

the SHAD Connection

FALL 2021

Vol. 44 No. 1 FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK AND SHOP IN THE SHAKER SQUARE AREA

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Garlic Festival is Back!

The stinkiest event in Cleveland will take place Saturday, Aug. 28 (noon – 8 p.m.) and Sunday, Aug. 29 (noon – 6 p.m.). The annual fundraiser for the North Union Farmers Market will include annual favorites such as the Top Chef Grill Off, Mighty Locavores Kids' Zone, Garlic Gourmet Alley, Mitchell's garlic ice cream, Artist Gallery, Miss Garlic 2021 and more. For details visit clevelandgarlicfestival.org.

Moreland Blvd. / Shaker Square Loop

Nearly \$8 Million Overhaul of Streets, Waterlines in the Works

by Thomas Jewell

Design work commenced in August for a \$7.8 million overhaul of about one mile of North and South Moreland Boulevards, as well as the loop around Shaker Square.

In addition to asphalt milling, base repairs and resurfacing along roughly 3,000 feet of South Moreland, and another 1,000 feet on North Moreland – plus the sections that encircle the square – existing water distribution lines will also be replaced, as well as adjustments, reconstruction or replacement of catch basins.

After Cleveland City Council approved the project in the spring, the contract could be bid and awarded by

See *Nearly \$8 Million Overhaul*, page 5



Kristen Romito

Meet Councilwoman Gardner of Ward 4



Michael Ann Johnson

One of Gardner's first moves was to hire an executive assistant, Rich Greene, who does stand-up comedy on the side. A sense of humor might come in handy.

Gardner, 69, is effusive,

by Grant Segall

Among other things, Marion Anita Gardner has worked as a machinist, survived 15 brain surgeries, helped defendants in Cleveland Housing Court save their homes, and raised two sons and a nephew. She's also the founding head of a community center with a summer camp, a hoop house, free food, and other services, with wood and machine shops under construction at press time

So she's not fazed by the complexities of Cleveland City Council. Not even by her rare and potentially awkward there as a temporary replacement for a councilman convicted of 15 felony counts but still seeking another term.

outspoken, and informal. She often gushes "Omigod!" and "Guess what?" She goes not by Councilwoman Gardner but Anita or sometimes moonpuppy, writing the latter all lower case.

On June 3, Cuyahoga County Probate Judge Anthony Russo picked Gardner as an interim councilwoman. She replaced Kenneth Johnson, a councilman since 1980, who'd been suspended by a state judicial panel pending trial.

On July 30, Johnson was convicted July 30 in Akron for falsifying expense claims, tampering with a witness, helping to falsify tax returns, and related offenses. The conviction turned his suspension into expulsion and ended Gardner's

interim appointment. Then council reappointed her through Dec. 31, when Johnson's four-year term would have expired. At press time, council also planned soon to appoint her to some committees.

But Johnson is among 11 candidates in a September 14 nonpartisan primary for a new term. If he wins the general election Nov. 2 but fails to overturn his convictions on appeal, he won't be allowed to serve again, and a special election would take place. Garrdner said she'd accept a second appointment until that election but wouldn't run in it.

Before applying for the seat, Gardner sought the suspended Johnson's approval. "I don't do things behind people's backs," she says, "and Ken has been good to this center."

She says he urged her to go ahead. He did not return a call for comment.

Eighteen people applied. In a press release, Russo said he gave preferences to those, like Gardner, not seeking a full term. He also said, "Ms. Gardner stood out during the interview process for her advocacy and dedication to the residents of Ward 4."

The ward serves Shaker Square and parts of Buckeye, Mount Pleasant, Woodland Hills and Kinsman.

See *Meet Councilwoman Gardner*, page 10



Cleveland Urban Film Festival Celebrates 10 Years

See page 3



EDWINS 5K Grand - 6th Annual Run for Re-Entry Sunday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m.

Meet up at 13101 Shaker Boulevard for one of the toughest 5K races in town! Running not your thing? Join in on a 1-mile walk or become a sponsor. To register and for more information visit about the race visit edwinsrestaurant.org/grind.

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SHAD to Launch New Website

Make sure to check out SHAD's new website, shad.org, this fall. The new site will have additional information, including a robust list of all the businesses in the neighborhoods SHAD serves.

Join Shaker Square Area Development Corp.

Your support sustains, maintains, improves & grows our neighborhoods!

- YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN SHAD:**
- Maintains our charming, artistic, accessible residential community
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 - Encourages local businesses and restaurants to thrive
 - Contributes to fun, area activities
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Questions? Call 216.421.2100

SHAD Celebrates 43 Years and Looks to the Future

by Adam Zimmerman

Thursday, July 15, marked the 44th annual members meeting for Shaker Square Area Development Corporation (SHAD). Approximately thirty attendees gathered at Our Lady of Peace to welcome new members, elect trustees, recap recent achievements, and discuss the future.

Notably, nominations were presented for the following board members to serve their first or additional terms: Lisa McGuthry, Brian Siggers, and Maryann Tegowski.

Following the successful nominations, President Mary Ann Kovach highlighted SHAD's efforts to uphold its mission in the face of the pandemic over the past year. Kovach emphasized SHAD's ability to continue communication in a remote world. For example, *The SHAD Connection* continued printing and delivering pertinent information at critical locales, including Shaker Square, Cedar-Lee, Cedar Fairmount, and new additions, the Buckeye and Woodhill neighborhoods.

This communication extended beyond, through social media tools such as the SHAD Facebook page and Zoom technology. SHAD has enabled these platforms to connect residents to how local businesses were navigating in the midst of a pandemic.

The offices of councilmen Blaine Griffin and Ken Johnson were recognized for providing financial support for SHAD to provide such valued communication. One statistic that showcases the return on this investment sheds light on SHAD's value – in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, SHAD helped locals register to vote, as 350 voter applications were handed out at the Farmers Market for the 2020 election.

Kovach also shared news of Burten Bell Carr's community liaison, Bianca Butts, for the Larchmere, Ludlow, CHALK (Cormere, Haddam, Ardoon, Larchmere and Kemper) and Shaker Square neighborhoods.

After recapping the year, Kovach opened the room to a substantive question and answer session. One key discussion topic that came up was brainstorming how SHAD can adapt to the 'new normal' as in-person gathering returns. As the 45th anniversary nears, SHAD is looking to identify activities to further engage with the community and illustrate the value it provides to both bolster its 350-member base and recruit new members. From ice cream trucks to pancake breakfast events, the ideation session generated a noticeable (and appetizing) contrast when considering the distancing restrictions that the pandemic has presented to us all in this challenging past year-plus.



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 | COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Apartment Corridor | • Shaker Square |
| • CHALK | • Larchmere Blvd. |
| • Drexmore/Chadbourne | • Van Aken Plaza |
| • Historic Shaker Square | • Shaker Boulevard West |
| • Larchmere | |
| • Ludlow | |

SHAKER SQUARE AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Officers Mary Ann Kovach <i>President</i> Johnnie Spates-Greene <i>First Vice-President</i> Maryann Tegowski <i>Second Vice-President</i> Peter Linberger <i>Secretary</i> George W. Palda <i>Treasurer</i>	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
Trustees China Brown Corrine P. Croom Lisa McGuthry Theresa Pollard Jan Rybka Kristen Schmidt Brian Siggers Steven Smirdel Andrew Spencer Emma Vinsic Staff Carole Grady	Mailing Address The SHAD Connection Shaker Square Area Development Corporation 11811 Shaker Boulevard Suite 106 Cleveland, Ohio 44120 Telephone 216.421.2100 Editor E-mail info@shad.org

THE SHAD CONNECTION
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JumpStart Inc. Helps Boost Entrepreneurship in Buckeye

by Angela Townsend

On Wednesday, Sept. 8 Burten, Bell, Carr Development Inc. along with JumpStart Inc. will hold its first ever Buckeye Business Pitch competition from 6 to 8 p.m. at BoxSpot, the business incubator at Kinsman Avenue and East 81st Street.

Most of the pitch competitions run by the venture development organization JumpStart Inc. were open to all Cleveland residents, said JumpStart spokesperson Vicki McDonald. But the organization also has hosted a few small neighborhood competitions with partner organizations.

Back in June, JumpStart Inc. approached Burten Bell Carr Community Development Corp. about creating a business pitch competition for the Buckeye neighborhood. Any potential, new, or existing business in our service area (Buckeye, Shaker-Square, CHALK, Larchmere, Central, Kinsman) can participate.

"We work with a number of community partners and entrepreneurs in the Buckeye and Kinsman neighborhoods through the City of Cleveland Neighborhood Transformation initiative," McDonald explained. "There is so much

opportunity to build a thriving small business community in the Buckeye community and JumpStart is committed to providing support to help small businesses start and grow."

Each individual will receive up to two hours of business advising from JumpStart's team prior to the competition to prepare their pitches – which can't be longer than four minutes in length.

During the competition, the contestants will pitch their businesses without the use of any visual aids. Their challenge is to describe their product or service, what makes them unique, who their target market is and how they plan to reach them.

The individual whose pitch is judged to have the most potential to attract future customers and investors will receive \$500. All other participants will receive \$100.

"This is a great opportunity to highlight the entrepreneurship in our wards," said Dawn Mayes, BBC's Director of Neighborhood Services, Buckeye. "It will give those individuals awareness and exposure to the resources JumpStart can provide in growing and starting their businesses."



Cleveland Urban Film Festival Celebrates 10 Years

This year the film festival celebrates 10 years and will screen films that highlight black life and culture.

The event runs from Sept. 9 – 17 at Atlas Cinemas on Shaker Square. This year will be a hybrid of in-person, drive-in and virtual screenings featuring 60 films (18 features and 42 shorts).

The opening night event kicks off with Actor, Director, Writer, Martial Artist, Michael Jai White.

For a list of films and screening schedule visit gcuff.org.

"GCUFF has always been about the experience – the experience for moviegoers, filmmakers and those who are telling our stories through the arts!"

–Donna Dabbs, Executive Director

Farewell to The Dancing Sheep

"I'll very much miss the sense of community. In the Larchmere area, residents and businesses work together so supportively and cooperatively that it feels like a wonderful big family.

I'll also miss the artists I work with, the customers I get to help, and the opportunity to mix and match clothing and accessories, much like making/designing paper doll clothes when I was younger. Indeed, Larchmere resident Joan Levy gifted me a Shirley Temple paper doll book in commemoration of that very love!"

–Lynne Alfred



by Barbara Mooney

It will be difficult saying goodbye to The Dancing Sheep, which will close soon after a two-week sale from Sept. 16-Sept. 30. The boutique (12712 Larchmere, 216.229.5770) notable for wearable art, contemporary crafts and gifts, has lived up its motto: "Halfway between a store and a friend's home." The pandemic has limited the store's ability to welcome visitors, however. The shop was

Baa-bye!



closed except for appointments for many months and more recently has been open Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Owner Lynne Alfred said she and her husband Bob have chosen to retire. Ms. Alfred opened The Dancing Sheep in 1998 with truly unique merchandise, from one-of-a-kind clothing, jewelry, accessories, home furnishings, cards and gifts. Among its honors was being cited in 2019 as one of the area's best boutiques by onlyinyourstate.com.

Ever the advocate of the neighborhood, Ms. Alfred has served as an officer of the Larchmere Merchants Association for many of the past 23 years. The store has hosted a myriad of trunk shows, ceramics and textile art exhibits, artist and author receptions, and other special events. Ms. Alfred's generosity will be missed. In 2007, the store made

space on its mezzanine level for the Sylvia Ullman American Crafts, a neighboring shop that was closing. Most recently, Dancing Sheep donated 10 percent of sales on any necklace sold to the Shaker Lakes Nature Center. Several other events have reflected Ms. Alfred's affiliation with the Flora Stone Mather Center for Women at CWRU.

Make sure to stop by the store for one last dance.

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Heard Around the Square

by Margaret Simon

Here's a little spin on some local Spokespersons! **Carla Wainwright** is a board member of Bike Cleveland and co-moderator of "Black Girls Do Bike: Cleveland" where she and **Diana Hildebrand** share their passion for cycling with others. Hildebrand was recognized as one of Bike Cleveland's 2021 Volunteers of the Year. Want to join or learn more? Search **Black Girls Do Bike on Facebook**. Read more about Diana, who is "changing lives two wheels at a time" at devahdcycling.com.

Sign up for a ride for someone's life. Get involved with VeloSano (Latin for "swift cure"), a fund-raising initiative to support lifesaving cancer research at Cleveland Clinic that have rides for every level. Wheels roll Sept. 10 and 11. Register at velosano.org.



Congratulations to Ohioana Book Award Winner **Thrity Umrigar**. She was awarded the 2021 prize for juvenile literature for her book, "Sugar in Milk"—"a timely and timeless picture book about immigration that demonstrates the power of diversity, acceptance, and

tolerance from a gifted storyteller." The Ohioana Book Awards are the second oldest, and among the most prestigious, state literary prizes in the nation. And kudos to **John Derf Backderf** whose book "Kent State: Four Dead in Ohio," received the 2021 Eisner Award for the Best Reality-Based Work. Buy the books from Loganberry or borrow them at Shaker Library.

Another interesting book is "In Their Path" by Joan Southgate and Fran Stewart, which recounted Stewart's walk on the Underground Railroad from southern Ohio to Canada. Southgate also founded Restore Cleveland Hope, an organization that tells the stories of the heroic freedom seekers and those who helped them. (Hope was Cleveland's code name on the UGRR.) **Northern Ohio Bibliophilic Society (NOBS)** will host **Fran Stewart**, and Restore Cleveland Hope board member **Jeanne Van Atta**, who will talk about Southgate's walk and the restoration of the historic Cozad Bates house (11508 Mayfield Road) at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23 at Loganberry Books.

Looking for a unique sweet treat? **Becki Dina**, owner and decorator of Sugar Arts Bakehouse, can *bake your day!* Need a tasty cookie for a memorable occasion? Want your company logo iced onto a scrumptious treat? Need cupcakes or cakes? Contact: becki@sugarartsbakehouse.com. She even teaches cookie-decorating workshops.



And for kids, Shaker Library suggests admission to **Superhero Academy** from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16 in the Reading Garden at Bertram Woods Branch. Register online or at the library for the opportunity to create a secret identity and go on a rescue mission. Academy members will create masks, rescue hidden characters, and make their own superhero comics. I'm sure all the super graduates will learn about their super powers and use them for good. And I hope they'll check out some super library books. No joke.

Everything **Brandon Chrostowski** touches turns to gold. *Cleveland Magazine* dubbed Edwins Too as one of Cleveland's 10 Best New Restaurants.

Shaker Library will present **Keith Harris**, president and CEO of FutureGen Comics, a marketing and advertising firm based around comics. Harris will talk about how he turned his childhood love of comics into a successful business. (Harris' company developed superheroes for the **LeBron James Family Foundation** along with bracelets that provided super powers, which were a key fundraising initiative for the foundation.) Join him at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25 on Zoom and learn how he anticipates the comics industry will evolve in Northeast Ohio. Register online or at the library.

Shaker Historical Museum presents **Debbie Weinkamer** as Lucretia Garfield, who will talk about her courtship with James Garfield including tales about the high- and low-points in their 22-year marriage. Bring you masks and enjoy the performance at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12 at the Shaker Historical Museum.

The Shaker Lakes Nature Center has made nature accessible to all by offering a series of virtual, seasonal hikes (https://shakerlakes.org/virtual-hikes/) accessible from the comfort of your home – or you can walk and watch on a mobile device. Either way, it's a lovely moment of Zen.

Shaker Arts Council offers a self-guided art tour of public art that includes information about the artists. Tired feet and no bike? Watch it online at shakerartscouncil.org/public-art-tour.html

Kamla Lewis has retired from her position as the City of Shaker Heights' Director of Neighborhood Revitalization. The dynamic leader worked at the international level with the United Nations Development Program, at the county level with the

Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners, at the regional level with the Regional Transit Authority, and locally with the City of Shaker Heights. Best wishes in a well-earned retirement.

Friends of the Shaker Library is emerging from the COVID-19 quarantine with energetic new board members including, **Kate Bennett, Emily Smayda Kelly, Danita Grigsby, Anne Evans, and Christine Wolken**. They join stalwart board members **Tamar Calland, Julie Mizener, Stephanie Jonas, Joyce Becker, Roni Glassberg, Larry Jemison, and Tony Mangoff**. Longtime Friends Board members **Evelyn and Dave Greene** stepped down to have more time to visit their daughter and her husband in Oregon. They leave big shoes to fill for all they have done to support Shaker Library.

In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The only way to have a friend is to be one." In the words of the Beatles, "We get by with a little help from our friends." In other words, join the Friends.

Renovation continues on your Shaker Library and excitement is building! Watch for Grand Re-opening events the week of December 13. And don't let the trucks and cranes fool you; the Main Library is open to serve you while construction continues.

A wise old African proverb says, "If you want to go fast go alone. If you want to go far go together." The City of Shaker Heights, the Shaker Schools and the Shaker Library are working together to develop a master plan for the future of the community's facilities including city buildings, schools, libraries, parks, and playgrounds. The group began the Forward Together initiative in 2019 in Phase One and now continues with Phase Two. To learn more go to forwardtogethershaker.com.

The City Club of Cleveland and area libraries invite you to take Five Days for Democracy and consider what democracy means to you. The 2021 focus is on local politics: what does local government look like, who represents us, and how can we make an impact on city hall. Beginning Sept. 28, join neighbors in fun daily challenges to help learn more about government in our own backyards. Go to cityclub.org/about/five-days-for-democracy-2021.

Stroll the square this fall, take in the crisp, cool air. . . and keep your ears open for me.

beardaroundsquare@gmail.com

Nearly \$8 Million Overhaul of Streets, Waterlines in the Works

Continued from page 1

November 2022, with construction getting underway in February 2023, continuing through the following November.

"The price tag of almost \$8 million is a huge investment on Shaker Square, which could certainly use an economic shot in the arm during a time of financial turmoil," a release from the Shaker Square Alliance noted of the work, which will be done along Moreland between Larchmere Boulevard and Griffing Avenue.

Most of the project falls within Cleveland's Ward 4, currently represented by interim Cleveland Councilwoman Marion Anita Gardner, court-appointed after the removal and subsequent conviction of longtime incumbent Ken Johnson. Gardner could not be reached for comment.

Only about 10 percent of the work will be done in the sixth ward, represented by Councilman Blaine Griffin, namely the west side of South Moreland between Buckeye and Drexmore roads.

"But it's important not just for Wards 4 and 6, but to the broader area that includes the cities of Shaker



Kristen Romito

and Cleveland Heights," Griffin said. "We believe it's going to complement our activities in Shaker Square and this type of project will provide better connectivity between Buckeye Road and Doan Brook (off Fairhill Road)."

Those multi-modal connections will include safer crossings for pedestrians and other mobility devices, "sharrows" and better signage for bicyclists in keeping with Mayor Frank Jackson's Bikeway Master Plan. Further coordination on bus

stops and shelters is planned with the Greater Cleveland RTA, which in addition to the Blue Line rapid train station has bus route numbers 11, 48, and 48A running through the Square. As for "complete, green and sustainable design elements," the project attains a "Silver" Envision Rating," with intersection improvements that will include high-visibility, enhanced crosswalks with more pedestrian countdown signals, curb alignment modifications and "bump-outs" that

encourage lower turning speeds for motorists.

Also under consideration will be the addition of a northbound left-turn lane at Drexmore Road to improve intersection movement, with mast-arm traffic signals there and possibly at Ashwood Road to replace the lights hanging on wires.

"Because of concurrent water line replacement, traffic will be maintained differently along certain sections," city officials noted, with access to residences and businesses being maintained throughout construction.

- Along South Moreland, half of the pavement will be constructed at a time, allowing at least one lane of traffic along with a parking lane to be maintained in each direction.
- Construction in Shaker Square will be done in two sections and "one-half of the Square at a time." One lane of northbound traffic will be maintained on one side, and southbound traffic will be detoured.
- Along North Moreland, one northbound lane and one parking lane will be maintained, with southbound traffic getting detoured.

Further stakeholder involvement will be scheduled, first in a public

"It's important not just for Wards 4 and 6, but to the broader area that includes the cities of Shaker and Cleveland Heights."

-Councilman Blaine Griffin

meeting to be held when preliminary design plans become available, with feedback incorporated when appropriate.

A second public meeting will take place after the project has been bid and awarded, but prior to construction and with the participation of the contractor.

To fund the project, about \$4.2 million will be sought through Ohio Public Works Issue 1 grants or loans, with the other \$3.5 million through City of Cleveland road and bridge bonds, along with city utility funds.

Burten, Bell, Carr Update

by Kristen Romito

With a year of the pandemic under our belt, organizations and businesses are continuing to utilize outdoor spaces to safely bring people together. Since Cleveland has some of its best weather in the fall, two organizations are taking advantage of this time of year to get people out and about in Shaker Square.

Once again, in partnership with Destination Cleveland and Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, Burten, Bell, Carr Development Inc. (BBC) is promoting the "Eat & Explore CLE" initiative at Shaker Square over two weekends: August 28-29 during the 2021 Cleveland Garlic Festival and September 9-17 during the Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival.

"Eat & Explore CLE" was launched this past winter to encourage residents to patronize restaurants and businesses in different Cleveland neighborhoods

as they were especially impacted by the pandemic.

"Now that more people are safely venturing out, we look forward to people reconnecting in the neighborhood after almost a year of not going out," said Bianca Butts, BBC Neighborhood Services Coordinator (Larchmere, Ludlow, Shaker Square). "The Garlic Festival is the annual fundraiser for the North Union Farmers Market and provides an opportunity for people to explore some of the newer restaurants that have opened on Shaker Square."

BBC is also excited that the Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival will be hosting virtual and in-person screenings at Atlas Cinema to celebrate the Festival's 10th anniversary.

For detailed information about these upcoming events visit: livecleveland.org/eat-explore-cle; clevelandgarlicfestival.org; and gcuuff.org.

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Buzzing Around the Neighborhoods



Above: SHAD recruited a group of Shaker Square neighbors to beautify the Square by planting flowers this May. Armed with hand tools and gardening gloves, they planted cannas, potato vines and petunias in 16 planters around the shopping center. Nina McClellan and Susan Rotatori are seen here at work, and enjoying it! Jill Evans and our youngest volunteers, students at Goldenrod Montessori, are enjoying the planting project. Other volunteers enlisted by SHAD are William Anderson, Joanne Blanchard, Penny Croom, Fran Kalafatis, and Susan Vodrey. The project was funded by the court-appointed receiver and management; the plants were purchased through the Larchmere Community Association's annual plant sale.



Right: This summer, Larchmere Fire Works hosted a glassblowing and blacksmithing class for children in grades K-12 for \$20, half the price of a course. Students had a choice of making a suncatcher, a heart-shaped paper weight or an ornament.

BURTEN, BELL, CARR DEVELOPMENT INC. IS PROUD TO SUPPORT

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DINE, SHOP AND EXPLORE THE BUCKEYE, LARCHMERE
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GREATER
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You can admire the Larchmere “Life Skills” mural at its new location on E. 122nd Street, just south of Larchmere Boulevard. Thank you to Avon Verduyn for allowing his building to be used, to Lynne Alfred for finding the new location, and to Katherine Chilocote for overseeing the painting and arranging the reinstallation.

The mural, created by Artist Ted Kurtz, Danny Carver and Chilocote, was funded through a grant Chilocote obtained and was painted by 46 children enrolled in the summer mural institute of Building Bridges Arts Collaborative. At the ribbon cutting, one of the proud young painters said he was going to show his (future) children the parts he helped paint. Even more significant, he lived just a little west of MLK but had never been on Larchmere.

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Up and Down the Boulevard

Renewal and busy business are themes for Fall along Larchmere

by Barbara Mooney

Sidewalk Sale Returns to Form

The **Labor Day Sidewalk Sale** will return to its former glory on Saturday, Sept. 4, starting at 10 a.m. Larchmere merchants will hold end-of-season specials and sales, and for the first time since 2019, outside vendors are invited to set up tables. The Larchmere Merchants Association is charging \$35 per table; call 800.975.0731 for more information. Some of the deals include 20 percent off books and calendars at **Loganberry Books** (13015 Larchmere, 216.795.9800), as well as sales on furniture, knick-knacks, posters and vintage magazines. Next door, **Eclectic Eccentric** will feature kitchen linens and baby clothes from The Coin Laundry along with its assorted vintage merchandise.

Renewal at Willow Cove

Willow Cove Art and Wellness Boutique (12404 Larchmere, 216.230.7636) is bringing fresh programs to its Fall calendar. In addition to emotional support coaching services for adults and teens, look for the “Inner Canvas Art Journaling Club,” “Mental Health Makeovers,” and “Self Reclamation: Creating Your New Normal,” a program partially funded by the St. Luke’s Foundation. Willow Cove’s Lawna Gamble said the participants will be guided in “embracing and ultimately expressing wholeness and renewal through visual art creations and transformative support groups.” For more information, go to willowcove.org.

SomethinGood Happening

SomethinGood To Eat, (12210 Larchmere, 216.956.5701) the café that serves “plant-based versions of fast-food favorites” is opening a newly renovated dining space, dubbed “The GOOD Place” on Sept. 10. Also, as a community amenity, the café is now a drop-off location for Rust Belt Riders, the food-waste compositing service.

Calling All Trick-or-Treaters

The Merchants Association will also bring back its Halloween “**Candy Run**” on Sunday, Oct. 31. Shops will offer trick-or-treaters bags of candy and other goodies. Loganberry will transform into The Haunted Bookshop, complete with spooky sounds, literary characters, outdoor mayhem and plenty of treats. The event will be held indoors and outdoors. “We’ll keep you safe, even if we do give you a spook,” said Elisabeth Plumlee-Watson, Loganberry’s communication manager. “Hands to yourself; masks and costumes required.”

Separately, and until Oct. 30, **Loganberry’s Annex Gallery** will feature a watercolor retrospective exhibit by **Lois Davis**.

Our Favorite Activities

Count on new offerings and programs this fall from Lisa McGuthry, owner of **Our Favorite Things Boutique & Event Center** (12730 Larchmere, 216.400.6081). The store is hosting a “Girls Night Out,” program on the third Saturday of the month starting Sept. 18 from 7–10 p.m. The dinner, catered by Daddy’s 3 Little Girls Catering, will include dinner followed by fun craft-oriented activities. Cost is \$35. Ms. McGuthry, who recently joined the board of the Shaker Square Area Development Corp., will also lead the 12-week “Entrepreneur 180” business education and mentoring class starting Sept.15. For information, email info@ourfavoritethingsclem.com.

FYI, re: Recycling

Under the heading of “news you can use,” the City of Cleveland is restarting its recycling program that has been dormant since April 2020. Cleveland residents have until Oct. 22 to opt-in to the every-other-week collection service. Call 216.664.3030 for more information.



Barbara Mooney



Right: Busy Boss Bakery owner Ashley Wynn and her daughter Anaiyah at the bakery's grand opening on July 3. Left: Ashley's mother Gail and Aunt Debra, who work at the store.



Busy Boss Beginnings

After a long-awaited grand opening in July, **Busy Boss Bakery** (12732 Larchmere, 216.417.8526) expects to hit its stride this fall. Owner Ashley Wynn is excited about opening the store after laboring since 2018 as a custom-order baked goods catering business. “I started in event planning, providing desserts for birthday parties, weddings and small corporate events,” while working full-time at another job. With her growing family demanding more flexibility, she launched an online bakery business. “My daughter gave me the idea when I baked a unicorn cake for her birthday party, and she and her friends loved it. I’d found my passion,” Ms. Wynn said. In addition to customized cakes and uniquely elaborate cupcakes, some of Busy Boss’s other delicacies include cookies, cobblers, and waffle-cone encased cheesecake. “We’re thinking about expanding the menu to include soups, shakes, possibly sandwiches,” she said. The bakery is also renting out its space for small special events. The bakery hours are Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m.– 8 p.m.

Attention: Pet Owners

The former space of the Groovy Grooming Pet Spa is now doing business as **Lilly’s Pad Pet Grooming** (12908 Larchmere, 216.303.0340).

Last Dance

Say goodbye while you can to **The Dancing Sheep**, the boutique for contemporary crafts, gifts, and wearable art (12712 Larchmere, 216.229.5770). Everything in the Larchmere mainstay will be on sale from Sept. 16 through Sept. 30. Owner Lynne Alfred and her husband Bob are retiring.

One More Goodbye

Larchmere Tavern owner Fred Vrabel closed the restaurant’s doors in early August after 29 years of business.

Neighbor Tour 121 Larchmere



Larchmere neighbors came together to tour the new apartments at 121 Larchmere. At press time, occupancy is at 50 percent, and leasing is at 60 percent. City Architecture is the commercial tenant. We welcome all to the neighborhood!



Mary Ann Knoch

Larchmere PorchFest



Larchmere PorchFest came back this year albeit a bit smaller than in years past. Keeping with tradition, concerts were held on the porches at different homes but they were held on different weekends throughout the summer. Pictured here is Cleveland Brass Works on the porch of Larchmere resident Donna Cornett.

Michael Anne Johnson

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EDWINS Launches Tablet Curriculum for Inmates

By Pamela Zoslov

Reflecting on his errant youth in Detroit, Brandon Chrostowski once said he'd been on a path to be "either dead or in jail." A brush with the law and the threat of prison motivated him to change his life's direction. While on probation, he began working in restaurants, and in those busy kitchens found his calling. He worked his way up from busboy to the Culinary Institute of America, to fine restaurants in New York and Paris, and to Cleveland, where in 2013 he opened EDWINS ("Education Wins"), Shaker Square's acclaimed French restaurant and intensive training program that enables previously incarcerated people to master the culinary arts.

EDWINS provides free housing, life coaching, medical care and literacy programs, and over the years has graduated 474 students, many of whom have gone on to work in the restaurant industry. At least 95 percent of EDWINS graduates have found employment, and less than 1 percent have re-offended. The nonprofit EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute has grown to encompass a second restaurant, Edwins Too on Shaker Square, and a bakery, butcher shop and diner on Buckeye Road.

Now Chrostowski is expanding his efforts, through digital technology, to reach those presently incarcerated. EDWINS has long had its curriculum available at Grafton Correctional Institute and other prisons, but he wanted to make the program accessible to more inmates across the country.

The EDWINS President and CEO recounts the genesis of the tablet-access program. "About a year and a half ago, I started a relationship with GTL [Global Tel*Link Corporation], the largest prison communications company in the country. We started talking about what we could do that would be bigger, stronger, and have more reach.

"The biggest thing we could think of," he says, "was making sure that any inmate with a tablet – of which there are a half million – would have access to our curriculum series."

To adapt to time constraints, the EDWINS culinary course has been broken down into 30-to-40-minute modules that include video instruction, reading content and quizzes. Students have email access to the EDWINS staff. Upon completing the 26-hour course, the student receives a culinary degree and a head start on a career in hospitality. Upon release, graduates are invited to enroll in EDWINS intensive six-month culinary arts training.

The project is made possible by a generous donation from the Cleveland Browns, which is also sponsoring scholarships for people in other states who want to relocate to Cleveland to complete the in-person program and live in EDWINS' student housing at its Second Chance Life Skills Center.

Meet Councilwoman Gardner

Continued from page 1



On council, Gardner hopes to help resolve the Square's foreclosure by an out-of-town bank and find a good local owner.

She's starting a program of retail discounts for senior citizens in the Square and nearby for senior citizens on Tuesdays. She's also helping to arrange COVID vaccinations on Kinsman Road, connect the ward to the Internet, and get public computers for her Concerned Citizens Community Council center at 13611 Kinsman Ave.

One of the center's many volunteers, Marcie Carrier, says of Gardner, "This lady is the bomb. [Note to



Courtesy of GTL

The program is the latest innovation in Chrostowski's mission to create for others the "second chance" that transformed his own life. "This means a lot to me," Chrostowski says. "As I have always stated, every human being, regardless of their past, has the right to a fair and equal future.

"This opportunity takes that whole idea – how do I start a career in food? – to a real, attainable level. You can obtain this. We have partnerships to help you attain it. This is real."

On the side, Gardner volunteered enforcing housing codes for community groups and helping housing defendants. She became treasurer of a nonprofit now called Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People. She also made and exhibited artwork, including mobiles and quilts.

Gardner has a birth defect called Chiari malformation. In recent years, it led to headaches, vertigo, those brain surgeries, and retirement from TRW.

But she says she has plenty of energy for the community. She likes to say that she's trying "to put the neighbor back in front of the hood."

To reach Gardner: 216-664-4941, mgardner@clevelandcitycouncil.org.; for Concerned Citizens: 216-215-0801 or moonpuppy6@aol.com.

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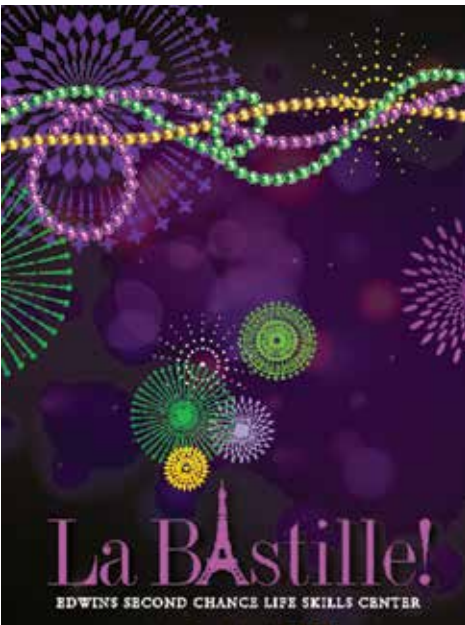
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Edwin's Bastille Day

EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute held its annual soiree and fundraiser on Saturday, July 17. The Parisian-inspired summertime soiree returned, with some New Orleans flare, to celebrate the storming of the Bastille and the fight for equality. Guests were treated to extravagant cuisine, bountiful beverages, and a parade of live entertainment with all proceeds benefiting EDWINS' mission of reimagining re-entry. Around 450 people attended to raise more than \$160,000.



Courtesy of Lara Tlesch



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Founder Brandon E. Chrostowski

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