Shaker Square Renovation Plans Taking Shape

by Joel Beck

The plan to revitalize Shaker Square continues to come into focus as planners look to breathe new life into Cleveland’s popular East Side shopping area.

At a pair of public meetings held on April 24 and 25 project leaders and city officials unveiled the latest versions of their plan to re-imagine Shaker Square, which would involve re-routing Shaker Boulevard traffic from the center of the square and creating a larger active space in the middle.

Officials from Hargreaves Associates, the national landscape firm that is leading the project, along with LAND Studio and Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, presented some options and conceptual designs to the public at the sessions.

Griffin said the main focus of the project is to connect several of Cleveland’s East Side neighborhoods to bring a welcoming space to those residents.

“We really believe this should be one of the city’s top priorities. We see Shaker Square Renovation on page 5.

It’s Finally Here! Sunbeam Elementary Now Open

by Jeff Piorkowski

The big day for Sunbeam School and staff came April 2 when they were able to move from their former 1920s-era brick building into a bright, shiny, modern new home next door.

The new building at 11800 Mt. Overlook Ave. isn’t just any school. It comes complete with facilities that allows the pre-K to 8th grade students to swim, hop on a jungle gym, or learn in small rooms designed to help children focus better on what they are learning.

Sunbeam School is one of six new buildings the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) has opened this school year as part of its district modernization.

See Sunbeam New Open on page 7.
To better meet the needs of clients who live in Shaker Square, the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC) is opening a new location on Shaker Boulevard. This summer, the CRCC’s Gift of Love “big square” foot new space already functions as a community counseling, support groups, victim assistance and crisis intervention service. All of these programs will be under the same roof. The new location will be staffed with social workers, who became available last fall.

“I chose Shaker Square for our new location because of its accessibility from several east-side neighborhoods. With free parking and several options for public transportation, this new office will help us serve more survivors in our services,” said Sonora Miller, president and CEO of CRCC. The location also addresses the specific needs of the community. According to Miller, “more than 60% of residents near Shaker Square are African American. We recognize that African American women and girls experience higher rates of sexual violence. It is our sense that we need to expand where the need is greatest.”

Miller says the new location, which is between Hoover’s Coffee and CVL, will have several spaces for meetings with clients, and a conference room for support groups. The space, which is currently under construction and is set to open in either June or July, will be designed to be a healing and welcoming space, so that “when our clients walk through the door, they feel at ease.”

Feeling comfortable is essential for clients who are seeking out CRCC’s services. Miller said, “Survivors share a long list of reasons why they do not come forward, including feeling ashamed, fear that they won’t be believed, fear of their perpetrator retaliating, or just not wanting people to know what happened to them.”

The Future of SHAD Discussed at Annual Meeting

by Kristen Romito

House business and an impassioned discussion about the future of SHAD were the main talking points at the organization’s 42nd annual meeting on Thursday.

SHAD President William Beard kicked off the meeting with an acknowledgment of the current board members and announced the re-election of board members Corrine (Penny) Crome, George Palda, Johnnie Spates-Greene, Peter Linberger and Emma Vincenzi. Nominates elected for a first term are China Brown, Kristen Schmidl and Andrew Spencer.

Beard announced that SHAD has been in discussions with the City of Cleveland and Cleveland Neighborhood Progress (GNP), the local community development funding intermediary, to determine its future existence in the world of Cleveland’s community development corporations (CDC). For the past few years, SHAD has been working with University Circle Inc. to determine how it can form an alliance to share resources and provide additional benefits to members and the community at large. Yet, nothing formal has materialized.

At the same time, Cleveland’s Director of Community Development, Tanis Memos, Ward 6 Councilman Blaine Griffin and CNP are working to determine how the Buckeye Square neighborhood will be served and how SHAD may or may not be involved in assisting with the neighborhood’s needs.

“SHAD may be asked to take over portions of the Buckeye service area and Burton, Bell, Carr Development Inc. would take over the remaining areas,” said Beard. “SHAD would definitely need to discuss how this would work and decide if we are going to do it.”

Beard also indicated that SHAD would be asked to align itself with a larger community development corporation (CDC), which is in trend with some Cleveland CDCs the past few years. For example, Cadell Improvement Inc., which serves the Cadell and Edgewater neighborhoods, entered into a strategic alliance with the Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization in 2018 to leverage expertise and resources across all levels of government.

“There’s a possibility that the City of Cleveland, and CNP may want a completely new organization and SHAD, as an existing service, may not see how that would go away. It’s still too early in the game to know what’s going to happen,” Beard stated.

Given the uncertainty at this point, Beard encouraged attendees to stay tuned in, be involved and voice their questions and concerns.

“Most of the voices that are heard, the more of an impact you will have,” Beard expressed. The same sentiment rings true for the re-envisioning efforts of SHAD.

by Kristen Romito

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A Quest to Serve

by Ronald Kainer

David Weiss and friends of their native species trees and the Arbor Day Poster and PoeTREE fabric of the community. Here’s to Square both spiritually and tangibly Established at the end of World Rashid Library, but we are certain she will

High School Coach of the Year Professional Tennis Association the prestigious United States

1,000 career coaching win in his

who earned honors on the Medusa Road in her Moreland neighborhood. “The biggest thing is connectivity,” said Program Administrator

(the one I have finally learned

Kennybunkport Maine on June 22. fourth Simon son, will say “I Do” in

the growing trend of healthier

While Griffin said there is no

“The biggest thing is connectivity,”

While Griffin said there is no

Bill Cleveland Music Settlement

To join SHAD,

JUNE 20, 2019

JUNE 20, 2019

Cleveland Heights Church

Boulevard and

portion of Shaker

Traffic around

the perimeter of

Shaker Square

The latest plans for Shaker Square, drafted by Hargreaves Associates, Inc., envision a portion of Shaker Boulevard and a retail east-west traffic around the Square. 

Design drawings show a concert stage, the pergola and the Square as they are to look upon the square sometime in the future. A new tradition has been expressed bringing back.

The authors will give a presentation and book signing on August 11 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Shaker Heights Public Library. It’s free and open to the public.

More information available at UniqueCle.com

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By Margaret Simon

JOHN H. LAWSON

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

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(216) 881-9675 • FAX (216) 881-3928

1:00-6:00 P.M. A U G U S T 10

A U G U S T 10

A U G U S T 10
New Cafe Offers Healthy Options and Plant-Based Education

by Marie Metheny

BABA YAGA’S Greenhouse Cafe brings sweet and savory vegan options and interest to Larchmere. Formerly Pinot’s Berry Bakery, Baba Yoga’s mission is to provide a menu of affordable, fresh and local dishes and goods, and a hub for creativity, community gatherings and plant-based education.

Erica Chaffin, the new owner, had a vision for a plant-based cafe and shop about five years ago. Today, she brings her vision to life through Baba Yoga’s Greenhouse Cafe.

“I envisioned it being a place where I could learn all of the wild crafts and food preparation skills I didn’t already know: plant-dyeing fabrics, farms to table dinners, tea making,” Erica said. “Fresh, vegan eating is better for animals and the planet, and food preparation skills I didn’t develop by Maeve Metheny

Erin Chaffin with Rhodes owner Erica

Yaga’s Greenhouse Cafe

Baba Yoga’s Greenhouse Cafe owner Erica Chaffin with Rhodes

by Jason Novak

If you’ve visited Larchmere Boulevard recently, you may have noticed a new food offering amongst the many restaurants and cafes that line that celebrated street. A neon sign reading “Fredo’s Pizza” shines from the window of the familiar Larchmere Tavern, augmenting the return of the Italian dish to Larchmere, gone since the closing of DiPiero’s. Larchmere Tavern owner Fred Vrabel says, “It’s as much as offering a pizza menu came about due to the changing demographic of the neighborhood.

“After 27 years, the community new name intends to reflect this, and more to Larchmere. Formerly Poison Baba Yaga’s Greenhouse Cafe brings sweet and savory vegan options andPlant-Based

rejuvenate [Larchmere Tavern] for a younger audience.”

To attract the younger numbers of the community, Vrabel wanted to create a brand-new dining experience.

“We created a white sauce and a red sauce, which is pretty standard for pizza shops, but then we added our own blend of cheeses, including provolone, fontina and Romano, which gives it a unique flavor.”

What he is most proud of, though, is Fredo’s dough, made from a recipe that he and his cooks developed. The pizzas are cooked on stone, allowing the crust to become crisp underneath, while remaining soft and thick around the edges.

The menu includes 10 classic pizzas and options to customize any pizza along with a variety of salads. The beer menu has many craft beers and popular favorites. Vrabel plans to turn the dining-room side of the Tavern into a retro-style pizza shop, complete with Parmesan cheese shakers and checkered tablecloths. However, those who love the classic Larchmere Tavern need not worry; the bar-side will remain as it always has, and the tried-and-true Larchmere Tavern menu will still be offered on both sides of the restaurant, alongside the new pizza menu.

One-on-one or pick-up at Fredo’s. 216.721.1111 for more details.

13051 Larchmere Blvd

Sunbeam Now Open

Program started in 2002. Since that program began, the CMSD has constructed or fully renovated 50 school buildings.

For Erica, the community and diversity are what she loves most about owning a business on Larchmere Boulevard. “I know most of my neighbors and love that they support us by visiting for lunch regularly,” she said. “I can ask my neighbors at The 3 Apros for a bag of flour if I need it, find unique gifts, The New York Times-recommended or vintage books, go to the spa, or blow out at Larshmere Eye Works in a matter of a few blocks.”

While the cafe is still in the process of finding local sources for everything, it currently sources locally as much as possible, from places like local vegan pop-up Foodsmith, Kilbuck Farms and other North Union Farmers Market vendors, the West Side Market and Rootvill Farms. Local small-batch products are available in-store, such as Ritual Juicery cold-pressed juices, North Coast Apothecary products, Nox Bathers and Hippe Chick Noms granola.

The cafe still offers many favorites developed by its former owners, but its focus is more on delivering fresh, house-made, gluten-sensitive savory dishes. They’ve even created a flavorful, heart-warming daily offering of red beans and rice, where customers pay what they can and pay it forward. Baba Yoga also offers a number of workshops and events.

“We offer classes at least once a month and all offer one need-based scholarship,” Erica said: “Coming up, we have monthly Forage and Feast classes June through September with Tom from the Midwest Native Skills Institute and classes with Sultan of Cleveland Masala focusing on the art of Indian cooking.” Erica and her team also offer classes on making plant milk for just $22.

12270 Larchmere Blvd, from Spuyten Duyvil 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Closed on Mondays. More information on Facebook and Instagram @babayagacle and babayagar.com.

The school’s teaching design really allows for group work, a large gym and a modern cafeteria. Because the school works with children anywhere on the spectrum, including those with visual or hearing impairments, mobility issues and some students who are non-verbal, the building comes complete with a sensory room, gross motor room, and smaller rooms in which quieter activities can be undertaken.

The technology is in place to support Sunbeam School’s new instructional model, inquiry-based learning. It is one of several new approaches to learning being offered in CMSD buildings, and engages the school’s 62 students by allowing them to pose, research and answer questions.

Principal Katrinka Dean said that through pictures and the use of tools, students are “pointing out and making discoveries and presenting their thinking. So it’s Tucker, everyone from wherever they are, to extend them to where they can be.”

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Excited by the pool, Dean said that it is used for aquatherapy, but also as an opportunity for all children “just splash around and float around.”

“It’s drizzled with the gym. They’re excited at the opportunities, they’re thrilled at the facility,” she said. “From our little ones to our last ones, we’re just happy to be here.”

Sunbeam Now Open

Continued from page 1

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Meet the New Owners of The 3 Aprons

by Mave Rethein

Just on the other side of Raha Yaga’s Greenhouse Cafe is The 3 Aprons, an artisan bakery that provides sweet and savory baked goods to satisfy any palate. New owners Kristy and Oliver Ray are originally from Maine and New York respectively, but settled in Cleveland to start their bakery because of their love for the city and to be close to friends. Kristy is the head baker and has been baking for 10 years. She has a degree in pastry arts from the Culinary Art Institute of Cleveland and Sciences Institute in addition to a painting degree from the New Hampshire Institute of Art. She was a baker for The 3 Aprons under its previous ownership, the Boot Cafe, in Lakewood, and several high end bakeries in Brooklyn, NY. Her husband, Oliver, manages the front of the house and handles all of their wholesale deliveries. Oliver also has a glass blowing degree from the Cleveland Institute of Art, and some of his work is featured in the storefront.

While he insists he’s just “the other guy” who “married the talent,” it’s evident their teamwork is what makes the shop a success. They also have the expertise of a wonderful taste-tester, their three-year-old son, Calvin. “We love the street a lot and its small community charm,” Oliver said. “We also love the people around here and chat with other Larchmere business owners.”

From their freshly handmade pies and galettes to their quiches, frittatas and Detroit-style pizza, Kristy and Oliver are committed to using the best ingredients and as many local and seasonal ingredients as possible. They also offer gluten-free options and can accommodate any allergies or dietary needs upon request. Hours: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sundays. More information on Facebook and Instagram @3ApronsCle. 12902 Larchmere Blvd.

Residential Space Planned for Former Life Skills Building

By Joel Beck

Plans are finally in place to renovate the former Life Skills Northeast Ohio building on Larchmere Boulevard. Once a charter school, it has been empty since the children in 2020 or 2021. “A lot of people who have been close to this agreed that we didn’t want to put that in the middle of a community that we feel this is a better option than that kind of retail,” said Griffin. “We want better housing options for our neighborhood. We definitely feel that is a better option than that kind of retail.”

Hundreds of people had signed an online petition on Change.org late last year in opposition of a dollar store going into the former Life Skills building. Griffin said he expects the community to rally around this new construction. He also stressed that the residential project is a welcome change from the dollar store proposal for the vacant building that had caused significant outcry from residents and city officials in recent months. He believes the charter school building was a much better fit for the neighborhood and the people who live there.

The former charter school building was recently purchased by First Interstate Properties, which is the same development company that has headed retail projects at Legacy Village and Steelyard Commons. Recently, First Interstate has extended its conceptual design of the project to the previous option. The former charter school building will be able to get in. And nearly 70% are from the east side. For our families, who are often living in poverty, transportation is a huge barrier.” The expansion will take place in two phases. The first is building renovation, expected to begin in June or July of this year. Providence House will move its administration offices to the Buckeye school’s third floor, and the second floor will provide family counseling and case management. The ground floor will be a children’s recreation center.

Phase two, projected to begin in 2021, will be constructing a 24-bed residential wing to resemble single-family homes on East 19th Street. The goal is to be on the campus with the children in 2020 or 2021. “A lot will depend on fundraising,” says Leek-Nelson. “Our campaign goal is $1.2 million which are currently just over $2 million in pledges.”

The SHAD campus will double the number of children Providence House can serve, to about 700 a year. It will also bring 40 new jobs to the area and amass valuable partnerships.

Providence House will be able to help more people like the woman who called one day and expressed concern about her children’s safety after her apartment caught on fire. They were able to get her to Medicaid to get the child therapy and the equipment replaced and get the family into a safer living situation, Leek-Nelson recalls. “And now they’re doing wonderfully!”

“It’s very rewarding work,” Leek-Nelson marvels. “The whole team is so excited to be bringing this to the east side. There’s so much need.”

For more information on how to donate to Providence House, visit provhouse.org or call 216.458.5982.

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New Art and Wellness Center Aims to Treat Everyone

by Kristen Romito

Mental health is finally receiving the attention it deserves, and the owners of Willow Cove Art and Wellness Boutique want to make mental health treatment as approachable and accessible as possible.

Located at 12404 Larchmere Boulevard (near Larchmere Fire Works), Willow Cove Art and Wellness Boutique opened on April 12 and offers alternative wellness services.

The premise for Willow Cove is that the real work of healing oneself goes beyond the hour-long visit in a therapist’s office. Says Gamble, “We’re in the business of healing souls and transforming lives.”

To do just that, Gamble is a certified Adlerian therapist, treating the whole person and not just an individual’s isolated symptoms and does so by addressing all five senses.

“People really need auxiliary services,” said Gamble. Her hands-on therapy approach means she will work with a client in their home, school or work – wherever the client is experiencing an issue.

“The mental wellness is for everyone, not just for people who can afford it. We have an open door policy and everyone has access to the services,” Gamble said. “We offer a fee range so that the services are accessible to anybody.”

To complement the mental health coaching, Willow Cove offers a variety of other services including Reiki and massage therapy, hypnotherapy and energy healing conducted by certified practitioners. A dedicated retail space offers therapeutic accessories that, according to Gamble, “elevate your vibrations and make you feel good.” The products include home accents and personal body products such as soy candles, essential oils and diffusers, natural body butters and lotions, assorted teas and raw honey.

“The idea is that all the little things that people don’t associate with shifting your mood are what we sell in the store,” added Gamble. The products offered have been used by Gamble and Koltes, and they know that they can also have special meaning to the owners.

“We don’t buy products for products’ sake but for the stories behind them. They’re made from female artisans who contribute to some sort of cause,” stated Gamble. For example, the store sells affirmation necklaces that are handmade by women who were trafficked or experienced domestic abuse. The woman who owns the business was a victim herself and taught to empower women to share that story with the world.

Drawing on their artistic backgrounds, Gamble and Koltes will also feature local artists in the space’s gallery and will rotate new artists every six weeks. Koltes’ work is the first to be featured.

“This is my assignment in the world,” said Gamble, and hopes that people will stop in to Willow Cove to learn more, or to simply have a cup of tea.

contact@willowcove.org

Up and Down the Boulevard

Summer, summer, summertime... time to sit back and unwind

by Katie Montgomery

Where do you go in Cleveland to visit Ohio’s Best Bookstore, listen to great music, dine out, see world-class art, antiques, wearable art, and make sure you look your very best? Why not Larchmere, of course - read on to learn more.

In a review of The Best Bookstores in All 50 States, Montford.com named Loganberry Books, 11033 Larchmere, the winner in Ohio. Congrats to Harriett and crest! Your loganberrybooks.com and plan a summer full of reading, poetry, classic films and more.

Pet Wants, the neighborhood Book Club moderated by Shaker Heights Library, meets second Mondays, 7 to 8:10 p.m. at The Academy Tavern, 12400 Larchmere. What’s on the summer reading list?

June 10: “Laura & Emma” by Kate Gehrman - Fiction

July 8: “Fingertip” by Christine Mangen - Historical Fiction

August 12: “Everything Here is Beautiful” by Mira Lee - Fiction

Pet Wants will have its grand opening in June. More information at petwantscuyahoga.com.

Take Charge of Your Health!

Fairchild Partners workshops help you find balance (and take less stress) or manage chronic disease. Plus, stop by the Benefits and Services Fair, Wednesday, June 19, noon to 6 p.m. to discover benefits for you of 18-plus with a disability. At the Fair, trained Benefits Counselors will conduct a quick, safe, and private Benefits CheckUp survey, which results in a report listing public programs and services for which the individual is eligible to apply. Counselors can help people sign up for found documents needed for the application. Other agencies, such as Social Services or the Cuyahoga Department of Jobs and Family Services, make the final eligibility decisions.) All free. Details: 216.421.1530

Put your best foot forward with a pedicure from Lisa Kapp, owner of Marvel Salon, 21912 Larchmere. Pick a color and let her 29 years of experience do the rest! Fun news – Lisa has added a little... @TheRefrigeratorLady on Facebook. She’ll set you up with a clean, organized fridge stocked to serve what’s next in your life. From a new diet to getting ready for company. 216.914.9911

Stop by Fiddichdale Gallery, 12776 Larchmere, and ask about The Buckeye Soul Series. Plus, try first-Friday drop-in crafts (6 to 10 p.m., $5) or last-Sunday model drawing (3 to 5 p.m., $5).

The Academy, 12100 Larchmere The Mediterranean menu returns Tuesday/Wednesday, and George Foley performs on the patio, Saturdays 6:30 to 9:30.

Welcome to the Neighborhood! There’s a two-chair shop on the Boulevard – Barber Jon Bonstruck (whose friends grow up going to Rebecca’s Shaker Barber Shop). And the fully refundable tip is for Rebecca’s, expanding hours and offering specialty haircuts.

216.229.3057

Charley Bach PC Handyman, 12783 Larchmere (The BBQ) solve your computer needs. 216.217.8743

MaidBrite, 12702 Larchmere, offers home and office cleaning plus moving services. 216.229.5057

Don’t forget The Annual Labor Day Weekend Sidewalk Sale – Saturday, August 11.
**SHAKER SQUARE**

**WELCOME TO THE ATLAS CINEMAS FAMILY!**

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23700 Merimilla Road • Beachwood
Near 2 National Biological Buildings
(216) 896-0295
jogygynastic.com • Email: jogygynastics@jogygynastics.com

6-Week Summer Class Session
June 19—August 3

**Summer Warm-Up Camps**
June 3–June 7
One-day camps | Boys & Girls | Ages 4–16
Half day option: 9am-1pm OR Full-day option: 9am-3pm
Your choice of days and times
Cost $40 or $50 per day.

**Girls Gymnastic Camp & Boys Gymkata Camp**
June 10–14, 2019 or August 5–9, 2019
Both camps are 9am-3pm | Ages entering K-15 years
Cost $300 per week

Great fun! Great fitness! Great gymnastics!

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