Madhouse Creative in Toledo, who had designed a striking, modern, and timeless brand for the Toledo Lucas County Public Library years prior. Their love for libraries was plain in their designs, and we knew they'd bring that passion into our project.



Shaker Library



Shaker Library

Before beginning the project, there were several opportunities to gather input from customers, stakeholders, and staff. Library staff created vision boards that spoke about the work we are currently doing and want to do in the future. We conducted a community-wide survey. And we hosted focus groups, where Sattler and Lawson asked questions about the library's identity and personality.

From there, we came up with a slogan: A space to be.

Everyone deserves a space to be. This is yours. A space to be anything. Curious. Creative. Productive. Inspired. Supported. Together. Yourself.

To create the logo, a visual representation of this "space to be," Sattler and Lawson took inspiration from two sources.

The first were quilt squares, which, with their many pieces coming together from different sources to create one cohesive whole, felt like a metaphor for a community.

The second was a drop cap, the oversized letter that orients readers on a page and shows them where to start, which felt like a metaphor for the library. (New ideas start here at the library. New residents, new readers, and new friendships start here.)

Sattler and Lawson arranged the shapes to represent community members coming together at the library to read, to plan, to share stories and information, and to connect.

Though there are shapes representing books in the logomark, they are simple enough to represent other things too, for instance petals (representing growth), sun rays (representing warmth), or arms reaching out (representing support).



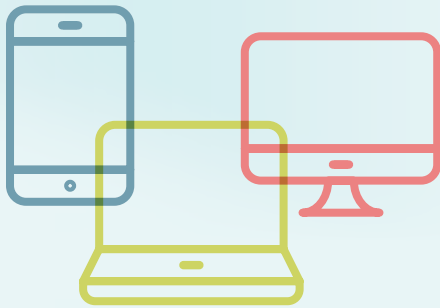
“ I feel proud of the brand. It reflects the good work we're doing. We're a modern library. We're fresh, responsive, and inclusive. And now, our logo is as modern as our services are. It says, 'We're here for you, today. Right now.' ”

Shaker Library Director Amy Switzer

"We wanted to lean into one of Shaker's greatest strengths – its community – and present imagery that would represent not just the books but the elements and personalities that make up the library community," Sattler says.

The logo we ended up with is simple, welcoming, and friendly. "As designers, we can sometimes make things more complicated than they need to be," says Sattler. "But the most successful brands, the best vehicles to tell your story, are ones that are usable and understandable."

"I feel proud of the brand," says Switzer. "It reflects the good work we're doing. We're a modern library. We're fresh, responsive, and inclusive. And now, our logo is as modern as our services are. It says, 'We're here for you, today. Right now.'"



An inclusive digital space

Once the brand was established, my colleagues and I turned our attention to the website. Susie Brown, the digital services manager at Shaker Library, led the charge.

We brought in The FORM Group, a Cleveland-based design firm which had done fantastic website work for organizations like the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Beech Brook, and Great Lakes Theater.

"Our big goals for the website were that it would be intuitive to navigate, load quickly and responsively across devices, and be accessible to everyone, including people using screen readers or navigating with a keyboard," says Brown. "We knew FORM would deliver all that – and make it pretty too."

"The website is one of the first places people encounter us. For some folks, it's the only place they're using library services," says Switzer. "So it was important to us that it deliver the same quality customer service – friendly and prompt – that you're getting in person."

Filson Soft

A Word About Fonts

A font is a brand's visual tone of voice. Oftentimes, it's a person's first impression of an organization. And that is why it is so important to get it right. For many authors and publishers it's also a key part of the reading experience and in some books the font choice is called out in a book note.

Shaker Library has chosen a font called Filson Soft, which provides a friendly tone while remaining highly legible.

Research has found that fonts with these characteristics are easiest to read, especially for people who struggle to process text:

- Wide letter shapes
- Loose (rather than tight) spacing between letters
- Even thickness on all strokes
- Open (rather than closed) letters, especially with the "c" and "e"

The new Shaker Library font ticks all those boxes.

Staff at The FORM Group identified why visitors were mainly coming to our website: to search the catalog, check hours and locations, manage their accounts, or browse and register for events.

From there, they developed navigational menus and integrated custom search tools that would make these core tasks as easy as possible to complete, says Katelyn Gerber, FORM's managing director.

The new website won't be easier just for cardholders to use. Library staff will benefit from new tools on the back end, saving us precious time and energy.



Photo: Robert Muller

Accessibility remained a key priority here, as well. "We implemented a robust list of accessibility standards to ensure the website is fully usable for as many people as possible," says Gerber.

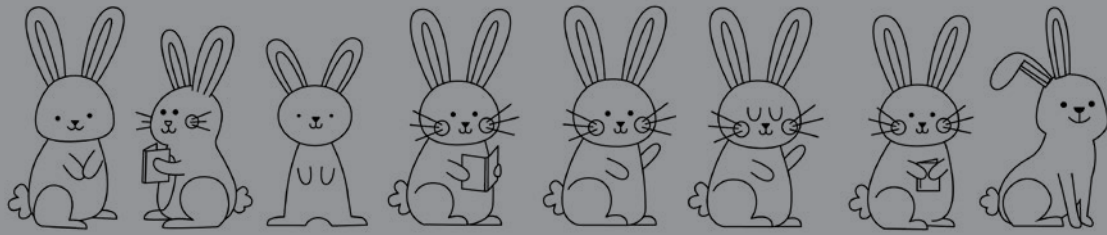
This includes front-facing elements like sufficient color contrast, image alt text, and audio transcripts. It also includes technologies on the back end that will ensure people using assistive technology (like screen readers) can interact with the site as well as anyone else, on any device.

"Accessibility is not just a checklist. It's about reflecting Shaker Library's commitment to creating a fully inclusive digital space that

serves the entire community," Gerber says. Switzer's hope is that the new brand and website will serve our community well, and as a result, the community will come to embrace them.

"These are big changes, and a lot of brilliant people have put a lot of thought and care into them. We only hope the community loves them as much as we do." **SL**

Lyndsey Brennan is the communications and marketing manager for Shaker Heights Public Library



A Sense of Magic

As a kid, the library felt magical to me. That’s how you get library kids to become library teens and library adults — hook them early with a sense of wonder. A mascot can really help with that. I’ve seen it done at other libraries.

I asked around and quickly found that Snowball the Bunny, Ms. Nicki’s storytime puppet, had a cult following with all ages, so she was a shoo-in.

Then there was the giant dragon stuffed animal Switzer named Serafina, who appeared in the Main Library Children’s Room following the renovation. She brings enough heft, fire, and edge to balance Snowball’s sweet innocence. They’re an unlikely pair – but that’s why it works.



To illustrate Snowball and Serafina and generate a new brand for Shaker’s summer reading program, Shaker Reads, the library brought on Cleveland-based illustrator Katie Daugherty.

“It was important to me to create something that appealed to different ages,” says Daugherty. “I wanted any kid to feel like this program is for them, not just the ‘big’ kids or the ‘little’ kids.”

Daugherty hoped that adding colorful, whimsical illustrations to the Summer Reading materials would garner excitement, bring joy, and allow space for imagination. “A photo, or even a photorealistic image of something like a dragon, just doesn’t give the same sense of play.”

The staff and customers responded so well to the illustrations that they now appear on backpacks, bumper stickers, and even on the new library cards. All we need now is a Serafina mascot suit so she can be in the Memorial Day parade.

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University Circle Campus | Grades 9–12

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WHEN SUPPORT MATTERS MOST

The Shaker Heights City School District advances educational equity through a multi-tiered system of support

Written by **Julie Hullett**

Photography by **Gus Chan**

Educational equity remains one of the pillars of the student experience in the Shaker Heights Schools. Equity is woven into the fabric of academics, athletics, extracurricular activities, and support services that the District provides to its students. A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), is integral to this equity work. District MTSS Equity Coordinator Lydia Kruse describes MTSS as a framework to provide all students with the support that they need when they need it.

“We often describe MTSS with an analogy from the medical field. If you go to the doctor for a headache, the doctor will determine what is causing it and use a menu of options to prevent and treat it. It is unusual for someone to go to the doctor with a headache and leave the office headed for surgery without collecting diagnostic data and considering a variety of treatment options first,” Kruse says. “We use proactive measures for all students and scale up our supports as needed.”

MTSS is not brand new to the Shaker Heights Schools. In fact, this work has taken place for many years. However, bringing Kruse to Shaker allowed the District to develop a streamlined approach

that is consistent across all school buildings. Kruse joined the District team in December 2024 with the support of grant funding through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Three Tiers of Support

“MTSS is going to be very advantageous to our students,” says Mercer Elementary School Principal Roneisha Campbell. “MTSS helps us provide our students with responsive supports that are tailored to their individual needs.”



MTSS Equity Coordinator Lydia Kruse leads a professional learning day at the Ludlow Early Learning Center.



“We use proactive measures for all students and scale up our supports as needed.”

Lydia Kruse, MTSS equity coordinator

Shaker Heights Middle School students attend the Sources of Strength Wellness Fair, where they explore resilience, healthy habits, gratitude, positive friendships, and trusted supports through interactive stations.



Ludlow Early Learning Center staff members discuss a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) during a professional learning day (left). Meghan Shelby oversees MTSS and other student support structures in her role as Director of Student Services (right).

MTSS uses three tiers of academic and social emotional supports to identify students' needs and provide interventions. All students receive academic and social emotional Tier 1 supports, which help them meet state learning standards. One of the latest additions for elementary school students is Wit and Wisdom, the new language arts curriculum.

Although Wit and Wisdom is specifically a language arts curriculum, it works to integrate science and social studies into the educational materials for language arts. This has made it a perfect fit for the District's International Baccalaureate (IB) programming, which shares the same principles of instruction. For example, Grade 4 students study a unit called "A Great Heart" and the IB Learner Profile attribute "Caring" and "Courageous." This unit incorporates reading literature about caring people and nonfiction about people of great courage, while also learning about the cardiovascular system and how a human heart works.

Tier 1 also includes social emotional supports for all students, which are based on the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) matrix. Kruse describes PBIS as a framework for ensuring that students learn and receive feedback about behaviors. PBIS teams help to create a climate at the school where students understand expectations and receive positive reinforcement for following those expectations. Each school has a PBIS team and works closely with a Positive Behavior Coordinator (PBC).

Sources of Strength is an example of a Tier 1 social emotional support. Sources of Strength is a mental health promotion program that provides students with knowledge and tools to improve their well-being and resilience, while teaching healthy coping skills and a sense of belonging.

Another social emotional Tier 1 program is the Sandy Hook Promise Start with Hello program. Kelly Bailey, a school counselor at Shaker Heights Middle School, reflects on the success of implementing this campaign.

"Each fall, the school counseling department organizes a schoolwide Sandy Hook Promise Start with Hello Campaign to promote inclusion and decrease social isolation," Bailey says. "We do this in collaboration with our Student Council Ambassadors and the Art Department with week-long activities for students and staff. In the end, students are able to initiate conversations with new peers, demonstrate inclusive behavior in social settings, and name their designated trusted adult."

Faculty and staff move on to Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions for students who need additional support. This could include various academic intervention programs, such as Bridges Intervention for math or Lexia PowerUp for reading. This could also include gifted programming, such as accelerating a student as a Tier 3 support. An example of a Tier 2 social emotional support is "Check In, Check Out." A student with this intervention would briefly speak

“The data guides us to the appropriate intervention, timeframe, and intensity. We are seeing students receive interventions and supports that they need.”

Principal Roneisha Campbell,
Mercer Elementary School



MTSS Equity Coordinator Lydia Kruse and students.

FAST FACTS ON MTSS

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) has a strong focus on professional learning. Here are a few statistics on Districtwide professional learning for the 2025-2026 school year:

- > Two-day Instructional Leadership Institute
- > Six instructional leadership team meetings
- > Ten social emotional learning (SEL) team meetings
- > Six District-level Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) team meetings

Through the use of eduCLIMBER, the District's new data platform for MTSS, more than 850 intervention plans have been documented.

to a trusted adult at the start of the school day, such as a school counselor, to review their goals for the day. The student then “checks out” with the same adult at the end of the day to review how the day went. Campbell speaks to the success of this intervention at Mercer.

“Our students are establishing relationships with trusted adults,” Campbell says. “They are spending more time in class because they’re not having behavioral challenges. We are getting ahead of that. Their trusted adults help them problem-solve.”

Kruse notes the importance of having strong Tier 1 supports so all students have a solid foundation. “We talk about Tier 1 as the foundation for student success. If we don’t have a strong foundation, then more students may need additional support,” Kruse says. “We have to be confident that the instruction we provide for a student is sufficient to help them succeed.”

Data-Driven Decisions

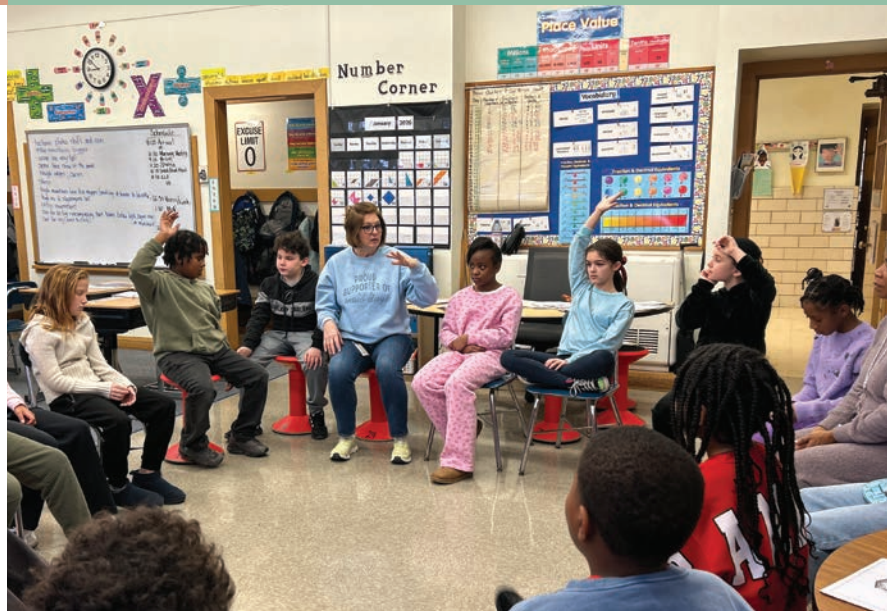
With the addition of eduCLIMBER, a new MTSS data product, staff members are able to document and analyze student supports and outcomes. eduCLIMBER allows staff to monitor student progress on interventions with easy-to-interpret graphs that are shared with parents.

“Our conversations are rooted in data. Our decisions are based on the child’s demonstrated performance,” Campbell says of using eduCLIMBER. “We can look at their strengths and needs. The data guides us to the appropriate intervention, timeframe, and intensity. We are seeing students receive interventions and supports that they need.”

eduCLIMBER houses student test scores, intervention data, attendance records, and trend data showing student attitudes toward school, such as a sense of belonging. Faculty and staff are most excited about eduCLIMBER’s ability to track student progress to show how well interventions are working for a student and whether changes are needed.

“It is helpful to have the whole Learning & Teaching team on board with MTSS. We all take this on as our work to make progress and make things more equitable.”

Meghan Shelby, director of student services



Cathy Richards' fourth-graders at Mercer start their day with a morning circle as part of the Caring School Community curriculum.

“One positive change I’ve seen at the Middle School is the uniformity and consistency of our MTSS team meetings. Integration of the revised MTSS meeting format along with the eduCLIMBER platform make it far easier for staff to collaborate on data-driven decisions,” Bailey says. “eduCLIMBER collates everything in one location.”

Aligning Roles and Accountability

Director of Student Services Meghan Shelby joined the Shaker Heights Schools in July 2024. Shelby saw that there was an opportunity to streamline building teams and positions housed under the Department of Student Services. Each school implemented MTSS practices a little bit differently, and the roles could use further clarification. Clearly defining these roles has made a positive impact in the implementation of interventions and supports.

Campbell says by having clearly defined roles, Mercer staff can leverage the strengths of each individual team member. It also ensures accountability – everyone knows what their role is in supporting the student. This clarity makes the system more efficient and ensures that the student’s interventions are delivered.

“It has been helpful to redefine roles and do an audit,” Campbell says. “This helps support the fidelity piece – this is the intervention that we said we would do, are we doing it, and is the student responding to it? That’s the work. We want to make sure that our faculty and staff feel supported and have the resources they need to help the students grow.”

Shelby also notes that the collaboration between her department, Curriculum & Instruction, and the Data & Assessment departments is instrumental in the consistency and success of MTSS supports.

“It is helpful to have the whole Learning & Teaching team on board with MTSS. We all take this on as our work to make progress and make things more equitable. We have real buy-in from all parties who can make this work.”

The success of MTSS is only possible with the collaboration and dedication of leaders and staff across the Shaker Heights Schools, Kruse says, and the progress made this year has been a result of their hard work. **SL**

Julie Hullett is the communications specialist for the Shaker Heights City School District

FAQS ON MTSS

Check out a few frequently asked questions and answers about Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Q Does MTSS replace other programming, like International Baccalaureate (IB) or Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)?

A No, MTSS supports other programming.

Q How does MTSS relate to special education?

A It is best to avoid identifying students with a disability unless they actually have a disability. Instead of giving them an individualized educational plan (IEP) as the first step, schools should help students proactively. Special education is essential to students with disabilities. There is no need to overidentify students without having a solid educational foundation in place.

Q Is MTSS a new curriculum or program?

A MTSS is not a new curriculum or program. It is a framework to best support students.

Q Is MTSS just for academics?

A No, MTSS supports also address behavior and social emotional needs.

Q Does a student need an IEP to receive Tier 3 supports?

A No, a student does not need an IEP to receive Tier 3 supports.

Q Are interventions delivered by specialists?

A Sometimes interventions are delivered by specialists, but not always. Many Tier 2 supports do not require an advanced degree.

Q Will I know if my student is receiving Tier 2 or 3 supports?

A Yes, families will be advised if their child is receiving Tier 2 or Tier 3 supports.

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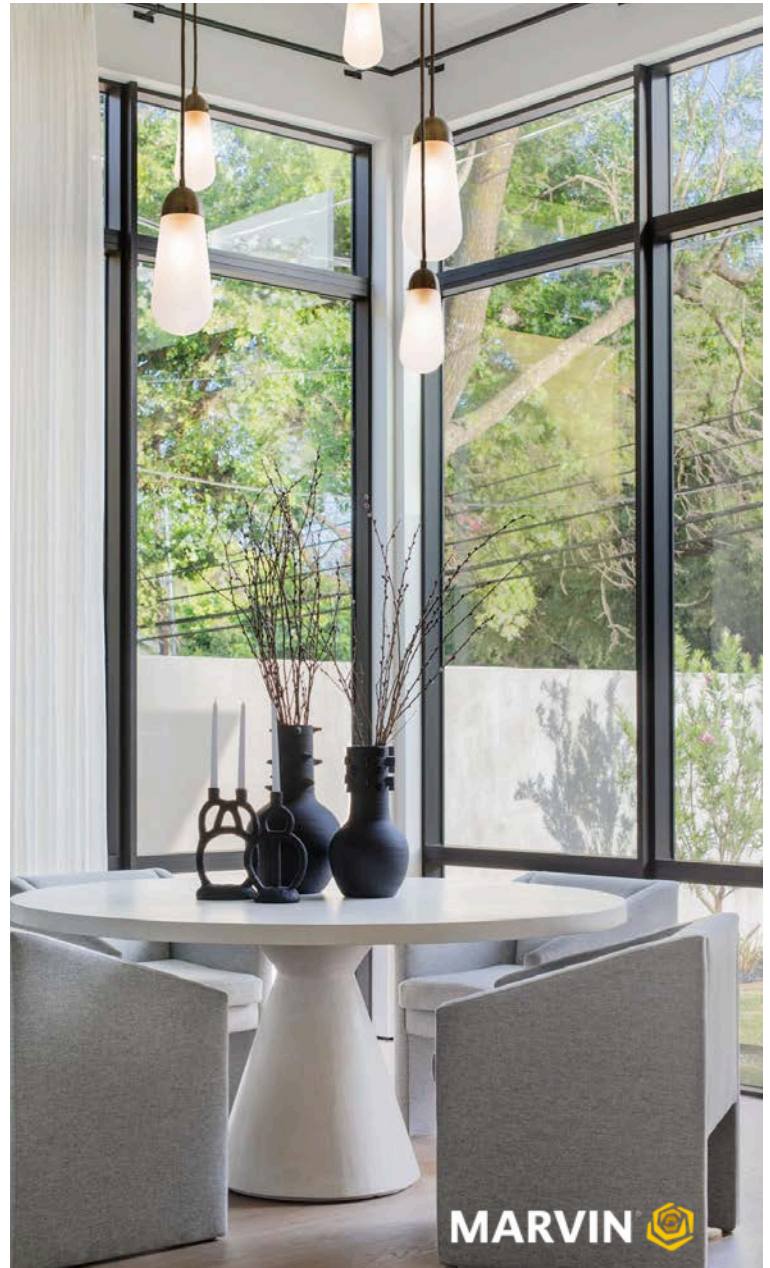
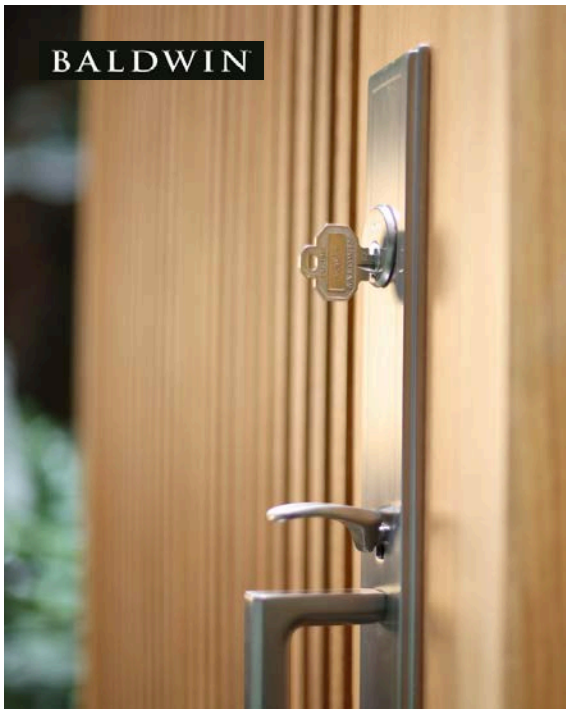


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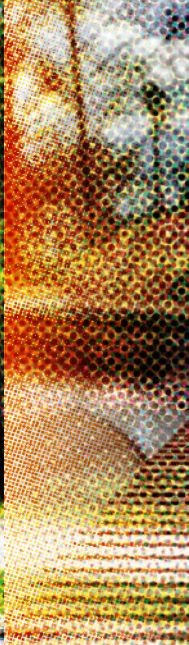
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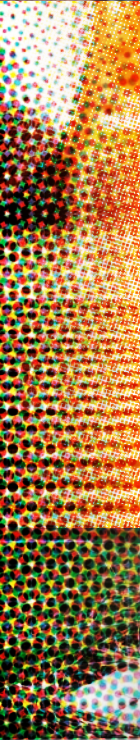
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Avalon Orchard Art Fence



Woven Edge

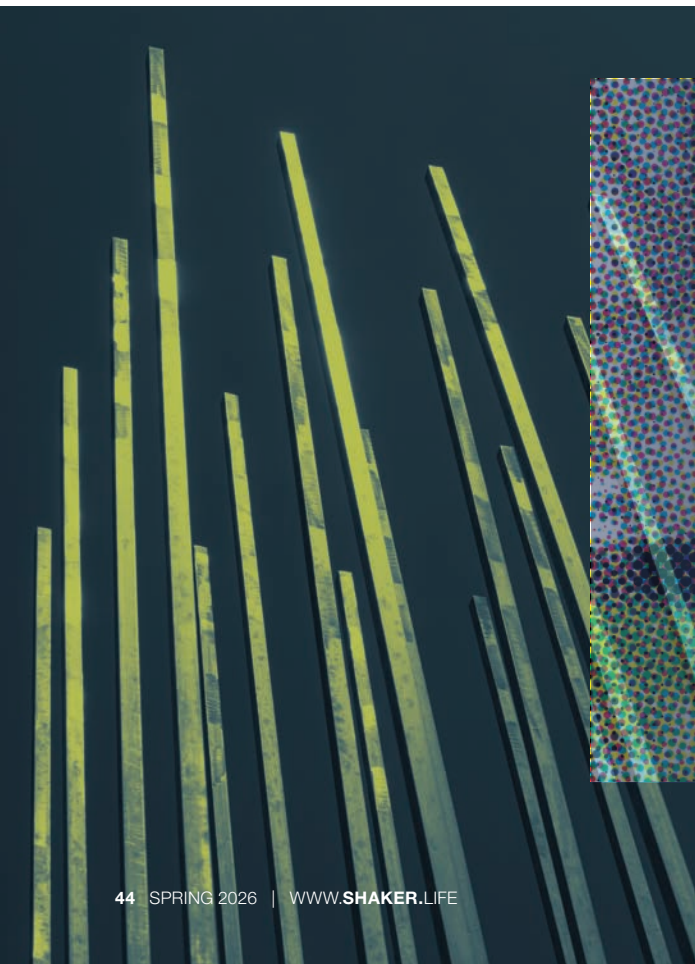


Art in Unexpected Places

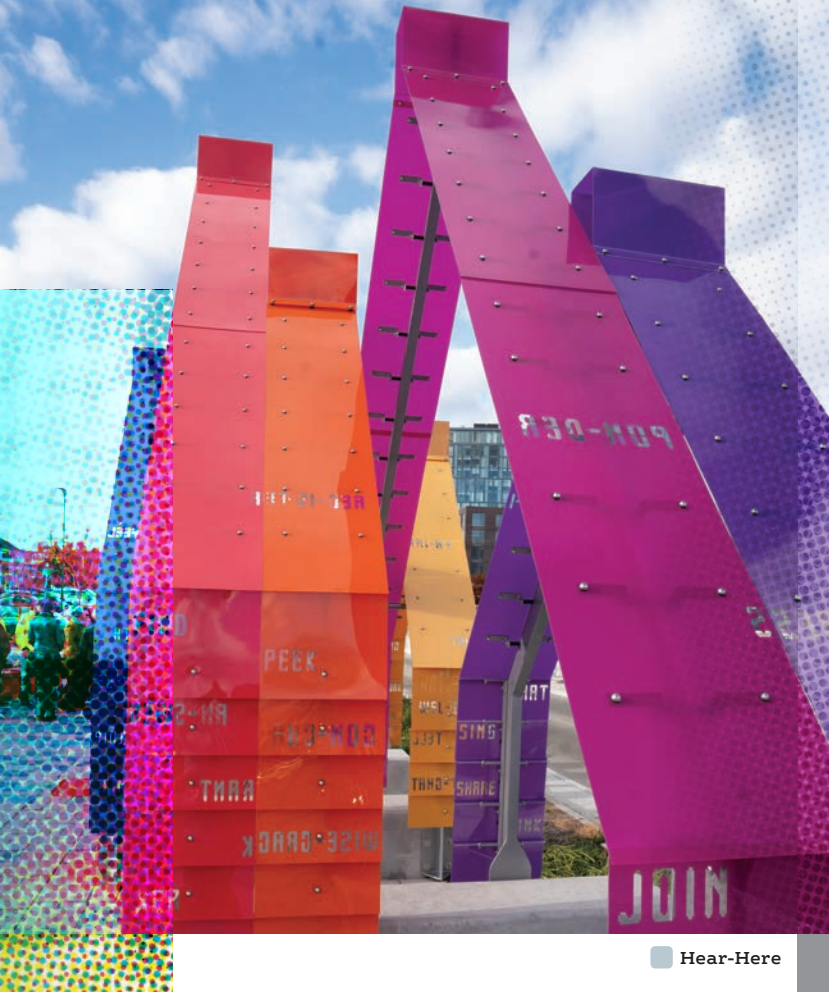
Written by Sharon Broussard

Photography by Robert Muller

Reeds of Light



Grist Mill



Around a corner, on a green space, or on the walk home from school, Shaker's public artwork sparks conversation and embraces community.

Reader's Garden



Larchmere Book Mural



“Whether it’s a beautifully designed bench, or a mural, or a bike rack, or history marker, all these things that enhance and build the identity of the area are what make up placemaking.” Tom Starinsky, Public Art Task Force Member

Maybe you have sailed right by the bright orange chairs clustered together on Chagrin Blvd. Or let your children play on the colorful multi-book sculpture, “Reader’s Garden,” outside of Shaker Heights Main Library – yes, they are for climbing. Or noticed the words “Sing” and “Share” traced on the houselike sculpture “Hear-Here” near the Van Aken District’s RTA station.

Shaker Heights streets are full of public art, with 23 murals and sculptures, facilitated by the City’s Planning Department and Public Art Task Force, and 50 utility boxes wrapped in original illustrations, the work of the Shaker Arts Council. As diverse as these are, all represent Shaker’s strong connections to the arts community.

Tom Starinsky, an urban planner and designer who is a part of the seven-member Public Art Task Force, says Shaker has “prioritized creating dynamic public spaces by creating partnerships with artists and designers.”

The Cycle for New Art

Some new artworks are selected when neighborhoods are facing a major makeover, such as the Lee Road project. Others, including the new Hildana Park “Woven Edge” sculptural bench, have emerged when an older piece needs replacing or repair, explains Starinsky.

“Whether it’s a beautifully designed bench, or a mural, or a bike rack, or history marker, all these things that enhance and build the identity of the area are what make up placemaking,” he says. These artworks are meant to do more than just beautify Shaker, they are also about making places special, encouraging economic development, and even making it easier for people to find their way on city streets.

And the task force is always adding more artwork.

After robust community input, artists Darius Steward and Snack Break Studio were recently commissioned for murals to be installed this summer on commercial buildings on Lee Road, an area slated for public infrastructure improvements. The new “Woven Edge” sculptural bench in Hildana Park was installed this past winter. And “Hear-Here” was installed at the Van Aken District’s RTA station late last fall.

Twenty Years of Placemaking

Shaker’s first piece of public art was commissioned by former Mayor Judy Rawson in 2003 as the City was working on Chagrin Boulevard, says Joyce Braverman, director of the City’s Planning Department and a taskforce member.



Larchmere Bike Racks



Chelton Park Mural

See For Yourself

Spring is a great time for a self-guided tour of Shaker public art.



Go to shakerheightsoh.gov/publicart or use this QR code to open a Google map of public artworks with images and descriptions.



Tour the original illustrations wrapping dozens of utility boxes in Shaker by following the Shaker Arts Council's tour at shakerartscouncil.org/public-art-tour.html or using this QR code.

The City put out a call for artists, and urban designer Stephen Manka was chosen to create the Grist Mill, huge sandstone blocks which were installed in 2005 in front of Shaker Towne Centre. Last summer, the sandstone was cleaned after 20 years' worth of dirt had clung to its surface.

Later, former Mayor Earl Leiken created Shaker's Public Art Task Force as judge and jury for public art. These days, two residents are temporarily added to the task force if a project is in their neighborhood, says Principal Planner Kara Hamley O'Donnell, who helps guide the task force.

Built on a Community Conversation

The process is straightforward, says O'Donnell. The City puts out a request for qualifications and reviews artist portfolios, whittling it down to three or four artists with the best work and the expertise for the job. The task force interviews artists, looking to see how they might approach the project and work with the community.

The selected artists have a lot of work ahead of them, including providing sketches and revisions. That work helps the task force to determine if their ideas will work in Shaker.

"The artists that we have chosen to work with are super collaborative and really enjoy the conversation, problem solving, and the discussion they have with the Public Art Task Force," says O'Donnell. "It generates more ideas, and the design gets better and better with these dialogues."

The chosen artists, some local, some from as far away as Louisiana, are expected to engage with Shaker Heights residents to understand how their project will fit in the neighborhood. For a functional item, such as a bench, they are typically asked to fabricate a prototype.

O'Donnell, for instance, sat on a mockup of the expansive "Woven Edge" at Hildana Park, to make sure it was comfortable.

Testing prototypes, such as benches, is important because "there is this problem solving related to what it looks like but also how it will function in the real world, how it is maintained, and how to build it within the budget you have," she says.

The hope is that the end results elevate the arts, spur conversation, promote community, and add to a sense of place here in Shaker.



Woven Edge



A Closer Look at the Newest Additions to Shaker's Public Art Collection

The past year has been especially productive for Shaker's Public Arts Task Force.

In January, an inviting new bench replaced Hildana Park's beloved but deteriorated letter M for Moreland sculpture titled "Strength in Unity." Moreland residents didn't want another sculpture. Instead, they told the City they wanted a "functional place" in the park where people could meet or gather for community events, says O'Donnell.



Hear-Here

Of course, “Woven Edge” is more than just a bench. Along its curved form, the sides of the bench’s back are painted different colors that reveal themselves as you move past. The colors shift subtly with every step, bringing the piece to life and creating a quiet sense of animation. This changing view reflects the layered stories of Moreland – understood not all at once, but through movement, encounters, and shared presence over time.

Across town, “Hear-Here” was designed to spark face-to-face conversations via prompts like “Express,” “Joke,” and “Confide,” that are inscribed on the vertical and overhead surfaces. Inscribed granite pavers inset into the plaza suggest now-obsolete forms of indirect communication, such as “Telegram,” “Tweet,” and “Smoke Signal,” that have supplanted direct human interactions over centuries.



Lee Road Muralists

left: Darius Steward; below: Roni Callahan (left) and Kim Lavery



Installed in November 2025, that sculpture will be a beacon and a gathering place for the Van Aken District, including those using the RTA rapid transit and the new comfort station under construction there. The piece is meant to create connectivity from the heart of the Van Aken District to the RTA station and the businesses along Chagrin at the southern end of the district.

And the work continues. Watch for two murals to be installed on Lee Road buildings during summer 2026, one on a north-facing façade, the other south facing. The artists were selected by the Public Art Task Force after the City put out a call for artists that attracted 28 submissions. One mural will be created by Cleveland artist Darius Steward, who teaches art at Laurel School, the other by Kim Lavery and Roni Callahan of Snack Break Studio. **SL**



Shaker Heights public art

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Larchmere Bike Racks | 8 Reader's Garden | 15 Trumpet Flower |
| 2 Larchmere Book Mural | 9 Reeds of Light | 16 Avelon Orchard Art Fence |
| 3 Tree Sculpture | 10 Woven Edge | 17 Community |
| 4 Rose Foundation Gazebo | 11 Chelton Park Mural | 18 Hear-Here |
| 5 The Space Between Us | 12 Grist Mill | 19 Mural at Craft Collective |
| 6 Colorfield | 13 Cloud Monolith | 20 Bowser Alley |
| 7 Railway Dream | 14 Firefighter Mural | 21 Sidechairs |

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Great Shaker Homes





*a fresh look
for a legacy house*

Written by Sharon Holbrook Photography by Kevin Reeves



Heather and Arnoud Krijt had never owned a historic home before they purchased the stately home at the southwest corner of South Park Boulevard and Lee Road. Their previous home in Little Rock, Arkansas was a new build that Arnoud and Heather, a designer and the owner of HK Designs, meticulously planned. But Heather had always wanted to live in and work on an historic home, and the chance came when Arnoud took a private equity job in Chagrin Falls and the couple, along with their two young daughters, moved to Cleveland. At first, Arnoud and Heather traveled back and forth frequently. Heather mostly stayed with her business and daughter in Arkansas, and Arnoud mostly stayed here in a house that the couple bought near his job. Eventually, after their second daughter was

born, it all became too hard. It was time to complete the move to the Cleveland area and be together again, full-time.

Heather first fell in love with Hathaway Brown school for the girls, and then with the beauty of the area around the school. She pictured the family living close by on South Park Boulevard, surrounded by enormous trees. As luck would have it, there was a house for sale that they liked, and Heather and Arnoud made an offer – but, unfortunately, it went to another buyer. They would have to be patient.

When the Krijts' house at Lee and South Park came on the market in 2024, they were ready to act fast. Heather flew in to look at the home and fell not only for the house, but also for its parklike grounds. It was spring,

PREVIOUS PAGE: THE KITCHEN WAS A COMPLETE GUT REMODEL AND EXPANSION, DESIGNED BY HEATHER KRIJT.

Heather first fell in love with Hathaway Brown School for the girls, and then with the beauty of the area around the school. She pictured the family living close by on South Park Boulevard, surrounded by enormous trees.



**A DETAIL FROM THE LIVING ROOM FIREPLACE
FEATURES AN ORIGINAL MARBLE RELIEF CARVING.**

**THE STAIRCASE LEADING TO THE SECOND
FLOOR LANDING IS AWASH IN LIGHT FROM
ORIGINAL LEADED GLASS WINDOWS.**

and she was surrounded by green leaves and flowers and captivated by a secret garden feeling of seclusion and privacy. They weren't sure there was time for Arnoud to come see the house. Over the phone, he asked Heather, "Are you sure?" She was. The purchase was made, and the Krijts moved in that summer.

Before Shaker Was Shaker

The Krijts' tucked-away home, so settled and historic now, was built before Shaker Heights even existed as a town. The house was built in 1905-06, and the 1910 census lists the house as part of Cleveland Heights. (Shaker Heights was incorporated in 1912.) It was designed and built for Joel and Lillian Fuller. Their Stowe-Fuller company, located in the Cleveland Flats, was a maker of fire-resistant bricks.

At the time of the 1910 census, the Fullers lived in the home with their 19-year-old daughter, Lillian's mother, the family cook and her 12-year-old son, and the family gardener. But the area was still mostly unsettled. While the Fullers were in their elegant, brand-new home, the same page of the 1910 census lists a camp on Lee Road housing dozens of teamsters who were living there while working on grading in preparation for more construction.

Now, of course, this is all so long ago. The Krijt home is no longer new, and it has had many owners over the last 120 years. Each has gradually put their own stamp on the house, adding to its story, and yet Heather knows from the original blueprints that the house's layout has essentially remained the same. Heather

ABOVE A NEW SHELF, THE KRIJTS RETAINED WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A MODERN DOORBELL SYSTEM OF THE ERA, USED TO INDICATE THE DOOR WHERE A VISITOR WAS RINGING THE BELL.

“I want to honor that this is an old home. I don’t want to come in here and make it look modern. I wanted it to feel cozy and warm and like it kind of could have been here – and still feel updated for the 21st century.”



revels in the original details of the house and aims to pay them homage with her own updates. But before they got to that, the Krijts took care of some maintenance – updating the heating and cooling with zones for greater efficiency and comfort; taking out dead trees; replacing the motorized driveway gate; and resurfacing the old tennis court. After these less visible items were addressed, Heather could begin her favorite part of the updates.

New... Yet Lived In

The Krijts’ renovated kitchen manages to feel both spacious and cozy, fresh and historic. “I’m not against new stuff, but I like things to look layered,” says Heather. To this end, she drew inspiration from existing details in the rest of the house when designing the kitchen. The milk-glass kitchen cabinet knobs are a nod to built-in cabinetry on the third floor. The rounded edges of the new countertop echo the unusual radius (curved) wall in the downstairs hall. The original servant call bell board still has a place of honor on the wall,

and Heather kept the original windows and matched the historic casings for new ones added by Peninsula Construction, the Krijts’ contractor.

And this is a kitchen that is meant to be lived in. Expanding the kitchen to include the footprint of an old porch and removing an awkward dividing wall opened up space for a large banquette and round table, where booster seats for the girls are pulled up next to seats for the grown-ups. This is where the family eats every day. Sure, there’s a showstopping French range, but it’s a workhorse appliance that Heather cooks on every day. She’s remarkably relaxed about the kitchen being a space where the patina of daily living is welcome. She likes that the marble countertops will stain and etch as they age and that the unlacquered brass hardware will darken.

“I want to honor that this is an old home. I don’t want to come in here and make it look modern,” says Heather. “I wanted it to feel cozy and warm and like it kind of could have been here – and still feel updated for the 21st century.”

CUSTOM CABINETS, A HAND-AGED RANGE HOOD, AND FULL DOLOMITE BACKSPLASH FRAME A LACANCHE RANGE IMPORTED FROM FRANCE.







THE WALLS OF ARNOUD'S OFFICE ARE COVERED IN AN ORIGINAL SILK DAMASK FABRIC WALL COVERING, THE PATTERN INTERRUPTED BY A BELOVED MAP OF THE NETHERLANDS.

A PLASTER MEDALLION ADORNS THE DINING ROOM CEILING.

From Vision to Reality

Heather and Arnoud have plans for the rest of the house, too. Walking around the home, Heather points out features she likes (like detailed moldings and an intricate ceiling medallion in the dining room) and shares her vision for future renovations, new colors, and the inspiration she draws from smaller acquired objects. Around the home are numerous pieces of Dutch art; Arnoud is Dutch and the family travels there. Heather loves hunting for just-right items for each space, and her aesthetic favors soft, sophisticated iterations of fun colors. In the living room, Heather eagerly shares her ideas for honing a true family hangout space, "colorful and energetic, but cozy and comfortable."



THE PRIMARY BATHROOM WAS ORIGINALLY A JACK-AND-JILL BATHROOM THAT WAS EXPANDED BY COMBINING CLOSET SPACES. THE SECOND BEDROOM, ORIGINALLY ATTACHED TO THE JACK-AND-JILL BATHROOM, WAS CONVERTED INTO A WARDROBE AND RETAINS THE ORIGINAL FIREPLACE.



THE WALL COLOR OF THE PRIMARY BEDROOM WAS A COLOR MATCH FROM A FAVORITE HANDBAG AND THE PAINTING WAS CREATED BY A FAMILY FRIEND AND DELIVERED BY ARNOUD'S MOTHER DURING HER FIRST VISIT.

Heather's vision has already come to fruition in the primary suite, where the Krijts have also completed their renovations. The bedroom features sophisticated blues and plums, and on the wall is a colorful custom painting given to the Krijts by Arnoud's sister as a wedding present – inspired by a wedding day photo of the couple. Adjoining the bedroom is a fully renovated, vintage-feel bathroom finished in inviting warm tones. Beyond the bath is a surprise – a former bedroom converted to a dream walk-in closet.

Previously, a modest walk-in closet space had been disconnected, a walk down the hall from the primary suite, but now everything is handy, spacious, and completely integrated.

Almost two years into their time in Shaker Heights, the Krijts are happily settling in and looking forward to the future. Heather's mom and stepdad have also moved here to Shaker Heights; they live in RAYE at the Van Aken District.

Heather and Arnoud still visit Little Rock from time to time. Arnoud is on a board there, so they go back for events and to see friends. But Cleveland has things Little Rock doesn't, says Heather – more school choices, a bigger airport, more healthcare, more restaurants. And only Shaker Heights has lovely South Park Boulevard, which Heather loves so much, and the Krijts' singular house at the corner of Lee. "I really like it here," says Heather. **SL**

RIGHT: A FIXTURE FROM ONE OF THE HOME'S HALF BATHS. BELOW: AN ORIGINAL CRYSTAL CHANDELIER LIGHTS ONE DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM WHICH CONTAINS A SENTIMENTAL HOLDOVER FROM HER NURSERY – FRAMED HAND-PAINTED WALLPAPER PANELS.



A woman with dark hair, wearing a grey sweater and dark pants, is sitting on a wooden staircase. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. A large, fluffy, grey and white dog is sitting next to her on the stairs. The staircase has dark wood railings and balusters. In the background, there is a large window with a decorative leaded glass pattern. A chandelier is visible at the top of the stairs. The walls are a light color, and there is a wall sconce with two lit lamps on the right side of the image.

KRIJT ON THE HOME'S MAIN STAIRCASE WITH HER BERNEDOODLE, LUCY.

Cleveland has things Little Rock doesn't, says Heather – more school choices, a bigger airport, more healthcare, more restaurants. And only Shaker Heights has lovely South Park Boulevard, which Heather loves so much, and the Krijts' singular house at the corner of Lee.



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GRATITUDE *for* a DEDICATED COMMUNITY

Written by **Nate Paige**

In a region where many of our cultural institutions offer free admission, the Shaker Historical Society can now add its name to that list. Thanks to a provision of the 0.3 mill property tax levy Shaker voters approved last November, Shaker residents may now activate their free memberships to the Shaker Historical Society.



A group tours Warrensville West Cemetery. Established in 1811, the cemetery was designated a local landmark in 1976.



Dancers from Cleveland City Dance perform at the 2022 AppleFest.

Cyclists learn the history of East View United Church of Christ during a 2025 Bike Shaker tour.



“We are deeply grateful to Shaker residents for their strong support of the levy,” says Brianna Treleven, executive director. “The Shaker Neighbor-level membership is our way of thanking the community for its commitment to preserving local history.”

SHS evolved from its early days nearly 80 years ago when it shared Shaker history through community exhibits and school-based programs. For 20 years SHS operated without a permanent location, moving from several Shaker schools to a storefront on Lee Road. Its current location was donated by SHS trustee Frank Myers, a real estate agent for the Van Sweringen Company. It was one of the first homes in the planned community and is situated on the grounds of the former North Union Center Family’s apple orchard and vegetable garden.

Now the museum offers archives and a library, camps, unique exhibitions, and maintains four permanent collections, three of which include Shaker history and objects. Perks of the Shaker Neighbor membership include:

- A \$25 per child resident discount for summer camps
- Free or reduced pricing on select tours and programs
- Free home research in partnership with the Shaker Heights Public Library History Collection
- Free access to the museum’s research library, by appointment
- On-site discounts at the Spirit Tree Gift Shop



Children explore archaeology at the Historical Society’s summer camp.

next page ➡

Residents may enroll in person at the museum or via the membership page of the society's website.

Shaker residents with current paid memberships may transition to the free Shaker Neighbor membership, or continue with paid memberships to receive expanded benefits and maintain their financial support of the society. The free Shaker Neighbor memberships will remain active as long as the member lives in Shaker Heights. The five-year levy is set to expire in 2030. **SL**



Exterior of the Shaker Historical Society, located in a 1910 house at 16740 South Park Blvd.



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This is your time to shine, to explore your passions, and to embrace the lifestyle that's authentically you. At Judson, you'll enjoy the perfect blend of relaxing evenings at home, hosting family and friends, and participating in engaging, community-wide social events.

Be inspired. Be engaged. Be you.

