

the SHAD Connection

SUMMER 2022

Vol. 44 No. 4 FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK AND SHOP IN THE SHAKER SQUARE AREA

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**Larchmere
Memorial Day
Sidewalk
Sale**

Saturday, May 28
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Stop by Larchmere Boulevard for a day of shopping and food at this annual event presented by the Larchmere Merchants Association. Local businesses will set up shop on the sidewalk along with entrepreneurs from outside the neighborhood. Additional vendors include a local catering company, pop-up shop bakers, and artists selling embroidered items, wall art and pottery items.



Larchmere PorchFest 2022

Saturday, June 25, 2-8 p.m.

The popular neighborhood music event is back and in full force. Come see 22 bands on 22 porches throughout Larchmere and experience a variety of music with neighbors and friends. More information on page 9.

SHAD Annual Members Meeting

Thursday, July 14 at 7 p.m.
Cummins Hall at Our Lady of Peace

Members are invited to attend the annual meeting where updates will be given on SHAD and other neighborhood developments. Not a member? To join visit shad.org/why-join or sign up at the meeting.

City Council Approves Nonprofits' Acquisition of Shaker Square

by Thomas Jewell

After Cleveland City Council decided to go for the historic decision, two homegrown nonprofits are "ready to roll" with the acquisition of Shaker Square.

On the heels of council's unanimous vote to assist in the financial rescue of the nearly century-old commercial and transportation hub from foreclosure, the landmark could be in local hands by June or July.

Council voted 16-0 on April 11 to loan two nonprofit development corporations \$12 million needed to pull the Square out of court-appointed receivership, where the historic property has been mired since the end of 2020.

"Now that we have the money in hand, so to speak, we are able

to continue discussions with the debt holder," Burten Bell Carr Development (BBC) Executive Director Joy Johnson told the Shaker Square Alliance in an update at its May 5 meeting.

The plan had been in the works for over a year and was shelved in December when the previous council could not reach agreement on the proposal put forth by the outgoing Frank Jackson mayoral administration.

Johnson said that "the biggest obstacle over the last few months was bringing the new council members up to speed," including home Ward 4 Councilwoman Deborah Gray.

Gray announced to the Shaker Square Alliance on April 7 that she had "decided to put the Shaker deal through the Planning, Development and Sustainability Committee."

Four days later, the unanimous council vote ensued.

In addition to the backing of Council President and longtime Larchmere (Ward 6) resident Blaine Griffin, the plan also received strong support from Ward 1 Councilman Joe Jones,

who represents the adjoining neighborhoods from Lee-Harvard over to part of Mount Pleasant.

"Blaine and Deborah helped shepherd this through the process," Jones said, adding that he sees additional opportunities developing through public-private partnerships in Southeast Cleveland.

"A lot of work still needs to be done," Jones added. "But I believe this will be a catalyst to strengthen the entire southeastern community, start some branding here and help us to become more like the 'Tremonts' of the world."

But the primary objective for BBC and the partnering Cleveland Neighborhood Progress (CNP), through its real estate subsidiary New Village Corp. (NVC), will be "site control" to strike a deal to purchase the property this summer, said Terri Hamilton Brown, CNP/NVC consultant and treasurer.

"We are in conversations with the deed holder (Wilmington Trust) and also the (current owner) Coral Companies, as well as the city, who is our lender," Brown said

See City Council Approves Nonprofits' Acquisition of Shaker Square, page 9

Buckeye-Woodhill Safety Collaborative Scores \$1 million Grant for Safety Measures

by Thomas Jewell

A nearly \$1 million Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) federal grant obtained through the newly formed Buckeye-Woodhill Safety Collaborative will take in sections of Shaker Square and the Larchmere neighborhood as part of the initiative's "micro-target" area.

Those boundaries - Mount Overlook Avenue to the north, Forest and Lamontier avenues to the south, North and South Moreland Boulevard to the east, and Woodhill Road to the west - encompass just over one square mile and 7,300 residents, and could be expanded as the three-year grant gets rolled out.

While awaiting Cleveland City Council's formal acceptance of the

grant award for the initial \$150,000 installment through the U.S. Department of Justice, the applicants, including Partnership for a Safer Cleveland, the East 128th Street Block Club and the Cleveland Police Department's Fourth District, noted that much of the groundwork for the "planning phase" is already in place.

Fourth District Police Commander Brandon Kutz said he was approached last year by the Partnership for a Safer Cleveland about putting the grant application together and lining it up with federal BCJI

See Buckeye-Woodhill Safety Collaborative Scores \$1million Grant for Safety Measures, page 4



Under the grant, residents will receive a Ring doorbell (or a similar product) to install at their home.

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Community Activist Shows Love for Square with Website

by Kristen Romito

At 90 years old, Arnie Berger hasn't slowed down and doesn't have plans to either. A self-proclaimed "citizen historian," Berger has dutifully kept abreast of Shaker Square's development over the years and relays that news on his independent website shakersquare.net, the first-ever website dedicated to promoting Shaker Square.

Events from more than 18 years ago, similar to Shaker Square's financial situation today, prompted Berger to create a platform to communicate Shaker Square news and other pertinent information. In February 2004, then-mayor Jane Campbell held a public meeting at the Square's movie theater then known as Shaker Square Cinemas to discuss Key Bank's rescindment of a loan from then-Shaker Square owners who couldn't meet their financial obligations. Berger, who was planning on attending that meeting, realized that Shaker Square didn't have a web presence so he registered shakersquare.net before the meeting. From then on, the website served as a communication tool and also a business directory to help promote the Square.

"It's a way to serve," Berger explains on why creating the site was his way of being a participatory citizen. Berger still works on his site but the focus is more on Shaker Square history and providing timely updates on the latest developments of Shaker Square, including the sale.

When asked about his opinion of the plans for the Square, Berger, who's seen the Square evolve over the years, says, "I'm hopeful because it's the best thing we can do now. We need to put it in loving hands."

Berger, a retired industrial engineer, moved to 13900 Shaker Boulevard 30 years ago after living downtown for several years and had previously raised his family in Shaker Heights. He moved to Shaker Square because "We've got it all here."

Arnie Berger holds his framed Proclamation given to him by Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson.



Family Fishing Workshop



On April 2, the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership and Cleveland Metroparks Youth Outdoors held its Family Fishing Workshop at Rockefeller Lagoon. The program teaches the basics from tackle and technique to casting, fish ID, and handling. Instructors even taught participants how to clean and prepare their catch. For information on upcoming workshops, visit doanbrookpartnership.org



Grant Segall

Marion Anita Gardner runs Concerned Citizens Community Council, which has a summer camp emphasizing the arts and agriculture

Free Summer Camp Open to Kids K-8

A free summer camp will be staged again this year by the Concerned Citizens Community Council of Mt. Pleasant.

At the Summer Creators & Agriculture Camp, about 25 incoming kindergartners through eighth graders will play sports, write, make videos, garden, tend chickens and more.

The camp will take place Mondays through Wednesdays, June 13 through July 29th, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the council's headquarters, 13611 Kinsman Road.

Youngsters will get a light breakfast, a lunch, and a snack. Mt. Pleasant residents will get priority for enrollment. The council is led by its founder, Marion Anita Gardner. Gardner also served last year as councilwoman of Cleveland's Ward 4. The council provides many other services to residents of all ages.

To register for the camp or to learn more, call the camp's director, Stephanie Lassiter, at 216.282.7799.



Courtesy of Tri-C

Community Resources for Your Next Step

Are you retooling your career after the pandemic? Was your job eliminated and you're not sure what to do next? As residents of Cuyahoga County, there is a resource nearby that can help you start making new decisions: Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C). The college offers a number of programs to help county residents find a new path, upskill for a new job, or simply make a new plan. For example, Tri-C runs a free six-week class designed to help Women In Transition – any transition – make a new plan. Divorced, retired, new Mom, widowed, empty nester? All are welcome. The programs are offered online and at campuses. Metro and

Eastern Campuses are closest to our area. Call 216.987.2272 or tri-c.edu/WIT.

If you need assistance to walk you through options, Tri-C's Access Centers offer education and job training right in the neighborhood. There's one about 1.5 miles away from the heart of the Shaker Square neighborhood at the Olivet Housing and Community Development Corp. - 8819 Quincy Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44106. There are ESL, GED and adult diploma programs as well as college and career readiness workshops. Scholarship funds allow the College to offer many programs at no cost. Call 216.987.4238 for details.

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For advertising rate and ad size information and media kit go to shad.org or call us at 216.421.2100.

Reserve ad space for *the SHAD Connection* Fall issue (covering September, October, November by **Monday, June 27**.

Ad artwork is due no later than: **Friday, July 22**.

Send artwork to Jim at jgdalessandro@gmail.com.

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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 | |

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THE SHAD CONNECTION

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Heard Around the Square

by Margaret Simon

Summertime and the reading is neighborly. Shaker Library wants everyone from babies to teens to join its summer reading program, *Shaker: A Neighborhood of Readers*, anytime between June 1 and August 31. Helping them drum up interest is Friends of the Shaker Library, which has underwritten some exciting reading incentives. Check it out at Shaker Library. Adult readers are invited to check out the Friends’ Never-ending Book Sale shelves for great reads at great prices.

Anita Hollander, actress, singer, composer, director and teacher, will be the commencement speaker for Shaker High School’s Class of 2022. The SAG-AFTRA National Chair of Performers with Disabilities received her Bachelor’s degree in Drama from Carnegie Mellon University and has had a long career despite losing a leg to cancer.

Art in the Annex. Loganberry Book’s Annex Gallery will feature the clever and creative altered book art of the **Altered Book Group** in June, the oil paintings of Cleveland’s and Shaker Heights’ landscapes by **Joel Bartell** in July and the digitally distinctive and whimsical art of **Shari Wolf** in August.

Sally and **Don Messinger** were honored at the Cleveland Pops Orchestra’s 2022 G-Clef Ball in April. Shaker Heights High School 11th grader **Lizzy Huang** received an Honorable Mention in the Maltz Museum’s 2022 Stop the Hate Essay Contest. She received \$1,000, and Shaker Heights High School received a \$500 Anti-Bias Education Grant.

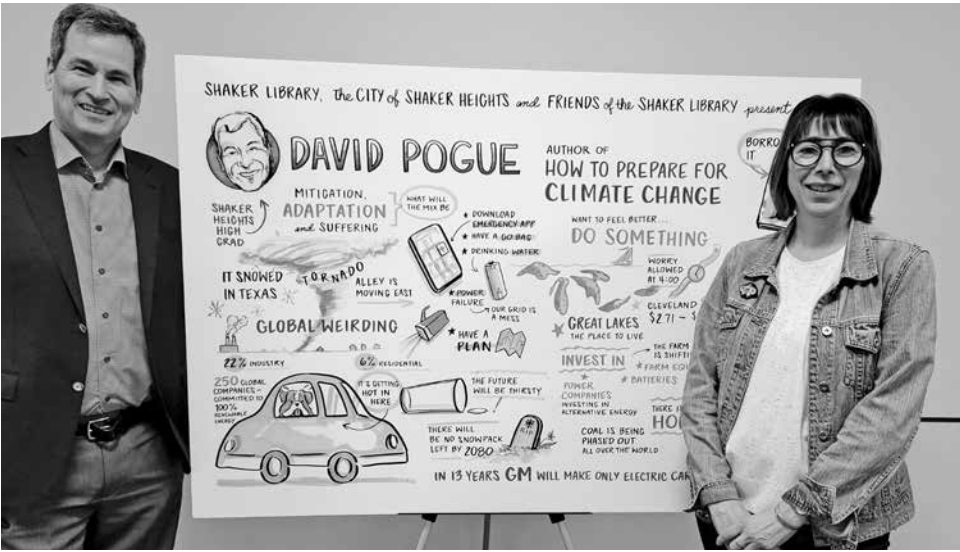
Troy Meinhard retired from his term on the Library Board at the end of March, and **Tenille Kaus** was appointed to a seven-year term on the Shaker Library Board beginning in April. The labor relations professional lives in the Lomond area with her husband and daughter.

Farewell to **Julie McGovern Voyzey** who has moved to New York City with her husband. Thanks for more than a decade of great communications and marketing for the City of Shaker Heights. Before her communications career, she worked on the development and implementation of federal affordable housing initiatives in Washington, D.C and Raleigh, North Carolina, so I hope she finds affordable housing in the Big Apple!

After five good years with the City of Shaker Heights, **Colin Compton** is moving on to new ventures, but not before he helped in the search and onboarding process for his replacement. The next Neighborhood and Housing Specialist is **Theodore Darden IV**, who grew up in the Moreland neighborhood and is a second generation graduate of Shaker Heights High School and the youngest of three siblings. Welcome back to the neighborhood, Theo. And welcome to **Morgan Bulger**, Shaker Library’s new Community Engagement Specialist.

Friends of the Shaker Library has a new logo! Thanks to the leadership of **Julie Mizener**, **Tamar Calland**, **Christine Wolken**, and **Susan Gall**, and thanks to the artistic talents of **Kelly Brooks Danko** of kcbdesigns.

Laura Dean, **Courtney Novak**, **Catey Peters** and **Libby Ray** are the



event chairs for the Nature Center’s June 4 benefit, Nature at Night. Proceeds from the party benefit the environmental education programs and public grounds. And a shout out to **Kay Carlson** who announced that she plans to retire in the spring of 2023 after serving for 15 years as President & CEO of the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes.

Tremendous thanks to Shaker Heights’s City Forester **Chuck Orlowski** and Shaker City Councilwoman **Nancy Moore** for their annual Arbor Day collaboration with Shaker Library’s Children’s Department. Children were asked to create a bookmark depicting the value of trees. Everyone who entered took home a live root tree to plant. And tree-loving artists **Jenny Cohen**, **Evelyn Jordan**, **Myles Larson** and **Aurelia Pohl** had their art printed on bookmarks available at the Shaker Library.

Family Connections’ DadsDay Run, founded by **Peter Nagusky** (and this year’s honorary chair), is celebrating its 20th anniversary! Runners and walkers are invited to bring their dogs and strollers with kids and join in a 5-mile walk/run, a

When graphic recorder, Jo Bryne of seeyourwords.com, learned that David Pogue was speaking about his book, “How to Prepare for Climate Change,” she offered to graphically record his talk. Her colorful graphic recording is on display at the Shaker Library which sent an electronic file to the author who was thrilled with his unique gift.

1-mile walk/run or a free kids’ sprint on Sunday, June 19. Rain or shine, meet at the Colonnade near the Shaker Library and the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Community Center. There will be free food and beverages, plus Flower Clown, Devon the DJ, and Matt Wintz, your favorite WKYC TV weatherman, will be on-hand to add to the fun.

Thank you to all my readers who sent heartfelt condolences on the death of my husband, Bill Simon, last February. He was a big man with an even bigger heart and a great fan of **Academy Tavern**. So patronize the Pub and raise your glass to my true north who loved a double vodka martini with a twist.

Enjoy the warm summer months. Stroll the Square and keep your ears open for me. beardaroundthesquare@gmail.com

“From a policing perspective, we will continue to be active partners with the community, embrace their problem-solving ideas, and learn new ways to grow and foster new engagement opportunities.”

BRANDON KUTZ
CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE,
FOURTH DISTRICT

public safety aspects, such as neighborhood cleanups and lighting, accompanying children walking to school, and safer bus stops and shelters, as well as crime victim assistance through the May Dugan Trauma Recovery Center.

Some grant proceeds will also go toward further crime data analysis through Case Western Reserve University, as well as the nonprofit Burten Bell Carr Development talking to residents about safety.

In the meantime, Bartholomew plans to continue working with the city, including Cleveland Division of Public Safety Grants Coordinator

Dawn Heartsong and other agencies on additional funding avenues.

“This target area was chosen specifically because there’s a lot of different investments connecting with other initiatives,” Bartholomew said. “None of this stuff works in a vacuum.”

Kutz echoed those sentiments in continuing work with the Buckeye-Woodhill Safety Collaborative. “We are hoping to support these groups in their community-building efforts while encouraging areas lacking that engagement model to build some of their own,” Kutz said. “From a policing perspective, we will continue to be active partners with the community, embrace their problem-solving ideas, and learn new ways to grow and foster new engagement opportunities.”

On a separate front, Cleveland’s Fourth District is also in line for a different kind of camera in the form of license plate readers, (LPRs) providing another tool in crime detection.

See Buckeye-Woodhill Safety Collaborative Scores \$1million Grant for Safety Measures, page 6

Couple Help Afghan Refugees Settle in Buckeye Neighborhood

by Pamela Zoslov

On a sunny early spring afternoon, four young children scramble excitedly onto a neighborhood playground, chattering, laughing, swinging and sliding. Pushing the kids on the swings are their father, Asad Ullah Safi, and Amanda Mayan and Heather Torok, whose families are the American sponsors of this family of Afghan refugees.

The Safis are one of a number of families from Afghanistan who have recently been welcomed into the Shaker-Buckeye neighborhood, helped by the efforts of Amanda and Haim Mayan, owners of MAN Holdings and Yosemite Properties.

Amanda Mayan got involved in refugee resettlement through volunteer work with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. When the agency’s director reached out looking for places on Cleveland’s east side for Afghan refugees to settle, the Mayans suggested that the Buckeye neighborhood offered opportunities close to public transportation and jobs.

Calling Cleveland ‘Home’ After the U.S withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021, the need for housing became immediate. The Mayans facilitated apartment housing for refugee families through a colleague to whom they had sold property and helped find houses for other families. Currently, Amanda Mayan estimates that Afghan refugees are living in 15 to 20 family units in Buckeye and Mount Pleasant. Housing the newcomers, she emphasizes, does not displace current residents or gentrify the neighborhoods, but enhances their inclusiveness and diversity.

The Mayans relocated here from Miami, Florida. Moving to Cleveland, where they had investment properties, was not originally in their plans, but after

several years of airline commuting they became enamored of the city.

“We really fell in love with what Cleveland had to offer in terms of community and family life,” Mayan recounts. “And I fell in love with seasons, which I’d never experienced, seeing the buds pop out on trees. Cleveland is a warm, welcoming, racially and economically diverse community with amazing public institutions. It really checked a lot of boxes for us.” With their two teenage children, the Mayans now call Shaker Heights home.

The couple brought with them a strong commitment to neighborhood stabilization and revitalization. Since 2015 they have been investing in commercial and residential properties in challenged neighborhoods in East Cleveland, Euclid and Shaker-Buckeye.

“We’ve done a lot of investment in neighborhoods that people have given up on, or been slow to believe in,” Mayan says. “Our main values-driven tenet is that everybody deserves – whether office space or a home – clean, safe, pleasant accommodations.”

They purchased three troubled commercial office buildings on Shaker Boulevard and gave them energy-efficient upgrades: solar panels, updated lighting, increased-efficiency HVAC systems – “doing what we can to increase the buildings’ sustainability and lower the carbon footprint.” The company emphasizes leases for nonprofits and small companies.

Helping Refugees Transition The Mayans also have been rehabilitating residential properties acquired through city programs and other sources. “It’s not so much a profit-generating source for us as it is part of our commitment to community development,” Mayan says. Helping to house Afghan refugees harmonizes with Mayan’s personal volunteer work with refugee



(Top) Amanda Mayan (center), with Shukria and Nazia Safi; (Above) Asad Ullab Safi, Amanda Mayan, Heather Torok, and Nazia, Elham, Shukria and Marwa Safi (on lap).

resettlement. With a neighbor family, the Mayans sponsor the Safis, who have five children. “We are their American contacts and help with cultural orientation,” Mayan explains. “We’ve done everything from getting the children enrolled in school to helping them navigate jobs, grocery

stores: the logistics of starting a new life in a new community.”

As media and public attention have turned to refugees from the war in Ukraine, there is less awareness that migrants continue to arrive in the U.S. every day from other countries, fleeing catastrophe and violence.

“Sometimes you look at the world and things feel so hopeless,” Mayan reflects. “We feel so impotent [before] the horrors that we see on the news every day.

“This isn’t changing anything on a large scale, but if you can impact one family – especially a family with young children – you’re changing the trajectory of perhaps five families. It feels like a very concrete way to make a tangible, meaningful impact.”

Brandon Cooks with World Central Kitchen in Poland for Ukrainian Refugees

Brandon Chrostowski, founder, president and CEO of EDWINS Leadership and Restaurant Institute, took his culinary skills to Poland to help feed Ukrainian refugees through World Central Kitchen (WCK). 17 million meals across eight countries have been served by WCK. Hot, fresh meals provide comfort and support. #ChefsForUkraine.

From April 2 – 6, Chrostowski cooked for thousands of refugees in three different Polish towns, serving goulash, mushroom soup, *bigos* (Hunters Stew) and pierogies.

“When the world is in crisis, you do what you can to help, and I needed to do my part.



BRANDON CHROSTOWSKI

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Newly Planted Trees Boost Neighborhood Beauty and Value throughout Buckeye

by Grant Segall

The volunteers plied shovels and left the pickaxes to the professionals. Eager crews from Habitat for Humanity and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy celebrated Arbor Day on April 29 by digging holes and planting trees at 12 home sites in the Buckeye neighborhood. Council President Blaine Griffin from Ward 6, which includes some of Buckeye, told the crowd that the day’s

few trees might seem trivial but were part of much bigger, longer drives to boost the neighborhood’s homes and reforest much of the Forest City. Some of the volunteers were helping to beautify sites that they or their family plan to occupy soon. “I love trees,” said one. “It’s the natural color, how they change with the seasons.” Another said, “They are pretty when they bloom.”

Trees provide a remarkable number of benefits. They boost property values, commerce, IQs, concentration, and community spirit. They reduce asthma, diabetes, pollution, floodwater, utility bills, crime, and much more. According to the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, the percentage of Cleveland covered by trees has fallen from 18.8 percent in 2011 to 17.9 percent in 2017, a net loss of about 400 acres. The city is less than half as treed as Pittsburgh or Cincinnati. The Cleveland Tree Coalition, a network of governments, businesses and nonprofit organizations, hope to boost the local canopy to 30 percent by 2040, which will require 28,400 new trees per year. The trees planted in Buckeye weren’t buckeyes. They were serviceberries and redbuds in yards,

and lilacs on treelawns, all flowering trees provided by Davey Tree in Kent. Habitat and the Western Reserve are trying not just to green Buckeye but repopulate it. In recent years, the Western Reserve has helped persuade officials to demolish nearly 1,100 decaying houses in Greater Buckeye, which includes Buckeye-Shaker, Buckeye-Woodhill, and Mount Pleasant. Meanwhile, Habitat has started or finished building or renovating more than 55 homes there and hopes to top 100 through 2024. Habitat has also repaired more than 265. Rev. Ernest Fields of Calvary Hill Church of God in Christ told the Arbor Day crews that the improvements “began with a group of pastors praying for the community. We’ve seen a great transformation. It shows that anything’s possible if we work together.”



Buckeye-Woodhill Safety Collaborative Scores \$1million Grant for Safety Measures

Continued from page 4

Although still in the contract and acquisition process, discussions have revolved around installing 25 per police district, or 125 LPRs citywide, Kutz said. The eventual installation would better connect Cleveland to its surrounding suburbs where the technology is already in place. Also, license plate readings on passing cars can alert cops to stolen vehicles and suspected felons wanted on warrants, including what direction they are driving. Kutz said the city also finds itself at a crossroads as well with the ShotSpotter gunfire detection pilot program, which is nearing the end of its two-year run. In place over three square miles at a cost of about \$70,000 per mile,

along with connections to dispatch and the Real-Time Crime Center, the total cost will run the city close to \$220,000 a year going forward. The ShotSpotter consists of several security tools including microphones and cameras that are strategically placed in high-crime areas that pick up gunfire sounds and alert police to the location of a shooting. While gunfire incidents have declined from about 10 per day down to 6.5, the system becomes an expensive proposition for the city, Kutz noted.

BUCKEYE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE 2022

MAY 6TH-HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/4TH DISTRICT ON ELWELL AVE 9AM-3PM

MAY 7TH-GARDEN OF 11 ANGELS SPRUCE-UP EVENT 10AM-2PM

MAY 13TH-WOODHILL COMMUNITY GARDEN CLEAN UP ON ROSEHILL AVE

MAY 21ST--NEHEMIAH PROJECT ALL BUCKEYE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP 10AM-2PM

MAY 28TH-BUCKEYE NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP 11AM-2PM

JUNE 11TH- W.128TH & FOREST NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP 11AM-2PM



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Where futures beginSM

Delta Foundation Carries on Tradition of Sisterhood and Service

by Pamela Zoslov

“You never go anyplace where you can’t meet a Delta.” That’s what Marcia Fudge, the former congresswoman from northeast Ohio and current Secretary of Housing and Urban Development told Roll Call newspaper about members of Delta Sigma Theta, the historically African American sorority whose more than 300,000 members worldwide support one another throughout their lives. Prominent members, in addition to Fudge and her late mentor, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, include former Attorney General Loretta Lynch, poet Nikki Giovanni, actresses Cicely Tyson and Keshia Knight Pulliam, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Sherrilyn Ifill, and the late Aretha Franklin.

Commitment to Community

Founded in 1913 at Howard University in Washington, D.C., Delta Sigma Theta is one of the largest sororities founded in the U.S. and has a distinguished history of public service, starting with its participation in the Women’s Suffrage March in Washington. The sorority’s mission is the constructive development of its members and public service with a primary focus on the African American community.

Delta’s mission is what led Kathi Howard-Primes to pledge the sorority in 1984, when she was a student at Ohio University. She was impressed, she says, by Delta’s “long history of supporting women in general, sisterhood and the community.” Earlier this year, Howard-Primes was sworn in as president of the Delta Foundation Life Development Center, Inc., a nonprofit organization that promotes public service programs in support of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and other service organizations. “Our primary focus is on health, education, government and empowerment, focusing

especially on low- and moderate-income members.” Howard-Primes previously served for four years as the organization’s vice president. A Dayton native, Howard-Primes has lived in Cleveland for more than 25 years. She is the owner-CEO of Momentum Academic Support, which provides tutoring and other educational support services to the school system. The Delta Foundation, a 501(c)(3), was incorporated in 1997 and occupied spaces in libraries and other rented locations before moving to its current home, the Delta Center at 11955 Shaker Boulevard. In 2021 the Foundation purchased the building whose edifice bears a prominent crimson Delta symbol. One of the Foundation’s key programs is the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Leadership Academy. “It’s a program to mentor and educate young women about careers,” Howard-Primes explains, “to help them navigate school, introduce them to college life.” The program pairs girls in the 10th and 11th grades at CMSD schools with mentors in a specific field of study chosen for the year and holds monthly enrichment sessions, bringing in speakers to talk to the students. Currently the Institute is in partnership with students at Cleveland’s John Hay High School.

Upcoming Events

While COVID moved some of the organization’s activities online, such as its March webinar on Violence Against Women, the Foundation is also moving ahead with in-person events. A mobile Food Pantry is held every month at the Delta Center. Upcoming dates are Saturdays June 18, July 16, August 20 and September 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. In 2021 the Foundation, in collaboration with the Cleveland Food Bank, fed 373 families. On June 23, the Foundation will hold its Black Diamonds and Pearls awards event at the Marriott East in Warrensville Heights. “We will recognize some amazing people in the community and the students in our Stephanie Tubbs Jones



Leadership Academy,” says Howard-Primes. The speaker at the event will be Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Stewart. Other upcoming events include the annual Virtual Walk fundraiser in November and a Jazz Brunch in December. Having its headquarters in the Shaker-Buckeye area has been good for the Foundation. “It’s an excellent location,” Howard-Primus says. “It’s important for this organization to be in the city so we can serve those individuals in Buckeye and Cleveland and do outreach right here in our community.” The Foundation president says she loves the area’s diversity and is excited about upcoming developments, such as the revitalization of Buckeye. “I can see only great things happening.” For more information on the Greater Cleveland Delta Foundation Life Development Center and its programs, visit clevelanddeltafoundation.org or call 216.721.1451.

With a strong commitment to service, Delta Foundation Life Development is holding a series of mobile food pantry events throughout the summer. Stay up to date on the Foundation’s news and events on facebook.com/gcdfldc.

Cleveland Delta Foundation

Mobile Food Pantry

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
11955 Shaker Blvd
Cleveland 44120

June 18
July 16
August 20
September 17

Run for Peace

On Sunday, May 1, more than 75 runners and walkers participated, both in-person and virtually, in the 16th annual Run for Peace 5k/1-mile walk presented by Our Lady of Peace. Dan Fleming won first place in the men’s 5k, and Erin Ward took first in the women’s 5k. The event raised about \$20,000.

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Planning for Greater Buckeye Complete; Plan to Be Unveiled

by Kristen Romito

After almost 10 months since the first community meeting, the We Are Buckeye project team has finalized the neighborhood plan for the Greater Buckeye neighborhood over the next five years.

The planning initiative We Are Buckeye included countless hours of Burten Bell Carr Development Inc. (BBC) meeting with residents, area businesses and other stakeholders to identify priority areas for the neighborhood; safety, housing, business corridors, identity, and green space emerged as major aspirations. As a result, fellow planning partners City Architecture, Seventh Hill, Urban Design Partners and designExplorr created a roadmap to achieve the goals of the community.

“The plan is going to generate more engagement as we move towards implementation. We have to make sure that we’re grounded in the resident perspective and the work that we’re already doing as a CDC,” says Bianca Butts, Director of Neighborhood Planning and Engagement.

BBC and its fellow partners will present the plan to the community on June 16 followed by a series of other public meetings throughout the summer. Butts hopes residents will view the plan as a way to unify the neighborhoods to ensure their long-term viability.

Butts notes that there’s already work being done to address the community’s concerns. For example, beautification initiatives, such as community clean-ups, are already happening because of resident-led initiatives, and BBC has a program powered by the US Small Business Administration (SBA) titled SBA-Community Navigator (clecommunitynavigator.com) that will support merchants in our footprint.

Pastor Ernest Fields of the Buckeye Ministerial in Missions Alliance (BMMA) conducts community clean-ups in the Buckeye-Woodhill area through the Nehemiah Project. Also, residents of the Moreland Group regularly pick up trash in and around Helen Simpson Park. Additionally, Ashely Evans, a resident in Buckeye, organizes trash clean-ups along with the East 130th Street between Forest & Parkhill.

Burten, Bell, Carr also can help support and promote these efforts by working with City Council representatives to provide dumpsters for planned clean-ups. Butts adds that Cleveland Neighborhood Progress runs its Clean & Green Trailer program (clevelandnp.org/cleangreencleveland), which provides gardening tools, trash bags, and other supplies for free to Cleveland residents April through September.

Another beautification and safety project – the Buckeye Road

Rehabilitation Project– is underway for Buckeye Road from E. 116th to South Moreland Boulevard. The project includes: repair and complete resurfacing of the existing pavement; replacement of curb ramps; streetscaping that entails decorative crosswalks and street trees; and new traffic controls consisting of pavement markings and signs. This work should be completed by July 2022.

Butts hopes that the clean-ups and other initiatives led by residents will help them see how their volunteerism can have a larger, long-lasting impact on the community. Butts adds, “We need to ensure this plan [and other projects] allow people to see themselves in the planning and co-creators in the solutions.”

The We Are Buckeye plan is a big step in solidifying the vision for the Greater Buckeye neighborhood, and Butts acknowledges that for some, change isn’t always comfortable.

“Transformation is a lot of little changes. It’s about wanting what’s best for the neighborhood. What’s good for Buckeye is good for Larchmere. What’s good for Shaker Square is good for Woodhill. The southeast part of Cleveland needs this reinvigoration and investment.”

For more information about additional presentation dates, visit wearebuckeye.com and for SBA support visit clecommunitynavigator.com.





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Groundbreaking

On Friday, April 8, Providence House broke ground for its new 20-bed Crisis Nursery at 11801 Buckeye Rd. to expand its services on the east side of Cleveland.

Providence House provides free, voluntary emergency shelter and crisis care to babies and children through age 12 in a safe, loving, home-like environment as it works with parents and guardians to help them resolve the crisis that led them to reach out for support. More information visit provhouse.org.



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PorchFest Comes Back Full Scale to Larchmere

by Kristen Romito

After a two-year hiatus, beloved PorchFest is coming back this summer to the Larchmere neighborhood Saturday, June 25.

The daylong event, which runs from 2-8 p.m., will feature 22 bands performing on 22 different porches throughout the neighborhood. Afterparties at four local businesses will follow from 8 to 10 p.m.

“We’ll have music you can dance to, music to relax, and music to satisfy the in-between. Our current programming includes rock, jazz, R&B, Americana, hip-hop, world music, classical, and more,” says Mariah Salhany, the event’s marketing committee chair. As of press time the band lineup and schedule were not finalized. For updates visit larchmereporchfest.com.

PorchFest 2022 board president Dawn Arrington acknowledges that the music event is down in bands from previous years citing recovery from the pandemic, “We don’t want to drink from the water hose.” She also noted that in addition to the event being smaller in scale, “the

beer garden is [now] being run by our friends at Academy Tavern, and no food court. The food offerings in the neighborhood are plenty!”

Like most events, COVID-19 threw a wrench into event planning. To give PorchFest fans a taste, organizers hosted a series of really small neighborhood focused concerts in 2020 and 2021 and called it “Tiny PorchFest.” But as the world opens up more, PorchFest organizers decided this year was doable to bring the event on a larger scale.

“Because the concerts are happening outside, we felt confident that attendees can practice good judgement and social distancing on their own. We’ve always maintained that concert goers are guests at the Porch Host homes...so be respectful! COVID hasn’t changed any of that...in fact, I think it encourages folks to be extra considerate,” states Arrington.

As attendees wait for the final details to emerge, they can start planning in other ways. The event has parking agreements with Fairhill Partners and Our Lady of Peace Church. Arrington and Salhany encourage visitors to catch the RTA over or ride a bike and bring their own lawn chairs or wagon or baby buggy. “Ride your bike, especially if you want to move between sets at hyper-speed. Larchmere is lucky to be such a walkable neighborhood district with improving pedestrian infrastructure and two RTA lines stopping a hop and a skip away at Shaker Square,” says Salhany.

Arrington adds, “We are a family event and want everyone to feel safe and comfortable.”

More information at larchmereporchfest.com.

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City Council Approves Nonprofits’ Acquisition of Shaker Square

Continued from page 1

May 5, with nothing new yet on the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court docket that afternoon since the quarterly report was filed by the receiver the previous month.

Approval from the court-appointed receiver was still being sought by the nonprofits for what they argue should be the first task in further negotiations: a capital needs assessment of the entire Square.

“We’re talking about the systems (namely HVAC), the roof, the sidewalks and the brick,” Brown said. “We know there is a need for a lot of deferred maintenance issues” to be addressed.

An earlier request for the comprehensive assessment, prior to the City of Cleveland’s direct involvement, was turned away by the receiver.

The nonprofits already had Playhouse Square Property Management Services Co. lined up for the task at an earlier going rate of \$15,000 that may still hold.

“We’re hoping they let us on site to start doing the assessment,” Brown said. “We can’t begin work until we know the complete scope of those capital needs.”

But they would probably start with the roofs.

“We know there is water penetrating the buildings, so that’s something we need to address before the fall and winter,” Brown said.

Johnson and Brown also thanked Gray for her support as well as all the advocates for the city-sanctioned deal, including the Shaker Square Alliance and The Morelands Group.

“We are just waiting on the negotiations to finalize and as soon as the property is

transferred, we’ll be ready to roll,” Johnson added.

Brandon Chrostowski, another suitor in the proposed acquisition, runs a nonprofit of his own on Shaker Square and into the surrounding neighborhoods as the owner and operator of Edwins Leadership and Restaurant Institute, along with its numerous spinoffs.

After expressing his ongoing concerns about the leveraged bid at the end of last year, he was asked for a comment on the prospective deal this time around.

“Although we are not in favor of a corporate bailout using public funds, we are glad that our efforts to stop the deal in December worked, as it has led to more information being shared and additional oversight of public funds,” Chrostowski said.

He also commended former Ward 4 Councilwoman Marion “Anita” Gardner’s decision to hold off on her support as she worked diligently on understanding the deal, which Johnson and Brown emphasized has revolved around preventing foreclosure, averting a sheriff’s sale and eliminating the risk of an out-of-town buyer.

As for the rest of that deal, Chrostowski added, “my only concern is whether the leadership at Cleveland City Hall can find capacity to assure the money is prioritized and spent appropriately.”

He pointed to an interim director of economic development and a new director in community development – “and all the while crime is rising.”



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Up and Down the Boulevard

Look for summer activities to roar back to a pre-COVID pace this summer for Larchmere Boulevard.

by Barbara Mooney

Festival Frenzy

This season may well be remembered as the summer of festivals for Larchmere Boulevard. Not only will we see the comeback of a full-blown, all-day PorchFest on June 25 (see related article in this issue), where 22 bands will play on 22 porches, but several other festivals that had been either abridged or sidelined by COVID the last two years will return. On June 12, the day-long **Rock the Blocks** will be held. The free community event features a parade, arts and crafts, various health-related activities, music and an ice cream social.

Merchants will celebrate the **Juneteenth** holiday this year on June 18 with special sales, food and music. Much of the activity will be hosted by My Favorite Things Boutique and Event Center (12730 Larchmere, 800.975.0731). The next large-scale event will be the **Larchmere**

Festival, a street fair first held 15 years ago, on July 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shops will set up booths along the street and will be joined by outside vendors, food stands and fun demonstrations.

In addition, on the last Friday of each month, Larchmere shops will stay open until 9 or 10 p.m., with several holding their own special events. For instance, both **Busy Boss Bakery** (12732 Larchmere, 216.417.8526) and **SomethinGood To Eat: Vegan Cafe** (12210 Larchmere, 216.956.5701) will host open-mic nights.

The summertime activities will be bookended by the **Larchmere Memorial Day Sidewalk Sale** May 28, and the **Labor Day Sidewalk Sale** on Sept. 3.

More from SomethinGood

In addition to expanded hours (9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tues.-Sat.) and additional vegan menu items, **SomethinGood to Eat** is positioning itself as festival central this summer. June 3–5, the café will host “Psychedelica” a music and arts event celebrating all things psychedelica; July 8–10, the café will be home to OneSOL Festival, a folk music and spiritual conclave; August 5–7, the café plans to hold a hip-hop festival; and Sept. 9–11, it plans to hold an indie rock festival. Also in the offing is a monthly potluck dinner and a nightclub night for teens. Owner Andrew Taylor-Shaut says that as plans come together more information will be available at the website somethingood.com.

My Favorite Satellite

April saw the opening of a satellite location for **Our Favorite Things Boutique**. Owner Lisa McGuthry opened **Our Favorite Things Boutique Revival** at the Box Spot, a retail center at 8005 Kinsman Rd.

Merchants Association Officers Named

A new slate of officers for the **Larchmere Merchants Association** is in place. Voted in as co-presidents are Mr. Taylor-Shaut of SomethinGood to Eat and Gwen Penn of Lotus Candles. Other officers include Ms. McGuthry of Our Favorite Things Boutique, Ashley Wynn of Busy Boss Bakery, Brooke Smith of Beauty in the CLE, Susan Rozman of Fiddlehead Gallery, and Eric Meister of Shaker Quality Auto Body.



A Fresh Bakery

HoneyBirch Bakehouse is the new occupant of the space where 3 Aprons Bakery and, more recently and briefly, XOXO Hugs n' Kisses Cookies had been at 12204 Larchmere. Slated for a mid-May opening, HoneyBirch is a European-style bakery and sandwich shop that sells bread, cookies, imported chocolates, cheeses and condiments. Look to HoneyBirch also for interesting breakfast and lunch fare, such as cardamom knots and muffaletta sandwiches. Owners Renee and Elan Hoenig had previously operated HoneyBirch as a home-based and pop-up enterprise. The 900-foot space will be carry-out only, but the owners expect to set up sidewalk tables in the summer months.

Concession Stand Moves

In an effort to be closer to the Cleveland State campus, the Concession Stand, a shoe cleaning and apparel shop, has moved from 13600 Larchmere to a storefront at East 29th Street and Euclid Avenue. A sign in the window of the Larchmere space in early May says that **Peonys Antiques** is coming soon.

Loganberry Bookings

Loganberry Books (13015 Larchmere, 216.795.9800) is starting the season with longer hours: Monday through Wednesday, and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The bookstore is restoring its usual busy summer events schedule, but first with a unique retirement party. Otis, Cleveland's most venerated bookstore cat, will be staying home after the May 29 event that will also be a fundraiser for Weirido Cat Lovers of Cleveland. The cat Alice will be taking over Otis's duties.

Loganberry's summer book signing events begin June 3 at 7 p.m. when Cleveland novelist Dan Chaon appears to talk about his latest book, “Sleepwalk,” a “darkly comic, shaggy chase novel full of suspense and adventure.” On June 5, Allen Ricca will discuss “Catching Hell: The Insider Store of Seafood from Ocean to Plate” at 1 p.m. and at 2 p.m., Raffaele DiLallo will

discuss “Houseplant Warriors.” On June 19, Stephen G. Post will discuss “Dignity for Deeply Forgetful People: How Caregivers Can Meet the Challenges of Alzheimer's Disease.”

The Berry Good Books program, whereby Loganberry booksellers select a favorite book to present and discuss, will feature “Fearing the Black Body: The Racial Origins of Fat Phobia by Sabrina Strings” on June 16 at 7:30 p.m. The July 21 program features “Cloud Cuckoo Land” by Anthony Doerr.

Loganberry's Authors Alley, a signature event that showcases dozens of area writers, will be a three-part event held on subsequent Saturdays in August from noon to 4 p.m. On August 6, Loganberry will hold a BIPOC Showcase, celebrating black, indigenous and people of color writers. Fiction and poetry writers will highlight the August 13 event. Finally, the August 20 event will feature non-fiction and graphic novel writers.



On a Roll

Kurtis Williams is the owner and head chef of **Squash the Beef Catering**, a food truck that will appear on Larchmere on occasional weekends this summer. The food truck sells “vegan street food.”

An Eclectic Milestone

With the future of the Larchmere Tavern building in an apparent holding pattern, Loganberry Books and Eclectic Eccentric (13005 Larchmere, 216.798.3002) represent the gateway to the east side of the Larchmere district. So it's good to see a vibrant Loganberry neighbored by a popular – and stable – vintage merchandise shop. Along with celebrating its tenth year in business, Eclectic Eccentric has a spruced-up outside sign. Owner Tracey Hilbert says enthusiasm remains high for the store's unique blend of vintage clothing, artwork, jewelry, housewares and highly eclectic and eccentric tchotchkes.

Two Leadership Programs Seek 2022 Applicants



If you are passionate, committed and dedicated to taking an active role in improving your community you may be excited by, and ready for, one of two valuable leadership development programs: Neighborhood Leadership Development Program (NLDP) and Community Development Corporation Leadership Program (CDCLP), both of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation. Both programs are at no cost to participants.

For 15 years, NLDP has offered community engagement leadership training for residents of Cleveland, and its inner ring suburbs, who are working on projects in the City of Cleveland and who are determined to make a positive impact on their communities.

The CDCLP launched, and will soon be graduating, its first cohort. CDCLP is the Cleveland area's only leadership program specifically designed for Community Development Corporation Executive level leadership.

Both programs are currently seeking applicants for their 2022 cohorts.

NLDP and CDCLP are designed to help emerging neighborhood leaders reach their potential by expanding their knowledge base and personal development through education, coaching and ongoing interaction with their peers and other leaders. Participants and graduates of both programs have ongoing access to the services of a Program Coach who will give advice and support tailored to the needs of the participant.

The programs cover topics such as organizational and program planning, marketing and communications, program fundraising, board governance, conflict resolution and more. NLDP and CDCLP participants and graduates are a diverse group with many interests who are working on a wide variety of issues that positively impact Cleveland's neighborhoods.

Both programs hold their in-person sessions at Trinity Commons at 2230 Euclid Avenue.

NLDP sessions take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays,

In a session focused on self-awareness and team dynamics, the cohort is wearing 3D glasses of many colors, as a physical metaphor and a reminder, to see themselves and their peers, through a different lens. Participants were encouraged to be open to discovery and seeing from a unique perspective as they participated in numerous team-building exercises throughout the day.

CDCLP sessions take place from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays.

The deadline for NLDP applications is August 14. For additional information on NLDP and to view the curriculum and online application, visit nldpcleveland.com or call 216.776.6167.

The CDCLP deadline is August 4. More information on CDCLP and to view the curriculum and online application, visit cdclp.org or call 216-776-6172.



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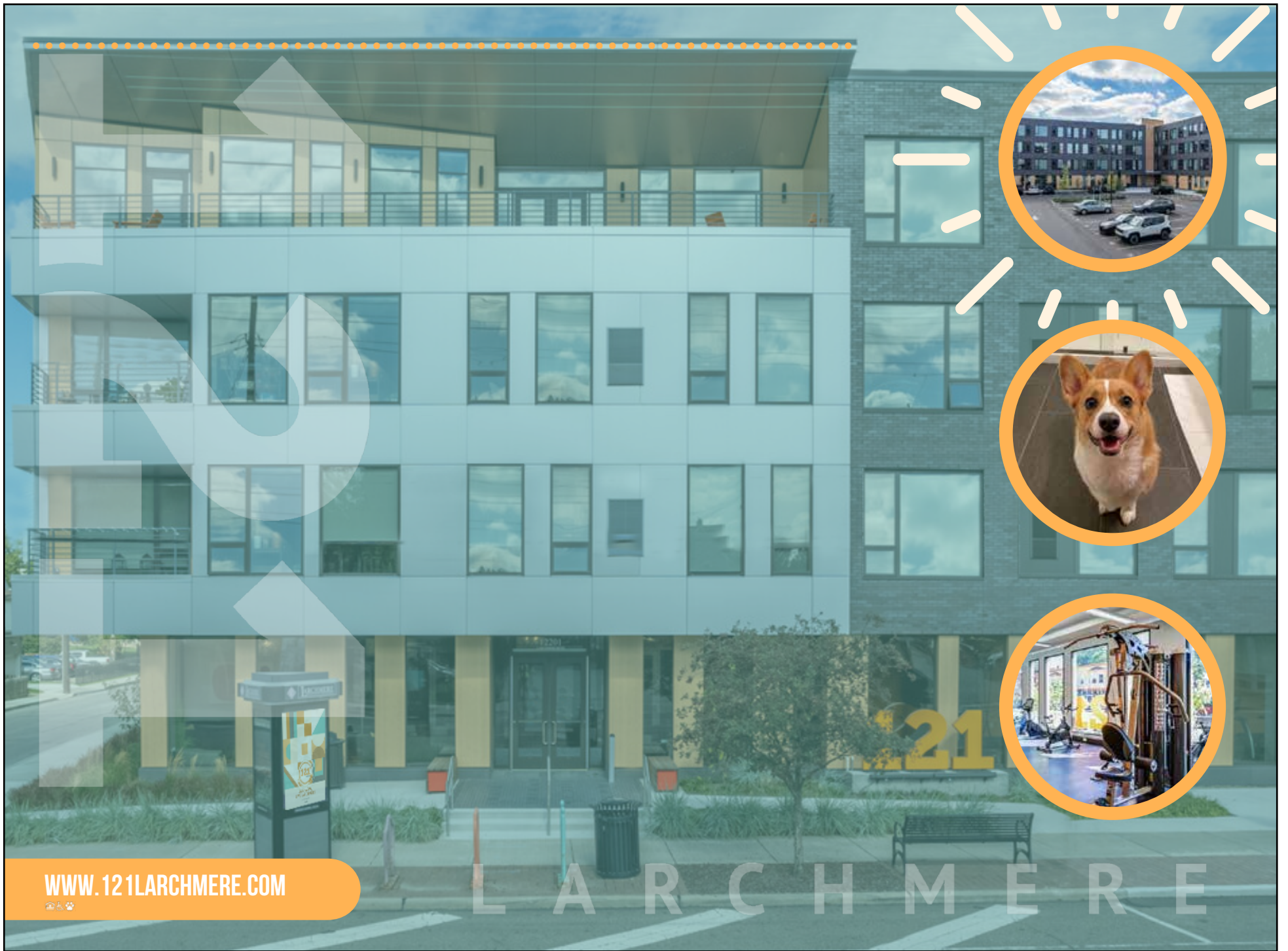
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