

the SHAD Connection

WINTER 2022

Vol. 45 No. 2 FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK AND SHOP IN THE SHAKER SQUARE AREA

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New Owners Quick to Improve Shaker Square

by Thomas Jewell

**Yes, Virginia,
there will be
holiday lights - once again -
at Shaker Square
this year.**

Plans for the renewal of the holiday season spruce-up remained a work-in-progress by the new ownership of the historic square, rescued from foreclosure over the summer.

"We are working on returning some kind of holiday displays, and we are excited to do it," consultant Terri Hamilton Brown told the Shaker Square Alliance in October. "This

will be the beginning, and we will build on it."

For starters, the Van Aken District has donated some old displays from General Electric's Nela Park classic holiday lighting shows.

"We want to thank them for being great neighbors and allowing us to borrow some of theirs," Brown said in late October. "That's just part of what we hope to offer to help build excitement about the changes at Shaker Square. But the holiday plan for this year is not finished."

Brown said the transitional nonprofit ownership team of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, its real estate subsidiary New Village Corporation and Burten Bell Carr Development Inc. (BBC) would also

welcome input from neighborhood organizations on how to proceed.

No formal "holiday light-up" event was planned, but "we are bringing it to the attention of any committee that might want to consider holiday activities from Buckeye to Larchmere, with Shaker Square in the middle," Brown added.

Back in 2011, former owner Coral Company introduced all-white lighting wrapped around deciduous trees and decking the rooftops of the square, drawing mixed reviews from neighbors, many living in surrounding

See New Owners Quick to Improve Shaker Square, page 3

Larchmere Holiday Stroll

Friday, Nov. 25 & Saturday, Nov. 26

The holidays are here, and Larchmere merchants are ready to celebrate! For details on all the festivities, see page 6 or visit larchmere.com.

Small Business Saturday

Nov. 26.

Kick off your holiday shopping by supporting Shaker Square, Larchmere and Buckeye businesses. Shop unique, one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your list. According to a 2021 American Express survey, the total reported projected spending among U.S. consumers who shopped at independent retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday reached an estimated \$23.3 billion. More information at americanexpress.com/us/small-business/shop-small.

North Union Farmers Market

Winter Hours, 9 a.m. - Noon

As the temperatures drop, the Farmers Market will move from outside on Shaker Square to inside at the Van Aken District starting Saturday, Jan. 7. Winter hours will run through March 25, 2023.

Ludlow Neighborhood Recognized for Civil Rights Efforts

by Grant Segall

Shelley Stokes-Hammond fondly remembers skating with neighbors of many heritages on a pond in her childhood Ludlow.

"Our parents were each other's friends, and we were friends with our classmates and neighbors," Hammond said on Oct. 20, when the Ludlow neighborhood's historic integration drive was honored by the unveiling of a plaque on the historic Cleveland Civil Rights Trail, the first such trail in the North.

Hammond, now an author and preservationist, moved at age 10 from Mount Pleasant to Ludlow with her family, fathered by future Congressman Louis Stokes. She so loved the neighborhood, which straddles Cleveland and Shaker Heights, that she later wrote a master's thesis for Goucher College called "Recognizing Ludlow - A National Treasure: A Community that Stood Firm for Equality."



Mary Ann Kovach

Ludlow forms a rough triangle from Shaker Square and Van Aken Boulevard to just north of Abell Avenue and Milverton Road. By 1956, the neighborhood had begun to integrate.

A Black couple, lawyer John Pegg and educator Dorothy Pegg, started building a home in Cleveland's share of the neighborhood. They received several threats by phone. Then someone bombed their garage.

L to R: Deborah Gray, Council President Blaine Griffin, Ramona Lowery, Versie Sharp, Armond Budish, Meredith Turner and Brian Siggers. The young boy is Sharp's son.

Other bombings happened in Cleveland Heights and many other places around the country. Typically, Whites fled, and property values slumped.

See Ludlow Neighborhood Recognized for Civil Rights Efforts, page 7



Scanning *The SHAD Connection*

The quarterly publication, *The SHAD Connection*, has been in circulation for more than 30 years. It has been an important asset in communicating the issues that the Greater Buckeye neighborhoods have faced throughout the years. In September, a group of Shaker Square Area Development Corporation (SHAD) volunteers got together to begin the time-

consuming process of archiving past issues of the newspapers. SHAD members Jan Rybka (pictured), Kevin Lovas (pictured), Brian Siggers, George Palda and President Mary Ann Kovach have taken turns scanning the issues, having already archived the first 8 years. Interested in helping? Contact SHAD at info@shad.org.

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

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

COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

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

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THE SHAD CONNECTION

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Greater Cleveland Urban Film Festival



During the film festival, 87 films, both features and shorts, were screened. About 1,800 people attended the festival in-person, which ran from Sept. 15-23 at Atlas Cinemas on Shaker Square.

Pictured: (above left) 3 ladies from opening night party at Cafe Sausalito; (top middle) announcements from Closing Night awards ceremony; (top right) Closing Night ceremony dancers; (bottom) attendees from the Closing Night event awards ceremony.

New Owners Quick to Improve Shaker Square

Continued from page 1

apartments who recalled more colorful displays.

Between the ensuing pandemic and court-appointed receivership, the custom trailed off in recent years.

"We're late getting started on this, and we need to figure out what's already in place," Brown said. "Clearly, a lot goes on along Larchmere."

The timing can be attributed directly to everything else going on at Shaker Square since the nonprofit team took title to the landmark commercial and transportation hub in August.

"We're moving forward on stabilizing the square and working with tenants, with a capital needs assessment underway to look at repairs to each unit and the structure overall," BBC Director of Neighborhood Planning and Engagement Bianca Butts told the Alliance.

Butts noted that there may also be some supply chain delays for major systems such as HVAC parts, but those are all being worked out through the team of CRESCO Playhouse Square Management, along with FASS Real Estate Services as Shaker Square's leasing agent.

Brown anticipated completion of the capital needs assessment by the end of November.

"I'm sure the list will be longer than our resources," Brown said. "But the importance will be that we create the list and begin to prioritize by the end of the year, so

in the spring, we will have some contractors lined up."

In the meantime, the "curb appeal cleanup" continues, with power-washing of sidewalks and dumpsters, window and door cleaning, along with landscaping and leaf removal.

"Those are the kinds of improvements that will have some impact before we get to the major deferred maintenance," Brown said of the initial investments.

Landscapers were trimming the Burning Bushes around the square, along with other overgrown shrubs, including those around bus stops.

"The ground cover will remain, and while they may look stark and bare at first, it will provide visibility for people at the bus stops to see who's approaching and when the buses are coming, especially now that it's getting dark early," Brown said.

One tree was already taken down in the previously overgrown South Moreland Boulevard median coming out of Shaker Square, where it was obstructing the view for motorists using the turning lane.

At the request of Shaker Square Area Development Corporation

(SHAD), Cleveland city planners also want to add a much-needed sidewalk behind Dave's Market around the Drexmore Road intersection. The lack of a sidewalk has been a longtime safety concern for residents.

With an unspecified amount of office space still available, retail occupancy sat at well over 90 percent in October, although that appears to include the former Balaton Restaurant where a lease prospective tenant signed a lease while Shaker Square was still in receivership.



Plans for a proposed sports bar and restaurant, specializing in craft beer and seafood, remain another work-in-progress.

Butts said the ownership was also working with Cleveland Fourth District police investigating some break-ins to Shaker Square businesses earlier this year.

The investigation of the disappearance of the Little Free Library behind Dave's Market has now closed, after it was initially taken without explanation, repainted then returned, Brown said.

Another Little Free Library also remains intact in front of the Shark & Minnow strategy and design consultancy firm, also located on Shaker Square. "It's part of the Read Aloud program the firm founded in 2017 with the Harvey Rice Wraparound School in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District," Shark & Minnow Chief Strategy Officer Eric Kogelschatz noted.

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Heard Around the Square

by Margaret Simon

Commemorate the end of Shaker Historical Society’s 75th year with a Holiday Open House from 3–5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 at the museum. Enjoy fiber artist **Katie Mongoven’s** exhibit and live music from “Nightingale,” a women’s A Capella group that includes the dulcet voices of **Susie Antonelli, Laurie Aronoff, Jennifer Hillman, Nancy Jackson, Amy Kerr Thome, Cindy Langmack, Charlotte Newman,** and **Jan Proe**. Light refreshments and family-friendly holiday crafts round out the evening.

Congratulations to Shaker Heights High School junior football phenom **Ayden Murray** on winning the Lake Erie League Defensive Player of the Year. More kudos to Shaker’s volleyball players, **Allana Appleby** and **Chloe Brown**, who were named first Team All-Lake Erie League and to **Ayanna Brown**, who was named second Team All-Lake Erie League, and Jada Burge, who was named third Team All-Lake Erie League. And a shout out to Shaker’s Field Hockey and Girls’ Cross Country teams for their hard work making it to the state finals.

Congratulations to the very noteworthy inductees into the 2022 Shaker Heights High School Hall of Fame: **Clothilde Ewing**, Class of 1996; **J. David Heller**, Class of 1983; **Adam Lehman**, Class of 1985; **Ted**

Mason, Ph.D., Class of 1968; **Dale Pollock**, Class of 1968; **Bruce C. Ratner**, Class of 1963; and **Beth E. Richie, Ph.D.**, Class of 1975.

Happy Birthday EDWINS! Here’s to nine years of good eating and 527 graduates—527 second chances and 527 new opportunities to make a difference.

Looking for tickets to a Lake Erie Monsters game for your group? Call Youth Hockey & Group Events Specialist **Elizabeth Goldsmith**. The former soccer midfielder from South Alabama University can help your group score some good seats.

CWRU professor **Ayesha Bell Hardaway** has been appointed as the interim monitor to oversee Cleveland police reform. Hardaway will take over as the manager of the court-enforced reform until a permanent replacement is named.

Shelley Stokes-Hammond was among the celebrities to celebrate the unveiling of the Ohio Historical Marker at Corby and Hampton Roads in Shaker Heights in the Ludlow neighborhood. The marker commemorates neighbors’ efforts to oppose segregation in the suburbs and is one of seven locations recognized by the Cleveland Restoration Society in its efforts to create an African American Civil Rights Trail in Cleveland.

Boulevard School students celebrated Silly Sock Day with a clever all-school sock drive. During the month of “Socktober,” students

and families brought in new socks, which were distributed to students in need across Greater Cleveland through the Shoes & Clothes for Kids (SC4K) organization.

House hunting? The Home Repair Resource Center offers an in-depth series every Tuesday evening through November 22 for those considering buying a home. The series covers mortgages, refinancing, down payment costs, insurance, improving credit, and licensed loan counselor Denise Wallace will help you through the maze and confusion of purchasing a home. It’s free and open to residents of *any* city. Register at <https://hrrc-ch.org/>

Shaker Library continues its popular Caps for Kids program by inviting the community to knit or crochet hats for kids, which are then distributed to families in need. The program began as an offshoot of Knit Nights, a creative program run by **Elfriede Heaney** and **Fern Braverman**. While both women are retired they continue to be creative. Hats will be collected at the Main Library until Friday, Dec. 9.

Looking for unique gifts? Try Otis’ Old Curiosity Shop and Holiday Gift Store. The bazaar is open November and December in the Loganberry Books Annex Gallery and holds a charming mix of new toys, games, holiday cards and calendars, local artists’ crafts and prints, vintage collectibles and fair trade crafts. If you haven’t visited the bookstore,

you will easily recognize it by its colorful mural of book covers created in 2011 by the multi-talented artist, bookbinder, muralist and jazz bassist **Gene Epstein**.

The Cleveland Jewish Book Festival will present Cleveland’s own **Daniel Levin**, contemporary artist, photographer, professor, and author of **Violins and Hope: From the Holocaust to Symphony Hall** on Feb. 12 at the Mandel JCC Stonehill Auditorium. His book explores master violin maker Amnon Weinstein’s effort to restore violins that survived the Holocaust. Levin is the first photographer to depict Weinstein’s workshop in Tel Aviv, his one-of-a-kind collection of violins, and his artful process for transforming tragedy into triumph by bringing violins of the Holocaust back to life.

There is no dignity in deprivation. Give to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank to ensure that everyone has access to fresh and healthy food this season. To give online go to GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org/Atimetogive.

And one more pitch! GivingTuesday is Nov. 29: the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Consider giving thanks to a cause you believe in by giving your time or money, and then circle the Square with a spring in your step—because your pockets and hearts will be a little bit lighter and brighter. *And keep your ears open for me.*

beardaroundthesquare@gmail.com

Morelands Improvement Project to Begin in 2023

by Jason Novak

The City of Cleveland is preparing to start major improvements along North and South Moreland Boulevard. The project, which begins in January of 2023, will run from Larchmere Boulevard to Griffing Avenue and is scheduled to last 12 months. The \$7 million project includes the much-needed replacement of 7,000 feet of water main and resurfacing of the entire roadway, as well as many major improvements.

Among the improvements are the reconfiguring of the intersections at Livingston, Ashwood, and Hampton, as well as improved line-of-sight and bump outs at the pedestrian crossings of Buckeye and Drexmore.

Meg Weingart of the Morelands Group, a community advocacy group formed by the Shaker Square Alliance, says that feedback from the residents has helped shape the project. “Residents were concerned about not being involved in the original plans for the above ground improvements,” she says. “The Morelands Group stepped up and served in an advocacy role by collecting feedback from residents and neighbors and working directly with [Cleveland] Council member [Deborah] Gray and city engineers to make the above ground improvements complement the residential feel of the boulevard, minimize tree loss, address intersection design concerns, and improve the modality experience for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles.”

This feedback, gathered during a series of meetings with the community, City Council members Blaine Griffin and Deborah Gray, and project planners, addressed concerns residents have regarding the loss of some trees on the median, the prioritizing of pedestrians at certain intersections, and the safety of the bike lane plans.

“Since a majority of the project rests in Council member Gray’s ward, she has been actively involved with the project design and was instrumental in connecting the Morelands Group to the city staff leading the project,” Weingart says. Besides her involvement in the meetings she has also coordinated walks along Moreland with city staff and residents to get a better idea of how the project will affect the neighborhood and to get feedback.”

While the planners have updated the project to address the concerns of the residents, there are still those who are not satisfied. According to public feedback on the project’s website, many are concerned about the loss of some trees along



Michael Anne Johnson



Both South Moreland Boulevard (above) and North Moreland Boulevard (below) will be resurfaced as a part of the Morelands Improvement Project in January 2023.

Residents and City of Cleveland staff met on South Moreland to discuss engineering plans for the North & South Moreland Infrastructure Project.



Mary Ann Kovach

the span of the project. Some are concerned that the changes to traffic patterns don’t address pedestrian safety enough and that the shared bike lanes may not be as safe as a dedicated lane for cyclists.

There was a community open house regarding the project on November 9 at the Greenview Campus of Positive Education Program (formerly Ludlow School). During the open house, residents learned what changes will be made based on two previous meetings where they shared their concerns and hopes for the project. One final public meeting with the contractors will be held at a date that is yet to be determined.

Visit northandsouthmoreland.com for information on the Morelands Project.

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Up and Down the Boulevard

The Larchmere neighborhood enters the holiday season with sparkling new lighting, a spruced-up streetscape and young, hopeful businesses.



By Barbara Mooney

Larchmere's annual Holiday Stroll (November 25-27) rings in the season with a luminous new streetscape for the boulevard. Lisa McGuthry, SHAD board member and owner of **Our Favorite Things Boutique and Event Center** (12730 Larchmere Blvd., 800.975.0731), who's helping organize events for the Larchmere Merchants Association, said the weekend will include the usual festivities – special sales (along with hot chocolate), music, a scavenger hunt among the stores, as well as pop-up shops and giveaways. But the weekend will be more of a festival of lights this year. “We’re foregoing the horse-and-buggy rides to direct spending to beautiful decorations and lighting that will light up and span the street year-round,” she said. “It will lend a stronger sense of safety and security to the neighborhood.”

Her store for that weekend is hosting a Holiday Bazaar, featuring the wares of at least eight other vendors. Ms. McGuthry, who was recently featured on News Channel 5 for the learning and childcare programs at the store, has expanded merchandise lines to include children/teen and menswear. Her daughter Lauryn, for instance, is selling Lauryn's Tees; 40 percent of those profits are donated to charity.

The store will conduct a community distribution of coats, household goods and hygiene products on Dec. 4. Also coming together is a program for Black History Month in February, whereby famous African Americans in history will be portrayed. “We’d like to see several of the Larchmere merchants be involved,” she said.

As if all that isn’t enough, Ms. McGuthry is also busy opening another venture in Euclid. With help from other McGuthry family members, Signature Events Venue and Catering will open in time for a New Year’s Eve celebration, she said.

A Holiday HIIT

The **HIIT Factor**, the gym and fitness studio (13010 Larchmere, 216.282.7662) is holding a pre-Thanksgiving event to attract and celebrate with new and current members. It is conducting a fitness class followed by a brunch on Nov. 20; the class is 11 a.m. to noon, followed by the meal from noon to 2 p.m. To sign up or get information, go to <https://Prethanksgivingbrunch.eventbrite.com>.

Corner Shop Collective

Nurturing young, hopeful entrepreneurs is the focus of the **Corner Shop Collective**, a SetUpShop program of the ECDI (Economic & Community Development Institute) that officially launched in September at 12635 Larchmere. It is next to (and benefits from a collaboration with) the **UnBAR Café**. The indoor mall-style space is home to seven fledgling businesses, ranging from a coffee and a smoothie shop, to fashion, health, skin and hair products businesses. The space is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day. For information, go to setupshopcle.com.

One of those young businesses is **Skin District Store**, a handmade skincare products shop, which has the distinction of being run by the three Aarons sisters, ages six, seven and 10 – with their mother Deborah as their guide.

The oldest of the girls, Myah-Lynn, could be found selling products at an outdoor table, similar to a lemonade stand, on recent fall weekends. It’s the second location for the small business, the other being at the Great Lakes Mall in Mentor. “The ECDI program offers a risk-free, business incubator space that gives us a year’s head start,” said Deborah.

The other startups in the collective are: **Cotton Block**, **On Hand Fashion**, **Crazy Blendz Drinks and Smoothies**, **Shugar Babe’s Sweet Confections**, **The People’s Café** and **Catlin Naturals**.

A Fine Point on It

In addition to new businesses, storefront beautification can give a shopping district a real boost. That point is proven by **Fine Points**, the well-established yarn, knitting, clothing and notions boutique, which has recently mounted a simple but elegant sign outside its 12602 Larchmere address.

Happenings at Cleveland’s Best Bookstore

On the heels of being named “The Best Bookstore in Cleveland” by Cleveland *SCENE* magazine, **Loganberry Books** (13015 Larchmere, 216.795.9800) is holding several upcoming events featuring local writers. Its plans are still forming for Small Business Saturday, which coincides with the Holiday Stroll. Loganberry’s Communications Manager Elisabeth Plumlee-Watson said that during the weekend “we’ll be having lots of local authors visit and hope folks will stop by throughout the day and all weekend.” The store’s Otis’ Old Curiosity Shop, which sells unique gifts and holiday cards, will be fully open by then.

Loganberry is recognizing “NaNoWriMo” (National Novel Writing Month) in November by inviting anyone who wants to write a 50,000-word book in those 30 days to come in and use its space.

The store invited visitors to “get out the black turtle-necks . . . berets and horn-rimmed glasses” for a reading by the U.S. Beat Poet Laureate John B. Burroughs. The visit by the Cleveland poet and founding editor of *Crisis Chronicles* Press was part of Loganberry’s Broad-sides and Ephemera Series.

On Nov.17, Loganberry’s Peculiar Book Club convenes at 7 p.m. to hear Lina Zeldovich discuss her book, “The Other Dark Matter: The Science and Business of Turning Waste Into Wealth.” And on Nov. 20 at 1 p.m., the Naturalist Notebook group meets to discuss Elisabeth Tova Baily’s memoir, “The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating”, and poet Mary Oliver’s collection, “American Primitive”.

Larchmere Fire Works in Spotlight

The Fox8 show “New Day Cleveland” visited **Larchmere Fire Works** (12406 Larchmere, 216.246.4716) for a recent episode. The show’s host, Natalie Herbrick, took a lesson in blacksmithing and glassblowing for the show’s Road Trip Day Dates segment, which aired Oct. 24.

Food News

HoneyBirch Bakehouse (12204 Larchmere, 216.407.4274) is rolling into the holidays with an expanding array of to-go offerings beyond pastries. In addition to a variety of specialty sandwiches, the store now serves soup and, on occasion, sells gourmet pizza by the slice. (Whole pies can be ordered 48 hours in advance.)

Academy Tavern (12800 Larchmere, 216.229.1171) was recently named among the “40 restaurants and bars to take out-of-towners that show the real Cleveland” by Cleveland *SCENE* magazine. **Felice Urban Café** (12502 Larchmere, 216.791.0918) and **Batuqui, The Flavor of Brasil** (12706 Larchmere, 216.801.0227) are both participating in the Cleveland Independents annual Restaurant Week from Nov. 1-12, whereby the restaurants offer three-course meals for \$36 per person.

A Few Adieus

SomethinGood To Eat, the vegan fastfood restaurant (12210 Larchmere) recently suspended operations, offering its space up for community events and other businesses. In its space, Convenient Vegan opened with a Sunday buffet brunch on Oct. 23.

Status Boutique CLE, a specialty fashion shop that opened in early 2021, has closed its location at 12609 Larchmere.

Topnotch Golf and Racquet (12410 Larchmere) and **Willow Cove Art and Wellness Boutique** (12404 Larchmere) are gone. A for-sale sign recently went up on the Topnotch lawn, while Willow Cove has closed.

Ludlow Neighborhood Recognized for Civil Rights Efforts

Continued from page 1

But Ludlow residents came together. Said Stokes-Hammond, “They were Whites, Blacks, Catholics, Christians, Jews, who simply wanted the American dream.”

They formed the Ludlow Community Association to welcome Blacks while recruiting Whites, partly with loans. The group drew nationwide publicity and inspired similar groups around the county, including the Lomond Association and Heights Community Congress.

Some critics considered such efforts discriminatory. But Ludlow’s plaque says, “LCA became a national model of community activism for fair housing. It stemmed the tide of white flight and helped maintain a

well-balanced, integrated Ludlow neighborhood for more than 30 years.”

The neighborhood has slowly become about 85 percent Black. It drew skeptical publicity after White resident Kevin McDermott was brutally beaten on New Year’s Eve of 2007 by Black teens from Cleveland. McDermott eventually left the neighborhood to downsize but attended the ceremony.

“We love Ludlow,” he said afterwards. “We had great neighbors. Anybody can get hit by a meteor.”

The Civil Rights Trail is being blazed by the Cleveland Restoration Society and grew out of its work to stabilize the exterior of the historic Cory United Methodist Church.

The trail’s website says it tells “the powerful story of our city’s courageous contributions to sweeping legislative and social progress.” The society has raised more than \$230,000 for the trail so far from the National Parks Service, National Endowment for the Humanities, Cuyahoga County, the Cleveland Browns, and other sources.

The trail’s plaques are among about 1,750 in a statewide program called the Ohio History Connection. The local trail began with an unveiling last year at Cory, which has hosted civil rights leaders such as Rev. Martin Luther King, W.E.B. DuBois, and Thurgood Marshall. A plaque unveiled this year outside Cleveland City Hall honors

Carl Stokes, the first Black mayor of a major U.S. city.

The Restoration Society plans seven more plaques by 2025. They will mark Glenville High School, Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church, the scene of the Hough uprising, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, and three places not disclosed yet.

The Ludlow plaque stands on the median of Hampton Road near Corby Road, the Peggs’ street. Speakers at the unveiling said that neither Ludlow nor any other place should rest on its laurels.

Meredith Turner, who lives in Ludlow and represents District 9 on Cuyahoga County Council, said, “We can and we must do better today.”

Shaker Mayor David Weiss said, “We have an impressive legacy to live up to, and we intend to do so.”

For more information, see ludlowcommunityassociation.wordpress.com and clevelandcivilrightstrail.org.

Ludlow Community Association President Susan Rotatori (left) and Cleveland Restoration Society President Kathleen Crowther address more than 100 neighbors and friends who celebrated the unveiling of Ludlow’s Civil Rights Trail Marker.



EDWINS 5K Grind

Just like EDWINS students, this year’s 5K Grind pushed runners to the limits on Sunday, Oct. 23. Running on roads and trails overlooking Doan Brook, 191 participants helped raise almost \$30,000 for EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute. This year’s first place male winner was Daniel Lausin (26:39.63), and Lauren Esarco (35:38.31) was the first place female.



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Community at Odds Over How to Repair Doan Brook’s Wetlands

by Grant Segall

Preservationists often face a tough question: How far back should they go?

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS) plans to spend an estimated \$13.6 million to repair the Shakers’ 1826 dam at Lower Lake, and \$14.7 million to restore the Doan Brook’s natural wetlands at the drained Horseshoe Lake, partly by removing the Shakers’ deteriorating 1852 dam there.

That’s going too far back for the Friends of Horseshoe Lake. They’ve planted “Save Horseshoe Lake” signs in their yards. They’d rather dam the Doan there again and restore a sparkling lake rich both in community history and personal histories of parties, hikes, playtimes, dog walks, dates, and other sentimental occasions on the shores.

Engineer Shawn McGee, hired by the Friends, has proposed a new dam just upstream from Horseshoe’s. He estimates the work at \$12.9 million.

But district officials estimate his proposal at \$20.7 million. They also say that damming Horseshoe doesn’t serve their mission of controlling the quantity and quality of storm water and sewage.

The Doan’s curvy branches meet between the two lakes. Officials consider the Lower Lake dam sufficient to protect University Circle and other areas downstream, so the suburbs would have to split the costs of damming Horseshoe in proportion to their shares of it. About two-

thirds of Horseshoe lies in Shaker.

Suburban officials say they can’t afford such work. The Friends agree. They say the district should interpret its mission more broadly and pay for the dam accordingly.

The Shaker Lakes are complicated physically, historically, legally, and semantically. The term sometimes refers just to Lower Lake and Horseshoe Lake (also called Upper Lake), but sometimes includes Marshall Lake and Green Lake (a.k.a. the Duck Pond).

A peninsula overlooking Horseshoe is called Horseshoe Lake Park. Horseshoe and Lower Lakes are also parts of a roughly 280-acre space known as Shaker Lakes Park, Shaker Heights Park, or Shaker Parklands.

Native Americans frequented the future parklands for thousands of years. In the 1800s, white settlers came and the Shaker religious sect dammed the Doan for water and power, partly for a wool mill at Horseshoe.

In 1895, the Van Sweringen brothers, developers of today’s Shaker Heights,



Michael Anne Johnson

gave the parklands to Cleveland. Meanwhile, the suburbs incorporated and began to govern them.

In the 1960s, Cuyahoga County Engineer Albert Porter tried to build a Clark Freeway through what he dismissed as “a two-bit duck pond” championed by “little old ladies in tennis shoes.” The champions stopped him and filled wetlands between Horseshoe and Lower with what’s now the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, a National Environmental Education Landmark. At the center’s 50th anniversary gala, guests were asked to wear tennis shoes.

For decades, the suburbs have leased and maintained the parklands. In 1989, Cleveland extended Shaker’s lease in return for approval of Chagrin Highlands.

The latest dispute has split the suburbs’ historical societies. Cleveland Heights’ society posted that Horseshoe and Lower should be saved as “the twin hearts of our two cities.” Shaker’s supported the district’s plan, saying that “we would be remiss to ignore the thousands of years of Indigenous history and stewardship of the land.” That plan has also been endorsed by the suburbs’ city councils, the Nature Center, and the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership.

The district’s website says “restoration of the Doan Brook will create a beautiful, new community greenspace that sustainably manages stormwater headed for the Lower Shaker Lake and ultimately Lake Erie.... the way nature intended.”

But the Friends keep lobbying for Horseshoe Lake. David Goldberg, a Friends leader, says, “I believe in preserving the history and aesthetics of the community.” Ally Bert Stratton says, “People like to see big bodies of still water. It calms them down.” He adds that Horseshoe’s fans aren’t “just rich people with houses facing the lake. People from all over Greater Cleveland are interested in keeping the lake.”

According to Goldberg, the Friends have raised and spent more than \$100,000 so far, partly for McGee and lawyer Anthony Coyne. Goldberg declined to say whether the group might sue.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) rates both Shaker Lakes dams as Class 1, meaning that a rupture could release a wall of water and sediment harming property and life in the parklands and beyond.

By the late 2010s, says Patricia Speese, Shaker’s director of public works, storms heightened by climate change weakened Horseshoe’s dam so much, it grew noticeably wobbly. From 2018 through 2021, ODNR made Shaker drain the lake and breach the dam, 30 feet tall and well more than 600 feet long.

The Friends fear for Horseshoe’s wide variety of plants and birds. District officials say their plan will boost natural diversity and remove invasive plants.

In recent decades, many dams have been taken from the Cuyahoga River and other waterways around the country. Scientists say the removals clean the water, reduce floods, and help species navigate.

Several pedestrians interviewed near the new wetland praised it. “It looks fabulous,” said Rachel Rosenzweig. “Let’s take it back to nature.”

Andy Clifford said, “I’d rather save Lake Erie and worry about the pretend lakes later.”

Horseshoe Lake Park has a playground, a pavilion, and other amenities. Recently surveyed about possible improvements at the wetlands, residents called mostly for passive ones, such as trails.

District officials plan to replace the walkway at Horseshoe and to commemorate local history on signs and online. They hope to start construction in 2025 and finish in 2026.

After several previous public meetings, the district plans a virtual one on Nov. 30 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. You can register at https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_m8UtkrbWRPxiPcFTDzditw. There will also be a meeting in person at the Shaker Heights Main Library on Dec. 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



St. Elizabeth’s Fall Festival

About 490 people attended the fall harvest dinner and recital at St. Elizabeth of Hungary on Buckeye Road. Mass kicked off the event followed by the band Harmonia with a guest appearance by Steve Pal of the Hungarian’s. The EOUV Austrian Gottscheer Tanz Und Spielkreis performed along with Donauschwaben dancers from North Olmsted. Cleveland Jr. Tamburitza also played and danced, as well as the St. Elizabeth of Hungary dance troupe.

Goulash over an open fire in the Courtyard was served along with other Hungarian delights. Cleveland Councilwoman Deborah Gray presented a proclamation celebrating the building’s 100th anniversary and 130th anniversary of the church.



Balaton Finds New Location

Bainbridge is the new home to Balaton, the Hungarian restaurant that occupied the Northwest corner of Shaker Square for 25 years before closing in early 2022. Thirty years prior it was located on Buckeye Rd. The new location is at the corner of Route 306 and Washington Street and is set to open between Thanksgiving and Christmas.



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The Morelands 2022 Festival

On Saturday, Sept. 17, the Morelands Group held its fall festival at Helen Simpson Park. Attendees enjoyed food and live entertainment, and stopped by resources tables. Even the Cleveland Health Department parked its mobile vaccine clinic to offer COVID-19 vaccines.



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"Since 1972"

BBC Makes Significant Progress in Greater Buckeye in Just 3 Years

By Kristen Romito

At every turn, whether it be on Buckeye Road, Shaker Square or Larchmere Boulevard, there's a neighborhood project in progress.

Since Burten, Bell, Carr Development Inc. (BBC) was named the official community development corporation (CDC) for the Greater Buckeye neighborhood in late 2019, it has undertaken the monumental task of transforming it to meet the needs and wants of its residents. The CDC has worked with various stakeholders to create a neighborhood plan that is guiding the organization over the next five years and includes everything from goals for economic development to addressing affordable housing.

"It's certainly been a busy year for our neighborhoods. There are many large scale projects all happening at once for the long term betterment of our community. While there is still much work to do, we have made significant strides in refining our service delivery model to continue striving to meet the needs of Greater Buckeye while also maintaining our

32 year commitment of providing services in the Central and Kinsman communities," says Bianca Butts, Director of Neighborhood Planning and Engagement.

While there's still much to be done, BBC has already accomplished several initiatives within the neighborhood plan.

Being a Leader in the Community

• Most recently BBC, along with Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, became co-owners of Shaker Square. New ownership will help ensure that the long-neglected shopping plaza will receive the attention that it needs and deserves. Butts says that improvements to the infrastructure have already begun as evidenced by improved landscaping, external surface cleanings, and the planning of holiday displays. The work on the Square will still be an ongoing process with the full assessment of the asset's condition and continued work with existing and potential new businesses.

• Throughout this past fall, BBC conducted a survey to assess the health and wellness needs for the Greater Buckeye Neighborhood. BBC partnered with Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation and Case Western Reserve University's Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health to roll out the survey in the Buckeye, Central and Kinsman neighborhoods. The results will help determine future initiatives to help improve the lives of residents and will be shared with the community upon completion of survey analysis.

Neighborhood Beautification

• Currently underway is the Buckeye Road Rehabilitation Project that will improve the aesthetics and

safety of Buckeye Road between E. 116th Street and South Moreland Blvd. The project entails repairing and resurfacing the existing pavement; replacement of curb ramps; streetscaping that includes decorative crosswalks and street trees; and new traffic controls consisting of pavement markings and signs.

• Around the corner is another streetscape project that aims to improve Shaker Square, and North and South Moreland Boulevards. The CDC works with the City of Cleveland on these and other road improvement projects by advocating for the concerns of residents and other stakeholders while staying abreast of project timelines that will impact business owners and neighbors. Efforts are underway to finalize the plans that include reconfiguring intersections; installing bike lanes and new signage; replacing sidewalks, curbs and driveway aprons; adding ADA-compliant ramps; beautifying the streets with new trees and removing unneeded utility poles.

• Another beautification initiative that BBC has helped support is periodic community clean-ups throughout the neighborhood. BBC has supported the resident-led initiative by working with Cleveland City Council representatives to provide dumpsters for planned clean-ups. It also has a program funded through the US Small Business Administration (SBA) – SBA Community Navigator – that supports merchants in clean up efforts and provides other resource support for business owners.

Addressing Housing Issues

• BBC has been in full support of the organizing and coordination of the Morelands Group, City of Cleveland and Shaker Square Alliance to advocate for the neglected residents and apartments in the North and South Moreland corridor.

• BBC, in partnership with the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA), City of Cleveland and The Community Builders (TCB), is transforming Woodhill Estates through the Buckeye-Woodhill Choice Neighborhood Transformation project. Construction began in summer 2022. The project will bring more than 500 new, affordable residential units, senior housing, new parks and recreation, an early childhood center and retail stores.

Fiddlehead Gallery Celebrates 10 Years



Time flies when you're having fun! Fiddlehead Gallery owner Susan Rozman hosted a party to celebrate the milestone on Friday, Oct. 7 and Sat., Oct. 8.

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