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the SHAD Connection

WINTER 2020

Vol. 43 No. 2

FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK AND SHOP IN THE SHAKER SQUARE AREA

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Thanksgiving Weekend Events

LARCHMERE HOLIDAY STROLL

Friday and Saturday
November 27 & 28
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Start your holiday shopping early and enjoy family-friendly, COVID-safe activities up and down Larchmere. Some stores will be open on Sunday, November 29 from noon to 5 p.m. For details see page 10 and visit larchmere.com.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Saturday, November 28

Now more than ever it is important to support local businesses. So many independently owned businesses, especially black-owned, have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. Please support this national buying initiative, which was started by American Express, and shop our community's favorite stores on Shaker Square, Larchmere and Buckeye. More info at americanexpress.com/us/s.

NORTH UNION FARMERS MARKET - WINTER HOURS

The market will continue to be outside on Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon at Shaker Square until December 19. From January 2 through March 27, 2021, the indoor winter market will move inside at Van Aken Market Hall in Shaker Heights on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to noon.

BBC Revives Hopes for a New Shaker Square

by Kristen Romito

Last year's Shaker Square redesign initiative led by LAND Studio, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress (CNP) and Hargreaves Jones came to a halt when the pandemic hit. Plans for improved public space on Shaker Square are still on the table but the planning process is being reimaged. Burten, Bell, Carr Development Inc. (BBC) is now leading the charge and aims to restart the community engagement process to help shape the future of the square.

BBC, who was not involved in the first process, is now the community development corporation serving Shaker Square and the surrounding neighborhoods. BBC is developing a new strategy while considering sensitivity around immediate community needs related to the

pandemic and changes in leadership at CNP and the city.

"It's been critical that we take a pause in the process," said Bianca Butts, neighborhood services coordinator for BBC. She added, "During the last planning process there weren't other community planning processes happening that now exist, and they may affect

the engagement around Shaker Square," noting the Woodhill Estates redevelopment project and other community initiatives.

To help facilitate the new design process, CNP is hosting landscape architect Andrew Sargeant, a fellow with the Enterprise Rose

See *BBC Revives Hopes*, page 3



Patrick Shepherd

Community Activists Score a Win for Buckeye



Michael Anne Johnson

condemnation by the city, along with a gaping hole in the roof.

With Scott's ruling, "the court has oversight in terms of what the owner is going to do with the building," Bromley added. "Specifically, he's not allowed to sell it without court authorization."

In a pleading filed with the housing court that attached a petition signed by 563 people – including SHAD Board Chair Mary Ann Kovach – the request from the community stakeholders was simple: either fix it or demolish it.

Next door to the eyesore, EDWIN'S Culinary and Leadership Academy founder Brandon Chrostowski had already invested substantially in the neighborhood, including a butcher shop, bakery and lodgings for his staff of aspiring chefs, only to be forced to barricade his front sidewalk.

That came in response to masonry portions of the building's crumbling

by Thomas Jewell

Neighborhood stakeholders – more than 500 of them – have secured a major win in their ongoing fight against blight at the southeastern corner of Buckeye Road and East 130th Street.

On October 22, they found Cleveland Housing Court Judge W. Mona Scott in their corner as she placed the current owners of the condemned storefront and apartment

building at 13000 Buckeye under community control sanctions for the next three years.

"We won a big victory," surmised Charles "Chip" Bromley, founder and director of the Shaker Square Alliance, noting that the building owners will have to report to the court monthly on the work being done or face fines.

The property has switched ownership four times since a 2013 fire led to the building's

See *Community Activists Score a Win for Buckeye*, page 3



SHAD Made Voter Registration Easy

Over the summer and throughout the fall, SHAD board members organized a voter registration drive every Saturday at the North Union Farmers Market. Members handed out more than 350 mail-in ballot applications and helped recruit some poll workers.



First Interstate Properties makes steady progress of 121 Larchmere, the 88-unit apartment building on Larchmere Boulevard and East 121st Street. The \$20 million project is the neighborhood's first new construction of market rate apartments in more than a decade. The project is scheduled for completion in spring 2021.



SHAD MISSION STATEMENT

To provide the Shaker Square area with the leadership needed to re-imagine and foster well-maintained, diverse and vibrant neighborhoods.

NEIGHBORHOODS

- Apartment Corridor
- CHALK
- Drexmore/Chadbourne
- Historic Shaker Square
- Larchmere
- Ludlow

COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

- Shaker Square
- Larchmere Blvd.
- Van Aken Plaza
- Shaker Boulevard West

SHAKER SQUARE AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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The SHAD Connection is a free, non-profit tabloid-size newspaper published by Shaker Square Area Development Corporation four times a year in September, November, March, and June. Circulation: 7,500 per issue and online at shad.org

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Contact us for ALL your insurance needs!



BBC Revives Hopes

Continued from page 1

Architectural Fellowship program. Over the next two years, Sargeant will work alongside Butts to re-engage the community, leveraging their knowledge in community development to reimagine the Square.

“Shaker Square is a special place for people, and this is a pretty passionate topic for them,” said Sargeant. The pandemic has made the need for public space in the Square apparent but also hard on the businesses that surround it. As the team works to ensure a future for the Square, they want to encourage the community to safely support the present occupants of the Square.

Since his start in October, Sargeant has spoken one-on-one with the project designers to better understand how designers fell short of materializing the lengthy engagement process into renovation of a beloved public space.

“We don’t want to repeat any mishaps from before,” said

Sargeant, and added “there are new opportunities and a new energy” with re-starting the process.

“We have a little head start but a new race,” stated Sargeant.

Sargeant emphasized the importance of engagement, positioning community as co-designers as the catalyst for a successful second campaign. He hopes to work with BBC and others to design intentional and substantive participation experiences while remaining flexible and appreciative considering COVID-19 and other considerations.

Dates and locations for community meetings as well as whether they’ll be in person or virtual are to be determined, but however the meetings are conducted by Sargeant and Butts both want to “create space for a true narrative.”

To provide input or receive updates visit thissshakersquare.com.

Community Activists Score a Win for Buckeye

Continued from page 1

facade starting to break off and fall to the street below around February 2019, creating a significant hazard for both crew and customers.

“The city in fact required their portion of the sidewalk to be fenced off for the safety of pedestrians,” Chrostowski added.

Jay Westbrook, the former Cleveland city councilman and current convener of the East 130th Street Working Group, another petitioner in the case, pointed out that an emergency order to repair the falling debris was not complied with until August 2020: some 18 months later.

In a letter to the court, the Rev. Ian Cox, pastor of Holy Grove Missionary Baptist Church, argued that up to that point, “every court hearing presents a different excuse as to why this property cannot be held to the standard of the city.

This for our Buckeye community is unacceptable.”

Back in September, the building’s current owners had sought to

dismiss the case, a motion that city prosecutors appeared willing to go along with. But it quickly became evident that the judge was not having it, with Scott scheduling the case for sentencing on an anticipated change of plea.

Scott also invited citizens to give their statements at the October 22 hearing, conducted online due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and state health emergency.

On the heels of hosting a “community toast” to the verdict, Chrostowski offered his legal opinion of what had transpired.

“It’s taken community activists, a newly elected official and media to put us in a place for this restoration,” Chrostowski said. “The process has been a huge lift and it’s taken a lot of time and resources to get this ruling.”

“Our thanks go out to Judge Mona Scott. She made a pledge to the east side and lived up to her promise.”



Michael Anne Johnson

The Connection – Important Assistance Telephone Numbers

Most everyone is in need of some assistance at some point or perhaps never required before. Below are two telephone numbers and websites to assist in finding resources to help in these trying times.

2-1-1

United Way 2-1-1 is a free community service anyone can use to get information about social, health and government resources 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. Simply dial 2-1-1 or visit online at 211oh.org. 2-1-1 services can provide assistance information on a variety of concerns ranging from employment to housing to health insurance, food assistance, transportation needs, veterans’ concerns, and fatherhood initiatives. A Spanish interpreter can be provided. This service is available only throughout Cuyahoga County.

3-1-1

The City of Cleveland 3-1-1 Help Department handles assistance/complaint calls for Cleveland. The 3-1-1 Help service is a collaboration of a number of City of Cleveland departments to assist callers (Cleveland residents and non-residents) with one contact number to handle various issues or concerns, including neighborhood complaints about property maintenance, housing issues, illegal dumping, street conditions, waste collection, and maintenance issues at Cleveland parks and recreation centers. Call 3-1-1 or 216.664.3111, Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or report online at city.cleveland.oh.us. Callers can remain anonymous.

Join SHAD today!

Your support sustains, maintains, improves & grows our neighborhoods!
Call 216.421.2100 for details.

SHAD Member Benefit: Neighborhood Shopping Savings

ACADEMY TAVERN 216.229.1171

Breakfast-lunch-dinner 10% off (excludes alcoholic beverages). Dine-in only!

APPLES READING & MATH TUTORS 216.820.3800

10% off on math sessions. Free weekly reading sessions with monthly enrollment.

ATLAS CINEMAS 216.331.6825

Discount for anyone is \$5 on Mondays before 6 pm.

A CULTURAL EXCHANGE 216.229.8300

One free membership with purchase of one membership in children’s book club, “Read, Baby, Read!”

BIG AL’S DINER 216.791.8550

10% off breakfast or lunch, except daily specials. Mon–Fri. only!

CAPTAIN TONY’S 216.561.8669

10% discount on pick-up & delivery orders.

CHRISTOPHER AMIRA STUDIO 216.991.9992

15% off all hair services.

CLEVELAND CITY DANCE 216.295.2222

One free trial dance class for children and adults; one per family. New students only! Cannot be combined with other offers.

CORCORAN FINE ARTS GALLERY 216.767.0770

10% off any certified appraisal or valuation by Cleveland’s only certified appraiser.

THE DANCING SHEEP 216.229.5770

10% discount on any purchase over \$50.

FAIRHILL PARTNERS 216.421.1350

10% discount on Wellness and Wisdom courses.

FIDDLEHEAD GALLERY 216.231.9400

10% off almost everything (excluding consignment.) Additional 5% off cash and check, no other offer valid.

GROOVY GROOMING PET SPA 216.707.9004

10% off retail “toy” purchases only, no other offer valid.

LARCHMERE FIRE WORKS 216.246.4716

10% off glassblowing, blacksmithing and glass fusing classes. Call to schedule.

LARCHMERE IMPORTS 216.229.8000

10% off all services, free loaners and valet service

LOGANBERRY BOOKS 216.795.9800

10% off on 5 books or more.

LOOK STUDIO 216.231.5665

10% off haircuts, color, shellac nails, and pedicures (excluding master stylist.)

MARC GOODMAN’S ANTIQUE MALL 216.229.8919 OR 216.961.4231

10% or more off all merchandise over \$20.

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SHAKER SQUARE DRY CLEANING & TAILORING 216.751.3500

10% off any dry cleaning or tailoring.

WILLOW COVE ART & WELLNESS BOUTIQUE (216.230.7636)

Free 30-minute lifestyle development coaching session or mental wellness consultation by Lawna Gamble, owner of Willow Cove.

AREA MERCHANTS: IT’S FREE TO ADD YOUR COMPANY TO THIS LIST! GO TO: shad.org/merchant-discount-form.html

SHAD will publicize your participation.

Heard Around the Square

by Margaret Simon

Cooking for social change. **Toni Tipton Martin**, former *Plain Dealer* food editor and award-winning food and nutrition journalist (and mother of former SHHS Lacrosse player Brandon Tipton), was awarded The International Association of Culinary Professionals American Cookbook Award and its prestigious Book of the Year Award for “**Jubilee: Recipes from Two Centuries of African American Cooking: A Cookbook.**” The cookbook champions the professional skills and kitchen wisdom of generations of black cooks and would be a tasteful and welcomed gift for cooks of all colors.

“*Engineering as a career path is not for the weak at heart,*” says **Ramona Lowery** in a five-page article about her in the September/ October *Phenomenal Woman* magazine. The first female and first Black engineer at the City of Cleveland’s Sewer Division, Water Pollution Control

graces the cover of the magazine. In addition to her professional commitments, she also manages to find time to serve as the SHHS Co-President along with **Kate Wilton Bennett**. Read more about this phenomenal woman at https://issuu.com/phenomenalwomanmagazine/docs/sep-oct_2020

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Fadi Karim has written a children’s book, “**The Robin’s Story,**” and each page is in two languages: English and Spanish. Born in Beirut, Lebanon, the Case Professor Emeritus in Pathology, took all the pictures around Shaker Heights.

Teachers take note! The Cleveland City Club and nine libraries – including your Shaker Library – created **5 Days for Democracy** with stories, resources, questions and actions designed to ignite conversations of consequence to help democracy thrive. If you

missed the five days, the resource is still relevant and available at cityclub.org/about/five-days-for-democracy.

I Identify As . . . The Cleveland Photo Fest invites photographers to join in a groundbreaking show highlighting Northeast Ohio’s diversity. The show will introduce 30 White and those who identify as Other local photographers to 30 Black and Other photographers. Participants will be randomly paired to photograph each other for the exhibit of PHOTOTHON 2021, to be held in May and June of 2021. To participate, send your name, contact information, racial preference and a selfie by December 15 to cpidentifyas@gmail.com.

Are you a 60-plus writer with something to say? **Creative Nonfiction** seeks submissions of new work by older (60-plus) writers. They are looking for personal essays/memoir, experimental work, science writing, profiles, historical nonfiction, lyric essays or any kind of lively fact-based writing. Submissions might address issues related to age and aging, but there is absolutely no requirement that it do so. Entries should be a maximum of 4,000 words. The “convenience fee” is \$3 and the deadline is February 22. Read more at creativenonfiction.submittable.com/submit

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What Does it Mean to Be an Inclusive Democracy? Hear from **Dr. Ibram X. Kendi**, one of America’s leading antiracist voices and award-winning author of “**How to Be An Antiracist,**” when he Zooms with Cleveland Public Library on December 4 and then hear **Bryan Stevenson**, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative and award-winning author of “**Just Mercy**” on December 5. The programs are free, but register at cpl.org.

Writer-director-comedian David Wain and musician-composer **Craig Wedren** returned to their Shaker Heights roots when they moderated a book talk with Michael Ian Black, author of “**A Better Man: A (Mostly Serious) Letter to My Son,**” at the Cleveland Jewish Book Festival on November 12. Wain’s early interest in filmmaking is evident in his 1978 YouTube Tour of Shaker Heights at youtube.com/watch?v=7gZzCjKe9pg. Find it and more on Shaker Library’s Local History website. And what did Wain think of his Shaker Library? “It has one of the most books in the world.”

And the \$20,000 winner is! **Ashley Weingart of Perfectly Imperfect Produce** was awarded the top \$20,000 prize in the Female Entrepreneur Summit Pitch Competition. Perfectly Imperfect Produce is a direct-to-consumer sales channel for fresh produce with slight cosmetic imperfections. The company acquires fruits and vegetables from local farms and suppliers, repacks it in subscription boxes and delivers it to homes and offices throughout Ohio, saving thousands of pounds of edible food from landfills. Ashley plans to utilize the pitch funds to launch a new meal kit product line. The Female Entrepreneur Summit will celebrate its 10th anniversary next fall and the FES Pitch Competition will return. Do you know a female-owned company? Tell them about it, and maybe they’ll be next year’s winner.

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If you thought Take-and-Make crafts were just for kids, think again. **Shaker Library** has take-and-make kits available for kids at the Children’s desk *and* for adults at the Reference desk. These easy DIY crafts are for you to take home and make at your leisure. Share what you create on your favorite social media site so everyone can see what you’ve created (#ShakerLibrarycreations).

And if you still want to create, Shaker Library is again holding its Caps for Kids initiative. Knit or crochet a cap – or a scarf or mittens – for kids and drop them off at Bertram Woods Branch by December 11. Project Act will pick them up and distribute them to the homeless.

The North Union Farmers Market wants to make it easier for you to get through the market by ordering ahead! Visit the website at northunionfarmersmarket.org. The market will be outdoors at the Square Saturdays through December 19 and indoors Saturdays from January 2 through March 27 at the Van Aken Market Hall.

Clare Malone, Senior Political Writer for FiveThirtyEight presented a virtual forum, Election 2020 and the Road Ahead at The Cleveland City Club November 6.

Every season ‘tis the season to eat and shop local. Tie one on – your mask that is – and take a socially-distanced stroll around the Square – and, *keep your ears open for me.*

beardaroundthesquare@gmail.com

Chanelle’s Treatz Defies Odds, Opens Bakery During Pandemic

By Jason Novak

The COVID-19 pandemic has obviously hit many businesses hard. This has been especially obvious on Shaker Square with the recent closures of anchor restaurants Yours Truly and Fire. However, it’s not all doom and gloom on the square: Chanelle’s Treatz, a bakery specializing in custom cakes, is set to open in the former Alexander’s Floral Designs storefront.

Chanelle’s Treatz began as a hobby for proprietor Chanelle Harris. A few years ago she brought cupcakes for a pot-luck event, and they were so popular that people asked if Harris could make more. Not one to pass up an opportunity, she started a web-based business, selling desserts and cakes made to order on Facebook.

As the business took off, Harris, a self-taught baker, began experimenting with different baking and cake-decorating techniques. “I never tell a customer ‘no,’” she says. Harris loves to learn new techniques, and if she doesn’t

immediately know how to fulfill a client’s request, she’s eager to jump in and figure it out.

For Harris, whose other job as a Department Assistant at Case Western moved to work-from-home during the pandemic, this is the perfect time to open a bakery. However, it almost didn’t happen at Shaker Square. “I was settled on another location,” Harris says. “I sent an email to the landlord at a location on Buckeye to tell her I was ready to sign the lease, but she didn’t get back to me.”

While she was awaiting that email, she ran an errand that would change the fate of her bakery. “I drove my mother to T-Mobile and, while I was waiting in the car, I saw that the flower shop was available. I called [...] and Peter called me back within two hours.” She toured the location on a Wednesday, signed the lease by Saturday, and had the keys by the following Monday.

The location turned out to be perfect for her needs, with a huge, walk-in refrigeration unit, an area that was perfect for setting up her



Michael Anne Johnson

kitchen, and plenty of storage space in the basement. “And it’s a family business,” she says, “so I even set up a study room downstairs for my kids.”

Harris plans to open Chanelle’s Treatz in November. In the meantime, she still operates her business via Facebook, Instagram, and at ChanellesTreatz.com

Chanelle Harris, owner of Chanelle’s Treatz, took her baking hobby and turned it into a business, which will open in the former Alexander’s Floral Designs storefront sometime in November 2020.

SomethinGood Lands on Larchmere



by Mary Ann Kovach

A new health and wellness restaurant, SomethinGood to Eat, opens at 12210 Larchmere in November. Shaker Heights native, Andrew Taylor-Shaut, brings his plant-based and stress-reduction concept to the neighborhood in the midst of pandemic, when everyone is focused on good health practices.

Taylor-Shaut, a Shaker Heights High School grad, returned to his hometown to set down roots after earning a bachelor’s degree at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He’s enjoyed a plant-based lifestyle for four years, traveling around the country and observing a lack of healthy plant-based options on the road. He distinguishes between plant-based and vegan: “Plant-based describes

a healthier diet; ‘vegan’ carries stereotypes that might be off-putting for some people and isn’t necessarily healthy. For instance, chips and Oreos are vegan!” Taylor-Shaut extends his plant-based philosophy to apparel and accessories (no leather or other animal products for him), and products that do not conduct testing on animals.

Healthy versions of popular fast-food go-to items like Good Nuggets (homemade chickpea nuggets), Royal Burgers (black bean patties), and Good Burgers (lentil patties)

easily substitute for their more processed counterparts such as Beyond Meat and Impossible Meat. Smoothshakes, made with house-made oat milk, will be created in a variety of tasty flavors. Breakfast offerings include Good Oats with fruit, BLT (coconut bacon, lettuce and tomato), and Mumble Wrap (homemade chick pea scramble with avocado, kale, tomato, pepper and onion).

SomethinGood moves into the space formerly occupied by Baba Yaga’s Greenhouse Café, with a soft opening and limited menu, beginning November 11, noon – 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Wednesday – Sunday. The grand opening, with full menu, is planned for the new year, January 1, 2021.

Learn more and see the menus at SomethinGood.co.

Edwin’s 5K Grind

The 2020 EDWINS 5K GRIND welcomed about 180 participants (130 runners and 50 one mile walkers) on Sunday, October 25. Funds raised at the event, which started and ended at Shaker Square, directly benefits the mission of EDWINS. More than \$18,000 was raised.



Edwins President and CEO Brandon Chrostowski with Brooks Jones, winner of the mens division.



Chrostowski with female division race winner Cheryl Bayart.

Courtesy of Edwins

Cuyahoga Community College logo and text: "Where futures begin".

Table with 2 columns: Yosemite Enterprise Campus and Shaker West Professional Building. Rows include Office and Medical Suites, Executive Offices and Professional Suites, and contact information.

Up and Down the Boulevard

While festive Larchmere holiday traditions will carry on, many neighbors are eager to turn the calendar to a new year.

by Barbara Mooney

The 2020 **Larchmere Holiday Stroll** is on with creative ways to socially distance and observe other health precautions. Lisa McGuthry, representing the sponsor, the Larchmere Merchants Association, says the event will take place Nov. 27–29. Families are invited to participate in scavenger hunts, enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies at various locations, and hear strolling carolers. Although there won't be horse-and-carriage rides this year, other attractions will include "Polar Express," a children's program at McGuthry's **Our Favorite Things Boutique and Event Center** (12730 Larchmere, 216.536.7928). The popular holiday movie will be screened while a train conductor (portrayed by Ms. McGuthry) will give out golden tickets.

Meanwhile, **Shaker Quality Auto Body** (12916 Larchmere, 216.229.7846) is holding its annual fundraiser to benefit **Our Lady of Peace** church's meal program. With any mechanical service or body repair, the automotive shop will donate a complete ham dinner.

The usual flurry of holiday activities and events will be muted this year at **Loganberry Books** (13015 Larchmere, 216.795.9800). Instead, the store is beefing up its online gift offerings and arranging virtual author talks and other programs. "We're keeping an eye on the way the COVID-19 numbers are going and asking our customers to refer to social media for updates," says Loganberry's communications manager, Elisabeth Plumlee-Watson.

A New LOOK

LOOK Studio, the hair salon that for a decade operated out of the striking green building at 12708 Larchmere, has relocated to a storefront at 12808 Larchmere, where Rebecca's barber shop had been. "We did a lot to refurbish the space," says owner Stevie Chesnik. The salon has taken extensive measures to keep customers and its four other stylists as safe as possible. The salon is open by appointment only (call 216.231.5665).

3 Aprons Closing and Busy Boss Intro

3 Aprons Bakery announced in October on its Facebook page that it was closing its shop. "We have decided to make it a certified home bakery instead," while still offering its fares at local farmers markets and pop-ups around Cleveland. "When we feel it's safe, we will open back up in a new location... This isn't goodbye but see you later."

Around the same time **Busy Boss Bakery** (12732 Larchmere) held a "business shower" introducing itself at a pop-up event. The bakery specializes in cakes, cupcakes and candies. Watch for more news about its progress.

Other Larchmere openings to look forward to include **SomeThingGood To Eat** in the former Baba Yaga's Greenhouse Café space, and **Fawaky Burst Juice Co.** and **The HIIT Factor Fitness** in the 13818 Larchmere building formerly occupied by Wolf Gallery. (See the articles in this issue for more information.)

Willow Cove's Charged Up Holidays

While the Covid Grinch has hampered many personal care businesses this season, **Willow Cove Art and Wellness Boutique** (12404 Larchmere, 216.230.7636) is sledding into it with vigor. "Our fall and winter theme is "Recharge Yourself," says Willow Cove's proprietor, Lawna Gamble. "The question we want folks to ponder is, what if we recharged ourselves as often as we did our phones?"

With its new promotion, any service at Willow Cove costs \$1 per minute. Along with massage therapy, its new services include: "Meditation-n-Paint", whereby individuals or small groups can participate in painting sessions with guided meditation; health, personal care and emotional support coaching or young adults with disabilities; and Reiki sessions.

Also, for the first time, Willow Cove is issuing gift certificates good for both its services and its various wellness gifts, such as memory foam bamboo pillows, neck massagers, scented candles and essential oils.

For more information, visit willowcove.org.

Boutique & Shop News

Eclectic Eccentric, the modern and vintage home accessories, apparel and unique gifts shop (13005 Larchmere, 216.798.3002) is entering the holiday season with comfort and humor in mind.

"I'm going snarky this year," says owner Tracey Hilbert. "We have a bigger selection of fun and functional gifts." Among them are kitchen towels bearing fun and naughty sayings. Falling squarely in the comfort category are a line

of Kamthe throws from Bangladesh, handcrafted lotions, teas and socks – "items that make people relaxed, calm and happy."

Our Favorite Things Boutique continues to garner recognition for community outreach. It was recently featured in a segment on WEWS-TV News5 for opening its events space as a virtual learning center where school children can study online, receive snacks and do arts and crafts. "We're stepping up. People in our community need a hand up," says owner Lisa McGuthry. Her efforts were also recently highlighted on "We the People," a WKYC-TV program hosted by Leon Bibb.

The Dancing Sheep boutique (12712 Larchmere, 216.229.5770) is continuing to offer appointment-shopping but has also returned to opening its doors from 2 to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturdays. Owner Lynne Alfred says she's "excited with newly arrived, Miro-like necklaces from Italy and woolen separates from England."

David DiVita is looking forward to celebrating his store's 25th anniversary in March. **Larchmere Deli & Beverage** is a boulevard fixture at 12727 Larchmere (216.721.0220).

Fairhill Partners, the social services center (12200 Fairhill Road, 216.421.1350) is approaching 2021 and adjusting to the pandemic in creative ways. Stephanie FallCreek, president and CEO of Fairhill, says January will bring a new program for "seasoned citizens" (60 years and older) titled "Take Charge of Your Health."

"From the comfort of your living room or even at your breakfast table, if you have a computer or tablet with a camera and microphone, or just a telephone, we have some great choices," says Dr. FallCreek.

"This past year has put us all to the test. Many of us have been shut in, locked down or just plain worried about going out. Whether you'd like to join an online "Bingocize" class (10 weeks, twice a week, of bingo and exercise, with tips for fall prevention or nutrition) or prefer to receive a toolkit with readings and worksheets to read, then join with four or five other people like you in a weekly phone call (for six weeks) to talk about proven ways to manage your pain or a chronic condition. We have trained, enthusiastic leaders who will help each small telephone group to accomplish their health goals and share experiences and ideas."

If you're interested in signing up, call 216.421.1350 and ask for Leah or Wendy.

New Concession Stand Makes Larchmere Destination for Sneakers for Students

by Kristen Romito

Cleveland is known for many things such as its sports teams and restaurants, but did you know that it has a really popular sneaker scene?

Cleveland native Justin Boyd has brought the under-the-radar sneaker culture to Larchmere by opening Concession Stand at 13006 Larchmere Boulevard. The store carries a variety of brands, but most are Cleveland-based or the designers are Cleveland natives such as @bound.by.soul, @allways.global, @millionairethoughtsinabucket.

Concession Stand also offers in-house cleaning and repair services by Concession's Sneaktician(s). There are three levels of service packages: Classic (\$17), Deluxe (\$28) and Supreme (\$40) or customers can choose from à la carte services ranging from paint restoration, deodorization, re-lacing, deep cleaning, wrinkle removal and more.

"Concession Stand derived from an early obsession of sneakers starting at a young age, and

Cleveland is a sneaker market city, which most people don't realize," Boyd said. "The collectors here love Jordans, Yeezys and Lebrons as much as they do anywhere, so I knew that I could provide a unique service to those looking to restore sneakers and immerse themselves deeper in the culture. Simply, the cleaning experience is just as important as the pre-drop stakeouts."

In addition to sneaker repair, the customers don't just have to be dropping a pair of sneakers for repair or checking out the store's other items such as unisex t-shirts, hoodies, hats, pants, jackets and more. Concession Stand also offers its unique cereal bar.

"Our cereal bar is available daily and consists of a variety of cereal combinations that I've come up with that speaks to the culture of our consumers," Boyd said.

Concession Stand most recently announced that it entered a partnership with Dayandnight.LA, an exotic cereal company based in Los Angeles, which Boyd said has helped elevate the cereal bar experience. The co-founder of Dayandnight.LA is originally from Cleveland as well.

Boyd has extensive retail experience with global luxury retailers from when he held management positions at Tiffany & Co. and Balenciaga in New York City. With those experiences he knew he wanted to some day open his own store. "I am a serial



Right: Justin Boyd, owner of Concession Stand, brings his high-end retail experience to Larchmere, meeting demands of the popular sneaker Cleveland scene.

Below: Justin Boyd, owner of Concession Stand, brings his high-end retail experience to Larchmere, meeting demands of the popular sneaker Cleveland scene.

Left: Boyd mans the store's cereal bar.

entrepreneur by heart and I've been a part of other start-ups that further helped mold the concept of Concession Stand," stated Boyd.

Boyd said that he chose Larchmere for his first store because of its rich history of culture and worldliness in such a tight-knit Cleveland district. "It has been and continues to be a community for small business owners, and we felt welcomed from the start. We are excited to bring a service such as sneaker restoration plus a cereal bar adding to the Larchmere shopping experience."

For special store promotions and daily cereal bar specials follow Concession Stand on Instagram at concession_stand or visit concessionstandglobal.com.



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The survey can be completed online at

<https://forms.gle/6mvud3BoqKVLJNvg6>

If you need assistance to complete the survey via phone, please call Bianca at

216-659-2028