

Beachwood Buzz

September 2023 Every Resident Business. Every Month. MAGAZINE



JASON TOTH

A JOURNEY OF RENEWAL

- Beachwood City Insider
- Beachwood Schools
- Scare Your Soul
- Community Support Requested
- Tree City USA
- Tree-riffic Art Exhibit
- 2024 Campaign for Jewish Needs
- ... and much more!



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Here's to the next 50!

Letter from THE EDITOR

By Debby Zelman Rapoport



I recently listened to a podcast with Mel Robbins, author and motivational speaker, and Dr. Daniel Amen, psychiatrist and brain disorder specialist, who revealed that the secret to a happier life starts with your brain. They are both *New York Times* best-selling authors.

Dr. Amen has conducted over 200,000 brain scans, all of which back up simple, proven tactics that support brain health.

Every thought and action affects our brain. The good news is, because of neuroplasticity, we always have the ability to form new neural pathways by making small, incremental changes that compound to benefit us in the long run.

Dr. Amen suggests two micro habits: Start each day by telling yourself that it will be a great day, and end each day by asking yourself what went well today.

“Our brain is lazy, it does what we nudge it to do,” Dr. Amen said.

He also recommends two daily high-quality supplements: a multivitamin and fish oil. Multivitamins promote optimal brain function and support the aging brain, and a new study shows that people with memory loss who regularly took multivitamins showed improved memory, relatively quickly.

Twenty-five percent of nerve cell membranes are made up of omega-3, which supports our heart, brain, hair, skin, and eyes. Low levels are associated with depression, dementia, and ADHD. Since more than 90% of the population is omega-3 deficient, supplements are recommended.

It is also important to keep serotonin, tryptophan, and dopamine levels in balance. Serotonin is the feel-good hormone. It effects happiness, flexibility, and respect. When levels are low, people tend to worry and get stuck in a negative thought process. For better brain health, you can boost serotonin with sunshine or bright light therapy. Exercise also boosts serotonin. Walk like you're late for 45 minutes, three times a week. Plus, add strength training to build protein and brain reserves.

Dr. Amen also recommends cold showers and eating tyrosine rich foods, such as almonds, beans, fish, chicken, and avocados to support hormone

levels. Additionally, he suggests meditation, hypnosis, having a regular relaxation process, and breathing exercises to keep hormone levels in check.

The five best foods for brain health are wild salmon, organic berries, nuts and seeds, leafy greens, and raw cacao. Dr. Amen shared his brain-healthy hot chocolate recipe, which he enjoys daily as a treat. For each serving, add a heaping teaspoon of raw cacao to a cup of unsweetened almond milk and heat it up. Add a couple drops of SweetLeaf chocolate stevia, and put it in a blender.

When we improve the physical health of our brain, we increase happiness, performance, and mental health. Everything impacts our brain and when we treat it well, we feel results, often quickly.

The best way to sharpen our memory, reverse brain aging, and prevent dementia is to eliminate, prevent, or treat all the risk factors that steal your

mind. The mnemonic BRIGHT MINDS will help you remember the 11 major risk factors for memory loss.

- B** Blood flow
- R** Retirement and aging
- I** Inflammation
- G** Genetics
- H** Head trauma
- T** Toxins
- M** Mental health.
- I** Immune system problems
- N** Neurohormone issues
- D** Diabesity (diabetes/obesity)
- S** Sleep

At all stages of life, stay active and continue to challenge yourself. To create better brain health today, ask yourself if what you're doing is good for your brain or bad for it. If you can honestly answer this question from a place of love and act accordingly, you'll make good decisions for your brain and will then notice that your life improves because additional things will fall into place.

If you inherently long for something, become it first.
If you want gardens, become the gardener.
If you want love, embody love.
If you want mental stimulation, change the conversation.
If you want peace, exude calmness.
If you want to fill your world with artists, begin to paint.
If you want to be valued, respect your own time.
If you want to live ecstatically, find the ecstasy within yourself.
This is how to draw it in, day by day, inch by inch.

— Victoria Erickson

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Please send information about clubs, organizations, events and meetings to beachwoodbuzz@gmail.com. The deadline is the 10th of each month.

Article Submissions

If you have a story idea or photos you would like to share, email beachwoodbuzz@gmail.com.

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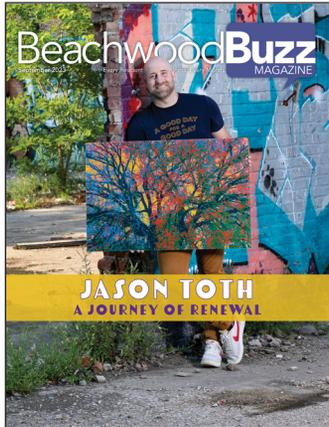
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JASON TOTH

A JOURNEY OF RENEWAL



Jason Toth, a Beachwood High School graduate, class of 2005, has creativity running through his veins and only recently has he truly embraced it fully. His journey unfolds against a backdrop of creativity stifled and identity lost, and then found again, an odyssey that captures the essence of renewal in its purest form.

When POTS made it impossible for Jason to continue working as he had, he found himself living a nightmare of dependence on others and was determined to find a way of earning money that fit within his physical and cognitive limitations. This is how he found his art.

Written by Debby Zelman Rapoport
Photos by Scott Morrison, Discovery Photos

Turney's ACE Hardware

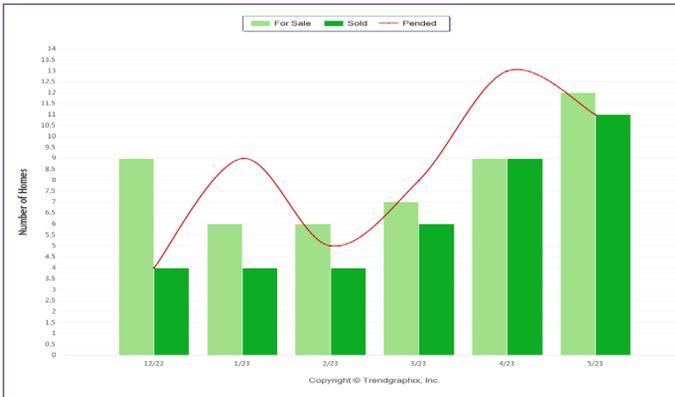


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Real Estate Statistical Update by Sharon Friedman



We continue to remain in a seller's market as the trend has continued for the past two years. The number of For Sale listings did not increase from the previous month for July 2023. However, the number of Sold listings increased by a substantial 13.3% month over month. Based on the 6-month trend, the average Sold price in July was \$547,000, up 16.6% from \$469,000 from the previous month. Overall, the market is showing a normal neutral trend in sales during the late summer months, although inventory is still suppressed making this a good time to sell. Northeastern Ohio continues to be a desirable location attracting new residents from out of state, while Beachwood remains very competitive due to the quality and age of the housing stock and the excellence of schools and community amenities.

— Sharon Friedman

Homes SOLD in Beachwood May 10, 2023 – August 10, 2023

Street	Days	List	Sold	LP/SP%	Bed	Bath	Built
Larchmont	12	275,000	215,000	78%	3	2	1930
Halburton	3	265,000	265,000	100%	2	1	1956
E Baintree	2	279,000	281,000	101%	4	3	1948
Bryden	12	350,000	350,000	100%	2	2	1952
E Silsby	8	379,900	380,000	100%	3	3	1952
E Silsby	22	380,000	380,000	100%	4	2	1952
Letchworth	41	400,000	390,000	98%	4	3	1958
Richmond	8	395,000	410,000	104%	4	3	1985
Cedarview	33	399,000	410,000	103%	4	2	1954
Hilltop	9	425,000	420,000	99%	3	3	1956
Kenwood	4	425,000	435,000	102%	2	3	1984
Cedarview	80	449,900	440,000	98%	4	3	1970
Halburton	3	409,900	443,000	108%	4	4	1971
Halburton	12	450,000	450,000	100%	3	2	1955
Greenlawn	26	470,000	460,000	98%	3	3	1962
Belvoir	5	450,000	505,000	112%	4	4	1957
Allen	3	525,000	513,000	98%	4	4	1971
Buckhurst	39	515,000	517,500	100%	3	2	1956
Hermitage	22	549,000	525,000	96%	5	4	1958
Richmond	114	569,000	525,000	92%	3	3	2018
Bryden	3	475,000	525,000	111%	4	4	1952
Richmond	11	549,000	550,000	100%	3	4	1980
Allen	57	599,000	580,000	97%	4	3	1968
Halburton	4	549,900	585,000	106%	4	4	1975
Sulgrave	4	574,900	585,000	102%	5	3	1958
Sulgrave	85	595,000	590,000	99%	4	4	1961
Hampton	57	669,000	600,000	90%	3	4	1985
Roxbury	63	649,000	620,000	96%	3	3	1987
Fenway	3	579,900	625,000	108%	4	4	2005
South Woodland	4	599,000	630,777	105%	3	3	1954
Havel	14	665,000	665,000	100%	4	3	1969
Hampton	8	650,000	672,500	103%	2	3	1985
Wendover	98	755,000	755,000	100%	4	4	1977
Greenwich	5	850,000	770,000	91%	5	4	1959
Annesley	56	875,000	830,000	95%	4	6	1985
Meldon	3	818,000	889,150	109%	4	3	1964
Orchard	6	1,000,000	920,000	92%	5	6	1989

Beachwood Market Update

This data was provided by Sharon Friedman, courtesy of NEOHREX. Data provided was accurate at the time of reporting. The source for the spreadsheet is MLS Now. The market data is from Trendgraphix, Inc. Information is believed to be accurate, but not guaranteed. Data does not reflect sales of property not included in MLS. Consult a Realtor® if you have questions about the market.

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24301 Bryden Road
List price \$399,900
2 Bed, 2.5 Bath RANCH with Walk-out LL



7 Deerfield Lane in The Village
List price \$399,900
2 Bed, Loft, 2.5 Bath Condo, MBR on 1st



3240 Richmond Rd in Baywood
List price \$425,000
3 Bed, 3 Full Bath Ranch Condo

Sharon's Recent Beachwood Listings & Sales

- SOLD 6/23 24410 Greenwich Lane**
listed at \$850,000
- SOLD 6/23 3 Hyde Park in The Village**
listed at \$549,900
- SOLD IN 1 DAY 6/23 24860 Bryden Road**
listed at \$475,000
- SOLD OVER LIST IN 4 DAYS 5/23 2745 Sulgrave Road**
listed at \$574,900
- SOLD 5/23 2618 Deptford Road**
listed at \$439,000
- SOLD OVER LIST IN 1 DAY 5/23 2215 Campus Road**
listed at \$419,000
- SOLD OVER LIST 5/23 22655 Chagrin Blvd #406, Stratton House**
listed at \$164,900
- SOLD IN 1 DAY 4/23 2426 Brian Drive**
listed at \$549,900
- SOLD 4/23 5 Sherwood Court in The Village**
listed at \$475,000

The Market is HOT! 🔥
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JASON TOTH

A JOURNEY OF RENEWAL



By Debby Zelman Rapoport
Photos by Scott Morrison, Discovery Photo

Jason Toth creates photographic pop art of the mundane and overlooked. He lives by the motto on his shirt, "A good day for a good day," and is pictured with two of his creations: *Forest City Found* and *Absolutely Fundamental*.

Jason Toth, a Beachwood High School graduate, class of 2005, has creativity running through his veins and only recently has he truly embraced it fully. His journey unfolds against a backdrop of creativity stifled and identity lost, and then found again, an odyssey that captures the essence of renewal in its purest form.

Jason developed a passion for art while at Beachwood Middle School and allowed it to dissipate in high school because he thought at the time that being artistic carried connotations of being gay.

Jason didn't want to draw attention to his sexuality so he traded in his paintbrush for a football helmet: a decision driven by the complexities of identity, societal pressures, and a desperate need to fit in. Although his passion took a back seat, its call remained an undercurrent in Jason's life.

After graduating high school, Jason attended Miami University where he majored in supply chain management. Upon graduating, he pursued a corporate career that gravitated toward marketing, which led

to the creation of his own agency, where Jason tapped into his creativity to help clients grow their businesses.

For four years, Jason poured all of himself into his business and saw successes that made him excited for the future. However, in 2019, his health seriously declined and he was diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), an autonomic nervous system disorder. Life as he knew it spun into chaos. His symptoms were so debilitating that he stopped working and spent the next three-and-a-half years focused on rehabilitation. "I had to learn how to live in my new reality with limitations that doctors said would be with me for the rest of my life."

POTS wasn't merely a medical condition: It unraveled Jason's sense of self. The emotional side of POTS was as challenging as the physical one. "My identity was in my business. Suddenly it was gone and I was faced with a new reality of crippling physical symptoms and severe cognitive impairment. I was terrified. It was the most alone I had ever felt."

Life for Jason was a roller coaster. He would have a couple of good days, followed by a flare-up that would bring him down for weeks. He would then have to physically and mentally build himself back up. "My nervous system is so sensitive after a flare-up that I can only tolerate light exercise for a

"My mental health journey gave me tools to overcome obstacles that had been holding me back. It taught me to turn moments of judgment into moments of compassion and to live in the present. It led me to a truth that I cannot ignore: My passions are not mere whims or fleeting desires. They are the lifeblood that courses through my veins, the compass that guides my steps."

"I could not have imagined myself saying this two years ago, but POTS has been one of the greatest blessings of my life because of what it has forced me to do."

few minutes a day followed by bed rest," he said. "It's been a wild journey that only those living with chronic illness can truly comprehend."

Jason credits three Cleveland Clinic physicians for helping him navigate the uncertainty: Robert Wilson, Anna Hayburn, and Satya Munzar.

"I saw many doctors prior to my diagnosis and often felt unheard or dismissed," he told us. "Then, Dr. Wilson recognized my symptoms and made the POTS diagnosis. He and his team, specifically Dr. Hayburn, have since been a source of guidance and compassion throughout this disorienting experience."

A last-minute appointment with Dr. Munzar was then crucial for Jason's journey of emotional healing and growth. "I went in for

my annual physical with low expectations and was mistaken," he said. "Dr. Munzar did more than listen. They dug deep into my life and experiences. They asked what it was like for me growing up and being gay, and then took time to discuss the impact of chronic stress, anxiety, and trauma on the nervous system. When I left that appointment, I was hopeful."

Dr. Munzar also suggested a couple of books: *When the Body Says No: Exploring the Stress-Disease Connection*, by Gabor Maté, and *Loving What Is: Four Questions That Can Change Your Life*, by Byron Katie and Stephen Mitchell. These books were effective prescriptions that aided Jason's healing and guided him down a new creative path – one of photography and art – where he is making fast tracks to building a name in the art world.

"I could not have imagined myself saying this two years ago, but POTS has been one of the greatest blessings of my life because of what it has forced me to do," Jason told us.

In addition to creating art, Jason found relief and growth through a regular meditation practice. "I decided to trust what people were saying about it and I put forth an honest effort to create a practice of my own."

Jason uses an app called Waking Up. "Sam Harris has an introductory course that starts with 5-minute meditations. He explains how we can observe our thoughts, and separate judgement and attachment to them," Jason explained. "This concept and practice helps me accept reality rather than fixate on what could have been."

Jason also credits today's successes to journaling and therapy. He learned to reframe past experiences, practice compassion, and love himself. He shared some examples of positive journaling: "When my legs pulsed with pain, I focused on gratitude for my feet and how well they



Renewal of My Spirit symbolizes a heartfelt prayer. Since that transformative day, Jason has relentlessly pursued life with honesty and authenticity. That is when he found himself: Jason Toth the Artist.



When POTS stole Jason's identity, he immersed himself in art. When making photos, he pulls out color that he knows is hidden deep within.

have served me throughout life. I even wrote a thank-you letter to my bald head, once a source of insecurity. It taught me to not take myself too seriously and it is now a source of confidence. It helps that I've been blessed with a nicely shaped head," he laughed.

"My mental health journey gave me tools to overcome obstacles that had been holding me back," he said. "It taught me to turn moments of judgment into moments of compassion and to live in the present. It led me to a truth that I cannot ignore: My passions are not mere whims or fleeting desires. They are the lifeblood that courses through my veins, the compass that guides my steps."

RENEWAL OF SPIRIT

"Truth be told, I've always wanted to be an artist," Jason told us. "When POTS made it impossible to continue working as I had, I found myself living a nightmare of dependence on others. I was determined to find a way of earning money that fit within

my physical and cognitive limitations. This is how I found my art."

Jason's art wasn't a mere stroke of fate, it was an evolution. "Through trial and error I listened to my body, being mindful of things that lit me up and things that drained me. I followed the light, unsure of where it would lead. Initially, I saw myself as an imposter – not a real artist – and it was inconceivable that I'd be good enough to make and sell art for a living."

Jason then started to get more serious about photography, which had always been a part of his life. "My grandfather had a Nikkormat camera that he would let me borrow. In fact, some of my fondest memories from Beachwood include that camera and a photography class in middle school. Since then, I have been the documentarian of my family and friends."

Photography remained a hobby and along the way, through his business, Jason developed a keen eye for composition. A pivotal moment occurred in October 2022, when he visited his sister, Melissa (BHS class

"At the end of the day, I create art that I love, so regardless of the response, I'm happy with it. That being said, external validation is the buttercream icing on the cake!"

of 2009), in Utah. "She was driving as I stood through the sunroof, frantically trying to capture the breathtaking landscape that surrounded us," he said. "When I reviewed my photos, I was actually impressed. So was Melissa. She was the one who encouraged me to pursue photography as a means of income. Her genuine enthusiasm and support fueled my confidence in a time I felt lost and alone."

It was clear to Jason that the market for landscape photography was oversaturated, so he put on his marketing hat and followed advice he would give to a client: "If you're going to sell something, you have to differentiate yourself from the crowd."

Jason then learned to use editing software, studied color theory, did market research, and found his niche: Photographic pop art of the mundane and overlooked.

"My art really pops, especially when printed on metal, acrylic, or glass. When people view it, I witness their experience of genuine joy. Looking at people look at my art is one of my favorite things to do," he told us.

Jason has an eye for shooting scenes that aren't traditionally pretty. Urban and industrial decay are often subjects for his vibrant works of art. "Rather than looking for something cool to shoot in the moment, I look for patterns, shapes, and light," he explained. "For example, the steel beams of bridges in The Flats form lines that remind me of Kandinsky, one of my favorite artists. Finding beauty in the mundane has changed the way I observe everyday life."

After seeing his art, it's no surprise to learn that Jason draws inspiration primarily from post-modern and abstract painters like Wassily Kandinsky, Piet Mondrian, Mark Rothko, and Roy Lichtenstein.

"My favorite creation, *Renewal of My Spirit*, is a willow tree at Edgewater Park. The original photo was bland, with a gray sky and muted, yellow leaves. It was a cold, wet, autumn day. I was feeling like garbage but challenged myself to get in some physical activity and seek out beauty in the ugliness, not realizing it would change my life. When I edit photos, I don't choose the colors of the final piece. They emerge through a process of manipulation and the vibrant colors that emerged stunned me. I was looking at something beautiful, something I created, that moved me to tears. That's when I believed I was good enough to call myself an artist. The feeling of being an imposter melted away."

The moment was profound for Jason. It was the rebirth of his own identity, which became the namesake of the piece.

Since the start, Jason had a vision: to create oversized works that connect with people who value and feel art. He is committed to that vision and finds that the more he trusts himself and the process, the luckier he gets. "At the end of the day, I create art that I love, so regardless of the response,

It's Official!

2023:

Jason's work will be exhibited and/or available for purchase in-person at:

Tree-riffic

Beachwood Community Center
September 14 – October 7

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Fall 2023

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On display beginning October 2023
Special show event, date TBD October 2023

More locations and events to be announced in the near future. For complete details and to stay up to date, visit www.jtoth.art.

I'm happy with it," he said. He paused, then added, "That being said, external validation is the buttercream icing on the cake!"

Jason encourages people who have seen his art to stand back, take a moment to reflect, and challenge themselves to see bright, bold colors hidden in the world around them – especially on the grayest of days. "We exist in a kaleidoscope of color. You just have to reframe your perspective to see it."

His work as an artist represents transformation and growth. "My art is a creative expression of who I am and therefore the most honest thing I've ever done," Jason said. "This is why I consider POTS to be a blessing. It led me on a journey of self-discovery, and what I discovered, I love dearly. Today, I am proud to call myself an emerging artist and I'm excited about where my art will take me. There's so much potential and the opportunity is there."

This past August marked four years with POTS for Jason – four years of transformation

and growth that made him reexamine his values and confront his fears. "Courage had nothing to do with where I am now," he said. "I simply had no choice but to trust myself. This is the renewal of my spirit and it's bursting with gratitude."

Jason dedicates this article to his late grandmother, Renee "Bommie" Keller, who recently passed away from pancreatic cancer. He recalls one of the last things she said to him: "Jason, you've always been an artist."

Jason currently sells his art through his website, www.jtoth.art. He also has a social media presence on Facebook (JToth Art) and Instagram (JToth_Art). He has a number of art show events on the horizon and encourages people to go to his website and sign up for his newsletter, and to follow him on social media to find out where and when.

Jason's art and that of 19 other artists, myself included, will be on exhibit at Tree-riffic at the Beachwood Community Center, September 14 – October 7. An artists' reception will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 19, 4-6 pm. Refreshments will be served. Additional information on Jason's art and his upcoming exhibits may be found at www.jtoth.art.

Jason dedicates this article to his late grandmother, Renee "Bommie" Keller, who recently passed away from pancreatic cancer. He recalls one of the last things she said to him: "Jason, you've always been an artist."

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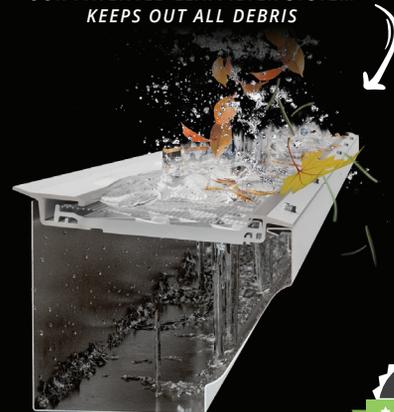
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Scott Simon Challenges You to Scare Your Soul

By Debby Zelman Rapoport

Happiness entrepreneur Scott Simon, creator of Scare Your Soul, is on a mission to help people overcome fear and step out of their comfort zones. He leads by example, shares his experiences, and shows up daily to challenge himself and expand a ripple effect of confidence, positivity, and happiness.

Scott created the Scare Your Soul movement well before authoring his book, *Scare Your Soul: 7 Powerful Principles to Harness Fear and Lead Your Most Courageous Life*. His aha moment to bring this movement to the world came organically in 2016 after he confronted his fear of singing in public, a fear held since being humiliated in grade school.

During preparation for a concert, Scott's choir teacher gave him a solo line to sing. Every time it was to be his moment to shine, he froze up. "I just couldn't get it right," Scott said. "Our substitute choir teacher then approached me and said, 'You! You can't sing. Just mouth the words from now on!'"

This devastating experience totally crushed Scott's interest in singing, something he had enjoyed until that moment.

Thirty-five years later, after working with Harvard Positive Psychology Professor Tal Ben Shahar and recalling a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt that he wrote down years earlier while on a flight to Israel to teach English to Holocaust survivors, Scott decided to overcome his fear by singing in public. The quote was, "Do one thing every day that scares you."

He went to Inn on Coventry on a Sunday morning, when there's always a crowd, took out his acoustic guitar, and belted out a few songs. When he started, he was terrified. Then, the fear melted as people started to smile and clap. When Scott finished, he felt the weight on his shoulders that he had carried for so many years lift. In just seven minutes, the story he had repeatedly told himself for decades about singing was rewritten.

Scott then wrote a Facebook post about his experience that went viral. "It went worldwide," he said. "So many people have fears that paralyze them and my vulnerability exhibited that we can make choices to overcome our fears and insecurities."

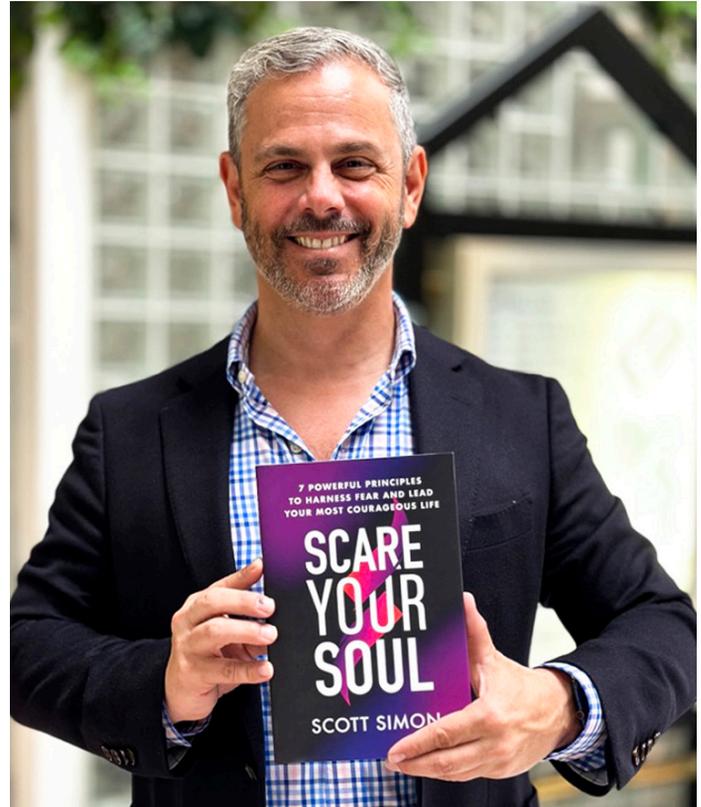
Soon after, Scare Your Soul, a global movement that empowers thousands of people every day – one small but powerful act of courage at a time – was born.

"Soulsters' are like-minded people who want to live their best lives," Scott said. "When you choose to do something consistently it completely changes how you lead your life."

"Soulsters' are like-minded people who want to live their best lives," Scott said. "When you choose to do something consistently it completely changes how you lead your life."

One challenge that Scott suggests is to write down five things each day that you're grateful for, something that he and his friend Carly have been doing every night for eight years. "We've sent over 16,000 gratitude messages and we don't repeat them," he said. "This makes me realize that I'm grateful for the hard things in life as well as the easy ones because, often, the hard things end up being the key that unlocks the best parts of life."

The Scare Your Soul movement continues to grow. Started in 2015, it now has thousands of participants who help spread the



scare-your-soul mission by leading challenges and sharing their own successes. "This is an incredible grass-roots experience," Scott said. "There's no cost to join and our blog posts, inspiration guides, and challenges are all free."

Then, in 2020, Scott was going through his emails and opened a message from an editor who wanted him to write a book. At first, he thought the email was spam, so he deleted it. Three days later, he questioned the email, pulled it from the trash, and sent it to friend and best-selling author Paula McLain, who told Scott that Hachette Book Group was one of the best publishing companies in the world and he must respond immediately.

The message was legit. Scott then hired an agent, landed the book deal, and had seven months to write 80,000 words:

Pretty incredible since only 1% of people who want to write a book end up writing a manuscript or proposal and of that 1%, only 1% land a book deal with a major publisher, with even fewer being contacted by a publisher.

"I always believe if you put goodness in the world you get it in return," Scott told me. "I try to act in service and give back when I can. I get joy from helping people take action to become happier, and the Scare Your Soul book and movement are tools that encourage people to take action."

Scott wanted the book to feel different so he created it as an interactive roadmap to building bravery. He didn't want to come across as an expert who was telling people what to do so he drafted it as a conversation between him and each reader. He shares his history,

"I always believe if you put goodness in the world you get it in return," Scott told me. "I try to act in service and give back when I can. I get joy from helping people take action to become happier, and the *Scare Your Soul* book and movement are tools that encourage people to take action."

experiences, vulnerabilities, and struggles – as well as success stories from others – and then provides space for readers to reflect, write, and go out in the world and challenge themselves with their own acts of courage.

When people scare their soul they start to believe in themselves. Scott continually receives feedback about people leaving unfulfilling jobs, starting their own companies, leaving toxic relationships, launching innovative social projects, holding space for tough conversations, bringing their art into the world, beginning to heal from past traumas, reconnecting with lost friends, and seeing themselves free of anger and bitterness.

"I continue to challenge myself every single day and to push myself into moments of uncertainty where I'm out of my own comfort zone," Scott shared. "I want this movement to continue growing so more people can change their lives for the better. I've always loved the concept of someone saying, 'I scared my soul.'"

Scott has two children, both of whom graduated from Beachwood High School. Noah, 22, graduated from The Ohio State University and is applying to medical school; and Teilah, 20, spent the summer in London and just started her junior year at University of Pittsburgh. Both of them scare their souls too.

He invites you to become a "Soulster" by registering to receive inspiration, success stories, and weekly courage challenges. To date, there are more than 400 challenges online. To learn more, visit <https://scareyoursoul.com/join-the-movement/>. Scott also invites you to share your stories by emailing him at scott@scareyoursoul.com.

Scare Your Soul: 7 Powerful Principles to Harness Fear and Lead Your Most Courageous Life is an interactive journey. It is a tapestry of stories, science, writing prompts, and real-world challenges. It may be purchased on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, at independent booksellers, or at www.scareyoursoul.com.

Cleveland Jewish News present Beachwood City Council Candidates Night

On Thursday, Sept. 21, 7 pm, the *Cleveland Jewish News* will present Beachwood Candidates' Night in the Beachwood High School auditorium.

This moderated debate will provide an opportunity for City Council candidates to share their views and for residents to learn more about them prior to the election on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Free tickets, required to attend, will soon be available at www.cjn.org. Additional information will also be available as plans are finalized.



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Community Support Requested

Jackie Scotese, a 35-year special education assistant at Beachwood Schools, has created two GoFundMe pages with her siblings to support their two sisters, Kathy Ramey and Barbara Potts, who live in Maui and lost everything in the Lahaina fire.

Kathy and her husband, Tom, lived just off Front Street and only the lava rock walls are still standing. Everything else is rubble. Thankfully, they were able to evacuate safely with their dog, Rusty, but with very few belongings. Kathy is retired and Tom is finishing a long career as a contractor, having worked for many years on homes, resorts and shops. Both were looking forward to easing into their golden years together. Now they are faced with rebuilding and replacing everything.

Barbara and her husband, Lee, lost everything, including their home, their real estate office, and all their belongings. It's a lot to absorb for two people who left that day for a doctor's appointment

on neighboring island Oahu. They are both very active in their community by helping to raise money for nonprofits, dedicating years of service to increase literacy for Lahaina keiki, participating in tutoring and mentorship programs, and serving as business leaders.

"Jackie is one of my dearest friends. When anyone needs something, she's always the first to show up and help," said Sharon Weisman, Beachwood High School ASL teacher and longtime Beachwood resident. "She's fully dedicated to Beachwood, and is an incredible colleague and friend to many of us. We have a tremendous community and now is the time to show Jackie and her family our support."

"We are hoping to raise money to help Kathy, Tom, Barbara, and Lee with their living expenses while they navigate their recovery," Jackie told us. "We're doing everything we can to help them survive this devastation. Such loss in our big family is almost incomprehensible. We have faith and love, and are grateful that everyone is safe. Things and homes can be replaced. All four of them are still with us and are showing such resilience."

Please join *Beachwood Buzz* in supporting the following GoFundMe accounts:

- <https://tinyurl.com/BarbaraLeeRecovery>
- <https://tinyurl.com/KathyTomRecovery>



Barbara and Lee Potts during better times.



Only walls remain on Kathy and Tom's home.

"We have a tremendous community and now is the time to show Jackie and her family our support."

– Sharon Weisman

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Meet Matt Brown, Beachwood Schools Treasurer/CFO



The Beachwood Board of Education welcomes Matt Brown as the district's new treasurer/chief financial officer. Matt fills the position that was formerly held by Michele Mills, who retired after 35 years of service.

Matt brings to Beachwood 20 years of professional experience in school finance and governmental accounting. He previously served as the Nordonia Hills Schools treasurer/CFO, after spending time in the same capacity at Euclid City Schools. Prior to entering a career in public education, he worked for a private accounting firm where he managed governmental projects and provided consulting services for governmental accounting standard implementations.

As treasurer, Matt will advise the Board of Education on all financial related matters and oversee the district's financial operations.

After being unanimously approved by the board, Matt praised Michele Mills' legacy of integrity and fiscal responsibility. Under her leadership, Beachwood Schools consistently earned four stars from the Auditor of State – considered the highest achievement in open and transparent government. In addition, Beachwood Schools has

achieved top credit ratings, which ensure favorable borrowing rates. The district has maintained the highest possible bond rating – Aaa – from Moody's Investors Service since 2008.

We had an opportunity to talk with Matt, who shared the following:

What are the top initiatives that you will lead during the 2023-2024 school year?

A major priority this year is to develop a workable construction budget for the upcoming elementary facilities projects, coupled with the development of an investment strategy to ensure funds are available for covering the ongoing capital expenditures. More importantly, this will be a year to get to know the Beachwood staff and community and for them to get to know me.

What are your strengths?

I believe some of my strengths are communication, attention to detail, listening, and considering all viewpoints before rolling out a plan. These skills help increase collaboration and promote a positive culture within my team.

How will you engage with families and the community?

I will be transparent with what is going on in the treasurer's office and how the district is utilizing the resources with which we have been entrusted. I envision that engagement will take place through newsletters, financial reports, or snapshot literature, and by being present at school-wide events.

What is your approach to leadership?

I am hands on. It's important to me that my staff knows that I am there for them and that they have someone who supports them in their decision-making. I believe it is essential to lead by example in how I treat others, and the attention and focus given to the job at hand.

Is there anything else that you would like to share at this time?

My wife, Kelli, is an eighth-grade science teacher and I have three kids, Lincoln (16), Kailin (14) and Riley (11). We like to be outdoors as much as possible, camping, golfing, hiking, and we even like to dabble in some beekeeping.

In next month's issue:

Meet Beachwood City Council and School Board Candidates

Prior to each election, *Beachwood Buzz* provides a forum for City Council and School Board candidates to submit editorial content. City Council candidates will first be presented in alphabetical order, followed by School Board candidates, also listed alphabetically. It is our responsibility to make educated choices when going to the polls. Please take time to read this important information.

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VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

CONTACT

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June Taylor • jt@integralcle.com

Jillian DeLong • jillian@delongforbeachwood.com
Ali Stern • stern4beachwood@gmail.com

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City of Beachwood Hosts Tree City USA Awards Program

Complemented by **Tree-riffic**, a tree-related art exhibit

Started in 1976, Tree City USA is one of the Arbor Day Foundation's oldest programs. The City of Beachwood first applied for Tree City USA status in 1997 and has been a proud recipient ever since. Every year, a community in the Northeast Ohio region that is recognized by Tree City USA volunteers to host the organization's awards ceremony. This year, Beachwood is the proud host, with an event taking place on Wednesday, Sept. 20, at the Beachwood Community Center.

"We are proud of our city and are looking forward to welcoming guests and showcasing all the wonderful aspects of Beachwood," said Mayor Justin Berns, who will present a welcoming address at the event.

The full-day program will include breakfast, lunch, a raffle, and presentations by Stephanie Miller, Ohio Division of Forestry regional urban forester; Jim Chatfield, Ohio State University Extension associate professor and extension specialist; and John Palmer, International Society of Arboriculture board certified arborist, all of whom will address the many benefits that urban forestry provides to infrastructure. Tree City USA award recipients will then be recognized by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.

Tree City USA provides communities with a four-step framework to maintain and grow their tree cover. The framework includes: Maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day.

The organization also provides educational and promotional information for cities to celebrate their work, and show residents, visitors, and the entire country that they're committed to the mission of environmental change.

"Ohio has more designated tree cities than any other state and Northeast Ohio has more than any other part of Ohio, with 53 communities in our region," said Chris Vild, City of Beachwood environmental manager. "Beachwood has 9,398 trees on tree lawns throughout the city. Our long term goal is to diversify the urban forest and to plant the largest trees possible at maturity to grow the tree canopy for a variety of reasons including climate resiliency, lower crime rates, and higher homes sales."

To complement this program, **Tree-riffic**, an art exhibit, will be on display in the Beachwood Art Gallery from September 14 through October 7. An Artists' Reception will be held Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 4-6 pm.

Beachwood Community Services senior adult manager Susan Gordon Merdler told us that the response for artists, many from

Beachwood, continues to grow. When we went to press, artists included Nicki Adler, Barbara Breen, Julie Cook, Bob Cohen, Suzette Cohen, Rob Crombie, Charlene Engel, Nancy Gregg, Margaret Heydorn, Alice Jacobs, Alex Klayman, Margaret Konecky, Bruce Langer, Tessa LeBaron, Amy Lewandowski, Laura Martin, Nancy Minter, Debby Zelman Rapoport, Dan Rowland, Huang Shufeng, Lisa Skufca, Marlene Weinstein, Jason Toth, Shari Wolf, Ruth Wurtzel, and Kim Zarney.

"I look forward to curating the assortment of trees that will be included in this show," Susan said. "Once we called for artists, the exhibit grew roots and kept growing!"

Tree-riffic

September 14 – October 7

Beachwood Community Center

Artists' Reception

Tuesday, Sept. 19 • 4-6 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served



"Once we called for artists, the exhibit grew roots and kept growing!"

– Susan Merdler



Top row:
Tree in Springtime, by Lisa Skufca, and *Live Oak*, by Ruth Wurtzel.
Bottom row:
Wade Oval Cherry Blossoms by Debby Zelman Rapoport, and *My Oxygen*, by Margaret Heydorn.



Benefits of Adhering to Tree City USA Standards:

A thriving urban forest offers many advantages to communities. Here are a few:

- Trees help absorb the sounds of traffic in urban areas by 40%.
- Neighborhoods with trees are seven to nine degrees cooler than those without.
- Trees reduce energy costs up to 25% by shading buildings and protecting them from winter winds.
- Homes with trees have higher property values.
- Green space plays a major role in improving mental and physical health.
- Planting and maintaining trees absorbs carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, mitigating the effects of climate change.

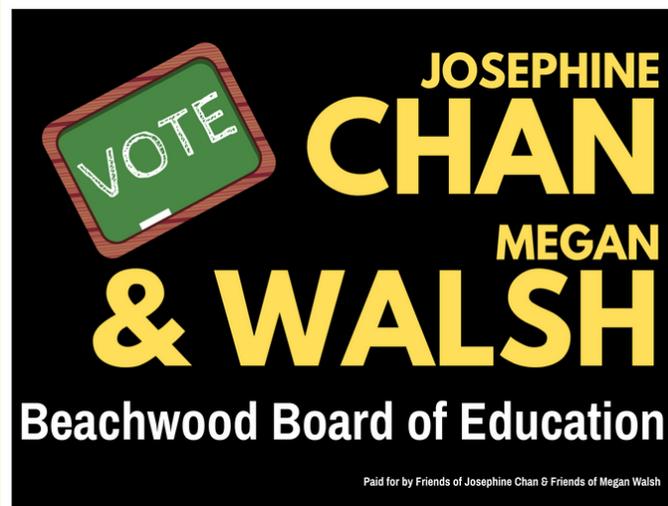
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BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ✓ Engaged the community, staff and students while creating a master plan for the elementary facilities.
- ✓ Provided continuous support for the district's equity efforts, including adding Diwali, Eid al-Fitr and Lunar New Year to the school calendar.
- ✓ Prioritized the district's three focus areas of academic achievement, intercultural awareness and mental wellness.



Election Day is November 7



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BAKED by Abbie • Plum Torte

Recipe adapted from Deb Perelman's *Smitten Kitchen* blog, which was adapted from the original *New York Times* recipe.

This popular *New York Times* recipe by Marian Burros was first published in October 1982 and was later included in her 1983 *Elegant but Easy Cookbook*, written with Lois Levine.

Italian plums, also known as purple European-style, Empress, or Fellenberg plums, have a short season from late summer to early fall. They are distinct with their oval shape, tapered ends, and smooth skin that is taut and thin with dense, golden-yellow flesh. When raw, they have a snappy, semi-firm texture. When cooked, they develop a jammy consistency.

While these plums acquired their name from their native growing region, the variety has found great success outside of Italy, particularly in Germany. Known as Zwetschgen, these plums are a favorite seasonal

fruit often used in baked goods. German plum cakes (Zwetschgenkuchen) are traditionally served during the Jewish High Holidays. For Christmas, they are dried and shaped into figurines meant to bring good luck.



Ingredients

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 3/4 - 1 cup granulated sugar, plus 1 to 2 tablespoons (divided use)
- 1/2 cup (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter, softened
- 2 large eggs
- 12 smallish purple Italian plums, halved and pitted
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

- the plums, skin side up, all over the batter, covering it. Sprinkle with lemon juice, then cinnamon, then remaining sugar.
- Bake until cake is golden and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out free of batter, about 45 to 50 minutes. Cool on rack.

Notes

- You can substitute margarine or neutral oil for the butter.
- The cake is better the next day when the plum juices further release into the cake. Therefore, this is a perfect dessert to make ahead. Leave your cooled cake covered at room temperature and enjoy the next day with others.

Abbie Nagler Sender, a licensed, award-winning baker, is the owner of BAKED by abbie, a home bakery that offers customized baked goods with a Jewish twist.

For more information, visit www.BAKEDbyabbie.com and like her Facebook business page, BAKEDbyabbieCLE.

Directions

- Heat oven to 350°F.
- Sift together flour, baking powder and salt in a medium bowl.
- In an electric mixer bowl, cream butter and 3/4 - 1 cup sugar together with an electric mixer until fluffy and light in color. Add eggs, one at a time, scraping down the bowl as necessary, then add the dry ingredients, mixing until just combined.
- Spoon batter into an ungreased 9-inch springform pan (you can lightly coat pan with butter or nonstick spray) and smooth the top. Arrange



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August 8: A Rebuke of Recent GOP Misdeeds

By State Senator Kent Smith

Ohio voters know a skunk when they smell one and Ohio voters knew that Issue 1 was rotten policy hatched by a corrupt legislature, cloaked in deceptive ballot language, and laid out before voters during an illegal election.

It is important to remember how August 8 follows in recent Ohio history.

First of all, August 8 was the first chance for Ohioans to raise their voice against the Ohio Republican leadership of this state following the conviction of the GOP Party Chairman and the Republican Speaker of the House.

Ohioans saw through the stunning hypocrisy of the majority party's claim that Issue 1 was necessary to protect Ohioans from outside special interests when two of their party leaders had just been sentenced to prison for

selling the Ohio Legislature to powerful special interests.

Republican leaders were the dance partner with FirstEnergy in the House Bill 6 scandal and it is because of Republican leaders that Ohioans are still paying over \$130,000 a day to prop up two inefficient coal plants – one of which is not even in this state.

Also remember the legislation that put Issue 1 on the ballot was passed by a legislature elected in unconstitutional districts. One of the outcomes that could have occurred if Issue 1 had passed would have been the prevention of a new

redistricting ballot initiative to fix the current broken system.

Then there is the cost. The GOP spent \$20 million on the August 8 election in 2023 after they spent \$20 million last August (2022) on an unnecessary election because they could not draw legal legislative district lines (in the opinion of the Ohio Supreme Court). That's \$40 million that the GOP cost Ohioans, the same GOP that is only giving food banks \$30 million in the state budget.

While Ohio voters were mindful of the corruption of seven unconstitutional maps

and the biggest bribery and money laundering scandal in Ohio history, they knew that the worst was still yet to come if the Yes vote prevailed on August 8.

Ohioans saw through the deceptive "Vote Yes to Issue 1" ads to maintain their citizen's veto and their pathway of direct democracy. And that is a reason to celebrate.

State Senator Kent Smith represents Ohio's 21st Senate District which includes most of the East Side suburbs of Cuyahoga County and about 33% of the City of Cleveland.



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Glimmers

By Jen Stern

A glimmer is a tiny micro-moment of happiness, gratitude, a sign of hope. Tiny micro-moments are available to all of us, even when struggling, grieving, adjusting, adapting. When you string these micro-moments together over time they create a softer and more balanced life awareness.

Noticing tiny moments of beauty, contentment, connection help to counterbalance and buffer life's sorrows, frustrations, disappointments. It helps to create a balanced mindset and awareness, a middle path, a healthier and more reasonable expectation of life. Bliss and misery are moments

experienced in the extreme, they're not a baseline. The middle path is the baseline where real life happens. Productive self-talk helps to manage expectations of self, others, life.

Intentionally looking for glimmers is a practice that will enhance your life in impactful ways.



2024 Campaign for Jewish Needs

Super Sunday Kickoff on September 10

Events starts at 10 am; family activities will begin at 1:30 pm

Special gift matching opportunities available



The Jewish Federation of Cleveland will launch the 2024 Campaign for Jewish Needs on Sunday, Sept. 10, with a Super Sunday Kickoff event for the entire community. The Campaign for Jewish Needs is the Cleveland Jewish community's annual fundraising campaign that provides the critical dollars necessary to help keep our diverse, local community safe, strong, and welcoming, as well as serve the needs of the global Jewish community.

"The strength of our community comes from the generous support of Jewish Clevelanders, and Super Sunday is a day that demonstrates and celebrates all that makes Cleveland so special," said Beth Wain Brandon, general campaign chair. "I look forward to seeing everyone on September 10 as we come together to raise dollars for those who need it most."

This year, Super Sunday Kickoff attendees will:

- Join hundreds of community members to raise funds for the Campaign for Jewish Needs.

- Enjoy kosher food, children's activities, outdoor games, and more.

- Tailgate together for the Cleveland Browns game.

- Volunteer with the Federation's Jewish Volunteer Network.

- Super Sunday Kickoff will take place from 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Jewish Federation of Cleveland's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building (25701 Science Park Drive in Beachwood). Family activities will begin at 1:30 pm. Attendees can come to the event for a few hours or all day as their schedule allows. Kosher food will be provided.

Special Gift Match Opportunities

The 2024 Campaign for Jewish Needs will feature special gift matching opportunities for donors:

- **The Mandel Multiplier** – thanks to the generosity of the Jack, Joseph and Mort Mandel Foundation, any renewed gift to the 2024 Campaign for Jewish Needs will be multiplied by 1; any increased gift will be multiplied by 2; and any new gift will be multiplied by 3! To qualify for the Mandel Multiplier, any gift of up to \$5,000 must be pledged by October 25, 2023.

- **Brunswick Companies BGS Challenge** – For every new Ben-Gurion Society gift of \$1,000 or more, Brunswick Companies will donate an additional \$1,000 to the 2024 Campaign for Jewish Needs. The Ben-Gurion Society requires a minimum gift of \$1,000 made by an individual or couple (ages 22 to 45 years old).

- **KeyBank Match** – KeyBank will match all new or increased pledges received during the Super Sunday Kickoff event dollar for dollar.

"The strength of our community comes from the generous support of Jewish Clevelanders, and Super Sunday is a day that demonstrates and celebrates all that makes Cleveland so special," said Beth Wain Brandon, general campaign chair.

The Federation is the only organization in Cleveland that considers the needs of the Jewish community as a whole and plans for its future. Ninety-one cents of each dollar donated goes directly to the community. The 2024 Campaign for Jewish Needs will conclude on December 13, 2023.

Super Sunday Kickoff sponsors are KeyBank, Benesch Attorneys at Law, and *Cleveland Jewish News*.

For more information, visit www.jewishcleveland.org, email supersunday@jewishcleveland.org, or call 216.593.2909.

Beachwood Welcomes Dr. Ross Greene

The Beachwood Neurodiversity Family Network and Beachwood City Schools are thrilled to welcome world-renowned child psychologist and *New York Times* best-selling author, Dr. Ross Greene, to Beachwood on Thursday, October 5.

Dr. Greene, author of *The Explosive Child*, will speak from 5:30-7 pm, including time for a Q & A session, in the Beachwood High School auditorium. The event is free and open to the public but requires pre-registration (<http://bit.ly/beachwood-ross-greene>). Tickets are going fast, which comes as no surprise to the many followers of Dr. Greene's impactful work.

Dr. Greene is a renowned clinical psychologist, specializing in child behavior and behavior intervention. He has dedicated his career to working with children and families, particularly those with challenging behaviors and social-emotional difficulties. He is well-known for his innovative approach, called Collaborative & Proactive Solutions (CPS).

His CPS model suggests

that challenging behaviors are symptoms of underlying problems and lagging skills that require attention and support. The model provides a structure for collaboration between adults – parents, teachers, caregivers – and the child, to identify and resolve those underlying causes. In families, schools, psychiatry units, and juvenile detention facilities, the CPS model has a track record of dramatically improving behavior and dramatically reducing or eliminating discipline referrals, detentions, suspensions, restraints, and seclusions.

Through his extensive clinical experience, research, and publications, Dr. Greene has become a leading expert in the field of child psychology. His influential books, *The Explosive*

Child, Lost at School, Lost and Found, and Raising Human Beings, have reached millions. He was on the faculty at Harvard Medical School for over 20 years, and is now founding director of the non-profit Lives in the Balance, which provides a vast array of free, web-based resources.

One Beachwood parent, Christina Keller, has been a longtime follower of Dr. Greene's work. She and her family use Dr. Greene's CPS model in their home, where it has had a tremendous positive impact on their understanding of and relationship with her autistic son. While Christina has opted to homeschool her son since elementary school to better meet his needs, she has been undyingly passionate about



working with Beachwood City Schools to help the district grow and improve in understanding and serving all of its students.

After making a regular annual donation to Dr. Greene's Lives In the Balance nonprofit, she was surprised and thrilled to hear from his team with an incredible opportunity. Dr. Greene was offering to come to Beachwood if Christina would be willing to help his team coordinate local logistics and get the word out about his nonprofit. Beachwood City Schools graciously agreed to host Dr. Greene for a free and open-to-the-public speaking engagement. The District booked Dr. Greene to do training the following day on his Collaborative and Proactive Solutions model for the PBIS team.

Details make the difference!

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE - FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

One of the benchmarks for the strength of any municipality rests with the management of its money. I'm very proud that Beachwood can lay claim to a long history of maintaining a healthy balance sheet.

We draw generous amounts of funding from the commercial community (representing 90% of the dollars in our annual budget) enabling minimal dependence on residential taxation. On the spending side, we are always guided by a prudence that never comes at the expense of performance or quality.

This philosophy is reflected throughout the City. Our streets are well maintained, and our streets and sidewalks are cleared in snowy weather. The trees and gardens lining our streets are bountiful. Our amenities like the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center, Barkwood, and our City Parks are well maintained and draw significant community interest and usage.

Also noteworthy is how our Public Works Department rapidly responds to calls and solves urgent issues. Our Police and Fire Departments can operate at high levels because they are supplied with state-of-the-art equipment, technology and training. Our Community Services Department delivers top level programs, events, and opportunities for all age levels – all year long.

Community members are fortunate that the City can afford to provide a great many services free of charge, whereas neighboring communities must assess a fee. In Beachwood we provide a rubbish and curbside recycling program at no cost to our residents which also includes free special rubbish pickups. The City also maintains and replaces our sidewalks at no cost. Free transportation and rear yard rubbish service is available to our senior and disabled residents too.

One very intentional strategy that delivers great cost savings is Beachwood's memberships in co-ops and consortiums such as the Salt Consortium and the Solid Waste/Recycling Consortium which bring the best value to member communities.

These are some of the ways in which money is responsibly spent in Beachwood. We also are saving considerable amounts of money and investing it for the future. As of July 31, 2023, the City has \$58.4 million invested in various financial growth instruments. Compare that to six years earlier, on July 31, 2017, when the City had \$45.9 million. That demonstrates 27.2% growth. And those accounts grew while there was spending on major projects and infrastructure improvements.

Since 2017, the City has spent \$13.3 million in road and infrastructure improvements, over \$2.5 million to upgrade City vehicles, \$155,032 to build a dog park and just over \$1 million to upgrade our recreational facilities. We are currently finalizing our recreational improvement project which

includes pickleball, permanent community gardens and volleyball. In terms of safety, we spent just over \$1 million in fire equipment upgrades, including a new preemption system.

Another highly laudable aspect to our financial governance is our AAA bond rating, which the City has maintained since 2020.

There are fewer than 20 cities in Ohio with this top rating which helps keep our interest rates low. This saved the City substantial dollars over the life of the loan used to fund the construction of our Public Safety Center.

We actively seek ways to save money and secure grants and government funding. For example, through the efforts of our City Engineer, GPD, the City was awarded more than \$3.1 million Material Cost Improvement Program funds for the Timberlane and Green Sanitary Sewer Relief program.

The City of Beachwood continues to earn the highest rating for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association, an achievement we've earned for the past 20 years. The award notes that Beachwood goes beyond minimum requirements and offers comprehensive reports with evidence of full transparency and disclosure.

The City of Beachwood is always mindful of other communities, and one example of that intention rests with our new \$3.5 million playground which will serve a multigenerational community of grandparents, parents, and children. The

City applied for and received a \$700,000 grant to help fund this project. We are witnessing other communities investing heavily in this type of facility including Solon's Community Park with an estimated \$30 million spend and Mayfield Heights' pool and playground with a \$35 million price tag.

We actively seek ways to save money and secure grants and government funding. For example, through the efforts of our City Engineer, GPD, the City was awarded \$3.1 million Material Cost Improvement Program funds for the Timberlane/Green Road Sanitary Relief Project.

I am proud to serve Beachwood where financial responsibility is always at the core of our planning process. Residents can enjoy exemplary facilities, programs, services, and events, all while we are simultaneously positioned as financially sound and fiscally responsible.



Mayor Justin Berns
MayorBerns@beachwoodohio.com



DEPARTMENTS

AUDITOR
216.595.3712

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
216.292.1914

CLERK OF COUNCIL
216.595.5493

COMMUNITY SERVICES
216.292.1970

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
216.292.1915

FINANCE
216.292.1913

FIRE & RESCUE
216.292.1965

LAW
216.595.5462

MAYOR'S OFFICE
216.292.1901

POLICE
216.464.2343

PUBLIC WORKS
216.292.1922

EMERGENCY
Dial 9-1-1 or
216.464.1234

LEGISLATIVE RECAP - AUGUST

2023-76 – At a special meeting held July 24, Council authorized the engagement of Thrasher, Dinsmore & Dolan to represent the City regarding zoning code matters including RUILPA.

2023-77 – Council approved the Bills Ordinance authorizing payment for various professional services totaling \$ 81,799.20.

2023-78 – Council authorized an amendment to Schedule B of the Administrative Salary Ordinance to add a temporary part-time Plans Examiner for the Fire Department.

2023-79 – Council accepted a tentative agreement with Fire Fighters Union for a new 3-year contract. The current contract expires October 31, 2023. The new tentative agreement was ratified and approved by IAFF Local 2388.

2023-80 – Council passed legislation amending the Civil Service Rules which were voted on and approved by the Civil Service Commission. Changes were made for Beachwood to retain current personnel and remain competitive when hiring. The age limit for lateral transfer candidates was updated as well as scoring for promotional examinations for both police and fire personnel.

2023-82 – Council authorized the purchase of a Fire Rescue Vehicle to replace the existing Club Car that the Fire Department uses for rescues in the City Park(s). The current vehicle was placed in service 18 years ago. The Fire Department researched various all-terrain vehicles, reviewed pricing, warranties, and options to make sure the new vehicle would meet our needs. The price of the vehicle is \$25,953.08. In addition to the purchase of the vehicle, Council also authorized the purchase of a rescue skid, installation of scene lights and emergency lighting and a graphic package. The total price for the vehicle and the add-ons listed above will not exceed \$33,202.08.

Council also passed the following:

A motion to extend our School Facilities Usage Agreement through November 2023. The contract expired at the end of July and both parties have asked for the extension to facilitate additional discussions regarding future terms (July 24).

A motion to authorize the Clerk to advertise for bids for sitework for the new Fairmount Playground. At Council's request, the flower shade structures have been included (August 14).

For more information, please visit [BeachwoodOhio.com/AgendaCenter](https://www.beachwoodohio.com/AgendaCenter).



MAYOR
JUSTIN BERNS
216.292.1901



COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ALEC ISAACSON
216.291.2797



COUNCIL V.P.
ERIC SYNERBERG
216.401.0074



MIKE
BURKONS
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BARBARA
BELLIN JANOVITZ
216.406.5914



JOSHUA
MINTZ
650.464.6788



DANIELLE
SHOYKHET
216.212.9212



JUNE
TAYLOR
216.533.7640

HOW TO EMAIL YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER:

FirstName.LastName@beachwoodohio.com
Ex: alec.isaacson@beachwoodohio.com



SIDEWALK OBSTRUCTIONS

Resident Reminder: Please be mindful of preventing any obstructions to our sidewalks. We appreciate your diligence with eliminating bushes, hedges and other sources of interference from encroachment on public spaces.

For more information, see Beachwood Codified Ordinance 660.10 or visit [BeachwoodOhio.com](https://www.beachwoodohio.com).



OBSTRUCTED



PASSABLE

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

City Council:
September 5 at 7:00 p.m.
September 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning:
September 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Architectural Board of Review:
September 5 at 4:30 p.m.
September 18 at 4:30 p.m.

WORK-LIVE-LEARN..THRIVE

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CELEBRATES POLICE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Families with children of all ages took in the festivities at National Night Out (NNO) on Tuesday, August 1, outside Beachwood City Hall. NNO is a nationally recognized event established 40 years ago for police officers to connect and build partnerships with the residents they serve. The event's popularity has only grown throughout the country, and Beachwood established it as a festival-like celebration in 2021.

There were smiles all around as attendees enjoyed emergency vehicles, photo opportunities, demonstrations, a visit from the K-9 unit, magic by Rick Smith Jr., food trucks and more. On behalf of the City and Beachwood Police Department, thank you to everyone who made it possible and all those in attendance. *Photography by: Discovery Photo*



Patrolman Gray and Kai welcoming residents.



Mayor Berns, Chief McLaughlin, Deputy Chief Resek and personnel from the Beachwood Police Department who were in attendance at National Night Out.



Patrolman Bertone helping residents try on gear.



Beachwood Fire Department brought out vehicles, equipment and kid's fire helmets for the community.

LABOR DAY

City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day.

HOLIDAY HOURS:

Rubbish and recycling collections will be delayed one day for the week of September 4 only.

BEACHWOOD BLACKOUT, 2024 TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE PARTY

The countdown is on, but we don't want to leave you in the dark! The City of Beachwood is planning a celebration and viewing party for the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. Cleveland and its suburbs, like Beachwood, lie within the path of totality, experiencing nearly four minutes of darkness in the afternoon as the Moon moves between the Earth and Sun. We won't be in the path of totality again until the year 2444!

The occasion will include solar-safe eclipse viewing glasses courtesy of Crestmont Automotive and tons of family fun to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime event. Stay tuned for the Beachwood Blackout Party, coming to a community location near you!



FREE SHRED DAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Beachwood's upcoming free community shred day is scheduled for Sunday, September 10, from 9:00 a.m.-noon in the City Hall parking lot. Bring personal documents, mail and files to have them shredded on-site at no charge.

Note the following change to shred day; please use paper bags and banker boxes only. Blue grocery bags are not permitted. Bring your driver's license or ID as proof of residency.



Now accepting paper bags and banker boxes only. No blue grocery bags.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

To help residents dispose of oil-based paint, pesticides, automotive fluids and other hazardous products found in the home, the Solid Waste District offers a countywide Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program. Beachwood residents may deliver their household hazardous waste year-round to:

Beachwood Public Works Department
23355 Mercantile Road
Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The City of Beachwood can only accept hazardous materials that originate from a household. Examples of household hazardous waste include oil-based paint, solvents, used motor oil, automotive fluids, aerosols, lawn and garden products, pesticides, pool chemicals and household cleaners. Latex paint is not accepted.

Dried-out paint cans, empty aerosol cans and other empty containers can be placed in the regular trash for disposal. Empty motor oil and antifreeze jugs may have residue of the hazardous materials they held and should be placed in the trash, not recycling, for proper disposal.

Before disposing of products, consider donating usable materials to a friend, neighbor or organization. For more info, visit the "Rubbish, Recycling & More" quick link at BeachwoodOhio.com.

FALL LEAF PICK-UP BEGINS SEPTEMBER 25

Leaf pick-up begins Monday, September 25, and weather permitting, runs through mid-December.

Please be aware of the following:

- Leaves need to be raked into piles on the tree-lawn.
- Keep piles free from other debris such as grass, trees or branches.
- Vehicles parked on the street may impede the city's ability to collect leaves.



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 12

Join city officials and the Beachwood Historical Society for a salute to our Veterans on Sunday, November 12, beginning at 11:00 a.m. The ceremony will be held at the Beachwood Cemetery off Green Road.



CITY OF
Beachwood

Preventing Crime in Your Neighborhood

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Call BPD: 216-464-1234 from a cell phone or 9-1-1 from your landline

AROUND THE HOUSE

- Place exterior lights around your property
- Close your curtains and garage doors
- Lock vehicles & don't leave valuables visible
- Make sure your address is visible from the street
- Lock your doors when doing yardwork
- Trim trees & shrubs around your home
- Close & lock windows when away
- Keep valuables in a safe place
- Use alarm systems and deadbolt locks
- If unexpected workers don't have an ID, immediately call BPD
- Never open the door to strangers
- Don't hide extra keys on your property: leave an extra set with a friend

WHILE TRAVELING

- Place a hold on your mail & newspaper, or have a trusted person bring them in daily
- Put lights on timers if away for more than 24 hours
- Notify BPD to watch your property when away

FIGHT FRAUD

- Never share Internet passwords, Social Security, credit card or bank account numbers
- Shred personal information before discarding
- Never send cash in the mail or allow anyone to pick up a check at your home
- Complete Internet sale transactions in-person at the Beachwood Police Department parking lot

www.BeachwoodOhio.com [Facebook.com/BeachwoodPolice](https://www.facebook.com/BeachwoodPolice) Non-Emergency: 216-464-1234

SUBSCRIBE TO THE BEACHWOOD ELIST FOR NEWS DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX AT BEACHWOODOHIO.COM!

SEPTEMBER RECREATION GUIDE

HONKIN HAULIN TRUCK PARADE

CITY OF Beachwood

FREE GIVEAWAYS!

TRUCKS ON THE MOVE!
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH
 PARADE ROUTE BEGINS AT 1:00 PM

YOUR FAVORITE BIG TRUCKS HONKIN' PAST YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.
 DETAILS & MAP AT [BEACHWOODREC.COM!](http://BEACHWOODREC.COM)

PRESENTED BY **CRESTMONT**

BEACHWOOD'S 6TH ANNUAL

FALL FESTIVAL

FREE FAMILY EVENT!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, NOON-5PM
 BEACHWOOD CITY HALL PARKING LOT

FOOD TRUCKS • GAMES • INFLATABLES • ENTERTAINMENT
 ZIP LINE • MUSIC • PUMPKIN PATCH • ART FAIR

CITY OF Beachwood For details, visit [BeachwoodRec.com!](http://BeachwoodRec.com)

BEACHWOOD ART GALLERY: **TREE-riffic** | September 14 - October 7 | Artists' reception on September 19 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. A mixed media exhibit with roots in the beauty of trees featuring over 20 artists. See page 18.

SIMPLY QUEEN TO HEADLINE FALL FESTIVAL KICKOFF CONCERT

Beachwood's annual Fall Festival will feature a Saturday night kickoff concert once again this year on October 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center parking lot. The free concert will feature some international flair as Simply Queen, a world-class act from Windsor, Canada, will rock the stage in Beachwood.

The completely live tribute performance features an array of Queen's most iconic songs from "Bohemian Rhapsody" to "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" and more. Simply Queen has performed across both the United States and Canada with high energy, entertaining shows for music fans of all ages.

The Fall Festival Kickoff Concert is open to all at no charge. Food trucks, beer, wine and beverages will be available for purchase. Dress for the weather, get ready to rock and enjoy one of the final outdoor events of the year!



THEATER CAMP THRILLS AUDIENCE

Theater Camp had fans on their feet with a summer showcase that served as their grand finale. Led by Producing Manager Keith Nagy and Assistant Producing Manager Sarah Stewart, the 2023 camp was a collaborative effort between Beachwood and Shaker Heights with over 60 participants.

The cast covered everything including "Kids" from *Bye Bye Birdie* to "This Is Me" from *The Greatest Showman*. For the first time, some cast members even wrote and performed in their very own self-created scenes. The camp left participants with a wealth of theater experience and many fun summer memories.



Performances were held on July 13 and July 14.

Looking for more theater? Beachwood Community Theater's fall production, titled *WOLF*, begins September 13 and is open for registration. Led by Julie Matthews and Debi Lewin of Marquee Showcase Productions, the 8-week program is open to ages 6-16 with rehearsals on Wednesdays from 5-7 PM. Learn more and sign up at BeachwoodRec.com.

DUNKIN' DELIVERS A SUMMER SURPRISE

In honor of National Parks & Recreation Month in July, Dunkin' rewarded camp counselors with gift cards for their hard work and dedication to the kids in the community. Thank you to Dunkin' and our incredible staff for a successful 2023 summer camp!



Sports camp directors and counselors.

ADULT FITNESS PROGRAMS

- **Barre FX**
Tuesday/Thursday, September 7-October 3, 9:30 a.m.
Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$55, Non-Residents \$66
- **Your Dog Is Your Workout Partner with Heidi Braun**
Mondays, September 11-October 16, 6:30 p.m.
Beachwood City Park East
Residents \$75, Non-Residents \$94
- **Tai-Chi in the Park with Jennifer Stepien**
Sundays, September 17-October 22, 10:00 a.m.
Beachwood City Park West Pavilion
Residents \$44, Non-Residents \$53
- **Parent & Me Warrior Yoga with Carolyn Miller**
Thursday, September 21, 6:00 p.m. (Grades K-6)
Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$10/parent & child, Non-residents \$15
- **POUND Fitness with Ali Marino**
Mondays, September 25-October 16, 6:30 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$75, Non-Residents \$90
- **Yoga in the Park**
Saturdays, September 30-October 21, 10:00 a.m.
Beachwood City Park West Pavilion
Residents \$30, Non-Residents \$36
- **Cardio Drumming with Nema Saleem-Green**
Thursdays, October 5-November 2, 6:30 p.m.
Free Demo: September 14, 6:30 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center
Residents \$42, Non-Residents \$50

BEACHWOOD SENIORS

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & TRIPS

- **Beginner Mahj Lessons with Fern Grunberger**
Mondays, October 2-October 30, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Community Center
Residents \$40, Non-Residents \$48
Do you know that "BAM! & CRACK!" are not just terms in the comic strips but also part of the game of Mahj? Mahj has been shown to help slow down cognitive decline, increase socialization, provide countless hours of fun and more! No class October 23. Register by September 27.
- **Quintealia's Tea Parlor Day Trip**
Tuesday, October 17, 10:30 a.m., Depart from the Community Center
Residents \$68, Non-Residents \$82
This beautifully decorated, antique furnished historical home is just the spot to relax and take in the season along with an array of savory, sweet treats and heartwarming tea. Register by September 14.
- **The Cleveland Orchestra at Mandel Concert Hall**
Friday, November 17, Departs from the Community Center at 9:45 a.m.
Residents \$78, Non-Residents \$94
Enjoy this morning matinee performance with conductor Barbara Hannigan, Aphrodite Patoulidou, soprano, and selections like: HAYDN Symphony No. 44, "Trauersinfonie", LIGETI Lontano. Register by October 10.

SENIOR DAY OUT

Dianne Palmer & Mike Elkins
Thursday, September 21, at Noon
Beachwood Community Center

Residents \$13
Non-Residents \$16
Program Only \$5

Register by September 13.

Dianne Palmer (vocalist) returns to bring her new show, "Standard Cocktails" straight to your heart and to our afternoon. Get ready for a feel-good time! Featuring the talented Mike Elkins at the piano.

Meal choices include vegetable chili with a side garden salad, bread and butter or a tuna tarragon sandwich. All entrees are served with beverage, dessert and autumnal mocktail.

October Senior Day Out: Flashbaxx joins us on October 26 for music of the 60s and 70s! Register by October 18.

Register for events at BeachwoodRec.com,
City Hall or call 216.292.1970.

WHERE BUSINESS IS BOOMING!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUMMER INTERNS COMPLETE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

The Office of Economic Development worked with several students this past summer who served as research analyst interns. The students mined information from a comprehensive real estate database, regional data and other research sources which benefited the Department of Economic Development in its ability to fulfill the overall strategic plan for the City.



Elizabeth Liu, Beachwood High School

Elizabeth is a junior whose coursework has included several AP courses pertaining to statistics and related fields that served her well in this position with the City. During this internship, Elizabeth has spearheaded research, data collection, and data analysis related

to innovation, commercial building inventories, international investment, and associated projects. She has also prepared documents for a cloud-based Customer Relationships Management System, assisting with the city's outreach to businesses regarding economic opportunities within Beachwood.

"This position has provided me with remarkable opportunities to learn real-world applications of data analysis and research, which I had previously only experienced within the classroom. Furthermore, it has allowed me to gain insight about and partake in the inner workings of my community," says Elizabeth. "Because I hope to study economics in the future, this has been an incredible foundational experience, and I have gained experience in a diverse array of topics in the field through the many projects I've participated in."



Radha Pareek, Beachwood High School

Radha is a junior whose career aspirations are in the fields of law and political science. Her educational experience in statistics and her recent internship at Case Western Reserve University have brought her to this opportunity with Beachwood. Throughout the internship,

Radha engaged in comprehensive research focused on minority-owned businesses, industry sectors, and the burgeoning healthcare

industry in Beachwood. Furthermore, she played an instrumental role in collating information on city amenities, crafting promotional materials, and conducting statistical analyses to gauge Beachwood's commercial growth.

"This position has been an enriching experience, allowing me to delve into Beachwood's diverse business and infrastructure landscape while honing my analytical and communication skills. Furthermore, under the Director's invaluable mentorship, I was able to investigate my interest areas, encompassing healthcare and scientific research. This remarkable professional opportunity has afforded me the chance to reciprocate the support and nurturing I received from this city, resulting in a profoundly gratifying experience—one that I am eager to pursue in the near future," she says.



Lucia Martino, Gilmour Academy

Lucia is a junior whose interest in economics has grown after her AP coursework in history and economics. "This internship has allowed me to use the concepts that I learned in class such as data research and apply it practically."

Lucia has been researching overall community sustainability programs related to commercial projects and commercial buildings. "With my future career in mind, I have always been passionate about the environment. I enjoyed the opportunity to further my knowledge in Economic Development and sustainable practices. This project helped me to better understand the balance of sustainable principles," she says.

"The students we had this summer were incredible," says Catherine Bieterman, Economic Development Director. "I'm so impressed with their knowledge and desire to grow professionally. They were able to dive into key projects quickly and brought unique insight into the research they were conducting. It was a pleasure to have each of them here with us. They will each excel in their careers, and I am excited to see them continue along their journey. I hope I will have the opportunity to work alongside them again in the future."

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Congratulations to the Berson-Sokol Agency on its 50th anniversary! Mayor Justin Berns recently shared a city proclamation with agency President and CEO Craig Berson to recognize this auspicious occasion. The insurance agency's core activities involve life insurance, annuities, senior health care and long-term care coverage.

For more information, visit berson-sokol.com.

Right: Mayor Justin Berns presenting a city proclamation to President and CEO Craig Berson.



ELEVATE YOUR BUSINESS, LET'S CONNECT!



Learn more about how Beachwood is a location that checks all the boxes for your business.

Catherine Bieterman

Economic Development Director

Office: 216.292.1915

catherine.bieterman@beachwoodohio.com

Beachwood Pickleball Tournament

On July 15, the City of Beachwood and Beachwood Historical Society hosted the sixth Annual Beachwood Historical Society Pickleball Tournament. Twenty-five teams had fun dinking and driving the pickleball on the Beachwood Courts.

Spectators enjoyed watching the competition and cheering on the players. Talk of the crowd was the anticipation of next year's tournament being played on Beachwood's new courts! Medals and prizes

were distributed at the awards ceremony that followed the Tournament. Thanks to all who played and congratulations to the winners.

Special thanks to staff of Beachwood Public Works, Ryan Kennedy and Frank Vicchiarelli

from Community Services, and Beachwood Historical Society members Sandy Buzney, Jim Nemeth, and Rosemary Nemeth. Remember to stay out of the kitchen and enjoy the fastest growing sport in America!



Men's Division First-place Winners
Bryan Cohen and David Soble



Women's Division First-place Winners
Amanda and Kristen Eastman



Mixed Division First-place Winners
Danielle and Jerry Zimmerman

From the Beachwood Garden Club

Beachwood Garden Club members enjoyed summer field trips to the Beachwood Community Gardens and private gardens in our city. On July 26, Richard Forman, the official *mayor* of the Beachwood Community Gardens, and Ellen Wohl led a private tour of the gardens in bloom that featured purple green beans, black tomatoes, gnomes, flowers, fruits, veggies, and more.

Workshops

Celebrate autumn at Beachwood City Park West's Pavilion, rain or shine. Programs are sponsored by the Beachwood Garden Club. Registration is required by calling 216.956.1945.

Saturday, Sept. 9 • 11 am • \$20/person
Design a Memory Stone for Your Garden
Cement, glass, pottery pieces, design tools, and forms will be provided.

Saturday, Sept. 30 • 11 am
Gourd Projects: Ghost or Birdhouse
Make a ghost (\$10/person). Gourd, paint, and ribbon will be provided, or ...
Paint/Create a birdhouse (\$20/person). Large gourd, paint, and string will be provided.

Saturday, Oct. 7 • 12-4 pm • Free
Archaeology Day
Meet archaeologists, view artifacts, throw an atlatl, view a flint knapping demo, and learn about native plants. Program presented by the Beachwood Garden Club and Beachwood Historical Society. Donations Accepted.

Sunday, Oct. 15 • 11 am
Pumpkin Carving
Bring your own pumpkin, carving tools, and a container for pumpkin seeds if you'd like to roast them. A best-carved pumpkin contest will take place at noon, and small pumpkins will be available for painting for \$5 each.



Amy Budish, Hedy Westra, Ellen Wohl, Lisa Skufca, and Richard Forman tour the Beachwood Community Gardens, where they saw purple green beans, black tomatoes, and much more.



BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

Developing Intellectual Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience

Be H.E.A.R.D Program Promotes Positive School Culture

From the classroom to the cafeteria, students throughout Beachwood Schools are learning to Be H.E.A.R.D.

Be H.E.A.R.D stands for five character traits essential for promoting a positive school culture: Be Honorable, Be Encouraging, Be Accountable, Be Respectful, and Be Determined. Rolled out last month, the Be H.E.A.R.D program is part of the District's newly implemented Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework. PBIS helps students achieve social-emotional and academic success by supporting the whole child. The focus is on prevention and helping students understand the behavior expectations throughout their school day, whether they are in the classroom, the hallway, or on the bus.

"Through the PBIS framework, we are designing effective learning environments that teach predictable routines, have positively-stated expectations and acknowledge students with specific praise," says Jennifer Polak, director of pupil services. "This leads to students possessing tools not only to navigate their learning environment but to feel safety and success."

PBIS differs from traditional discipline, which often relies on punishment to teach correct behaviors. Instead, PBIS focuses on teaching children positive behavior strategies before problems occur. Preschool through 12th-grade students will take an active role in learning the Be H.E.A.R.D expectations through lessons, videos, role-play exercises, and hands-on activities throughout the year.

Hilltop students, for example, will learn that to Be Honorable in the cafeteria means sharing the responsibility of cleaning with their tablemates. Bryden students will learn that to Be Encouraging on the playground means including everyone while playing. Students will practice the skills, get feedback, and earn rewards when they demonstrate the Be H.E.A.R.D expectations.

Credit for the innovative program goes to the District's PBIS team, which included teachers, staff, counselors, bus drivers, educational assistants, and administrators. This system-wide approach is well supported by research, which shows that PBIS improves school climate and culture, boosts academic and social outcomes, and increases learning for all students.

"The excitement created by the inclusion of staff members from all different classifications was palpable, and they felt their voices were heard as the PBIS program was taking shape," says Kevin Houchins, director of equity and community engagement. "Through PBIS, our staff has another mechanism to support the District goals of improving student achievement, mental wellness, and intercultural awareness."

EVENTS CALENDAR



Kindergarten Night at Home Varsity Football vs. Grand Valley

Friday, September 8, 7 p.m.
Beachwood High School
25100 Fairmount Blvd.

Author Ross Greene Presentation - Presented by the Neurodiversity Family Network

Thursday, October 5, 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Doors open at 5 p.m.
Beachwood High School
25100 Fairmount Blvd.

Homecoming Game

Friday, October 6, 7 p.m.
Beachwood High School
25100 Fairmount Blvd.



**VIEW THE
FULL CALENDAR**

beachwoodschoos.org/Calendar.aspx

Beachwood Welcomes New Staff

We're excited to welcome more than 30 new staff members to the Beachwood Schools team. Our new hires come from a variety of backgrounds, yet they share the same passion for bringing out the best in our students.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Megan Walsh, President • (216) 287-4657 • mwalsh@beachwoodschoools.org
Jillian DeLong, Vice President • (216) 509-3514 • jdelong@beachwoodschoools.org
Kim Allamby • (216) 533-3358 • kimallamby@beachwoodschoools.org
Dr. Josephine Chan • (216) 235-1129 • jchan@beachwoodschoools.org
Wendy Leatherberry • (216) 409-2211 • wleatherberry@beachwoodschoools.org



beachwoodschoools.org

Bison Cares Football Mentoring Program Strengthens Player Bonds

As a center on the Beachwood High School football team, it is Jack Felder's job to set the offensive line up for success as they execute a play.

Fittingly, Jack is helping his teammates be their best – both on and off the field – through Bison Cares, a mentorship program for football players that pairs upperclassmen with freshmen and new players. "Bison Cares is more than just football," says Jack. "It is designed to create a stress-free environment for incoming players to not feel afraid to ask questions about schoolwork, time management, and any other off-the-field issue."

The inspiration for Bison Cares comes from Jack's experiences entering high school at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Jack longed for connection and camaraderie. He was grateful when seniors took him under their wing to help him navigate the ins and outs of high school. Now, as a senior himself, Jack wants to pay it forward. "I decided to start the program to help incoming players feel included with the team and have a smooth transition into high school football," says Jack.

Bison Cares includes a mix of informal and formal mentoring throughout the season. Juniors and seniors meet each week with their "Little Brothers" to share advice on technical skills, teamwork, and balancing studying with athletics participation. They volunteer together to support the Bison



youth football program by helping out at practices and sharing twice-monthly meals with elementary and middle school players.

The mentorship program also provides opportunities for players to interact with role models, including professional athletes, business leaders, and alumni. Recent guest speakers included former Philadelphia Eagles guard Adrienne Clarke and author Jim Rooney, son of longtime Pittsburgh Steelers owner Dan Rooney. Both speakers inspired the team with personal stories of overcoming adversity and the pursuit of excellence.

Head football coach Scott Fischer says he is already seeing the positive effects of the program. "Bison Cares is accelerating players' comfort with being in high school," Coach Fischer says. "New players feel welcome and wanted."

Neil Bennett, Director of Operations
Isis Bey-Clark, Bus Driver
Kristina Brown, Hilltop Teacher
Matt Brown, Treasurer/CFO
Dolores Castanos De Beccar, Bryden/Hilltop Spanish Teacher
Sabeen Chromjak-Harris, Bus Driver
Jeremy Clarke, Special Education Assistant
Ashlee D'Amico, Fairmount ECC Intervention Specialist
Jim Defrancesco, Maintenance
Saree Doyle, Hilltop Intervention Specialist
Jim Ferritto, Custodian
Vonetta Forte-Ware, Special Education Assistant
Taylor Gardner, Special Education Assistant
Stephanie Gaspar, Bus Driver
Aukia Grant, Special Education Assistant
Alexis Gray, High School Science Teacher
Felecia Hamilton, High School Social Studies Teacher
Brian Hill, High School Design & Innovation Teacher

Haley Jacobs, Hilltop Teacher
Renee Lawrence, Preschool Assistant
Susan Lishing, Custodian
Titi Jarboe-Saleem, Special Education Assistant
Lauren Johnson, Mechanic
Christy Lemanowicz, Hilltop Intervention Specialist
Diana Maher, Assistant Treasurer
Janice McCalla, Special Education Assistant
Chase McCullough, Special Education Assistant
Kristen McGinness, High School Math Teacher
Dave Noble, Custodian
Michael Sabala, Mechanic
Sherita Simon, Hilltop Secretary
Denesha Sistrunk, Special Education Assistant
Tracy Stanford, Bus Driver
Daniel Visger, Middle School Intervention Specialist
Sherri Williams, High School Counselor
Lena Willner, High School Math Teacher

BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

Developing Intellectual Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience

Beachwood Schools Launches K-12 Math Curriculum Review

Math is an integral part of everyday life, whether it's managing personal finances, understanding data and statistics, or making informed decisions. A rigorous math curriculum equips students with the mathematical literacy needed to navigate our ever-changing world.

Beachwood Schools is committed to ensuring our mathematics programming continues to meet the evolving needs of students. The District conducts a comprehensive review of its K-12 math curriculum every five years. This fall, a team of 20 Beachwood educators and instructional leaders will begin the process of establishing a vision for why and how we want mathematics learning to occur in our schools.

"One thing we want to do is identify our core beliefs about mathematics education in Beachwood Schools," says Dr. Linda LoGalbo, director of curriculum and instruction. "What are the big ideas that we are teaching for mathematics? What do we want students to be able to do as mathematicians? That will be the focus of our work."

BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS



Recent Resolutions

- Recognized Students Who Earned the Seal of Biliteracy
- Approved 2023-2024 Bus Routes
- Approved Architect's Agreement with ThenDesign Architects

Upcoming Board Actions

- Approve Eighth-Grade Trip to Washington D.C.
- Approve Sixth-Grade Trip to Hiram camp

Board Meeting Calendar

- September 11, 2023 @ 7 p.m.
- September 26, 2023 @ 7 p.m.



VIEW AGENDAS & MINUTES

beachwoodschoools.org/BOE.aspx

After developing this framework, the curriculum review team will gather data to inform its recommendations, which will be presented to the Board of Education next spring. The team will analyze student assessment data, explore best practices, and review the District's instructional materials with an eye toward helping students develop confident mathematical identities. Feedback from families will also play an important role in developing recommendations for the K-12 math curriculum.

"We will take a look at the areas in which we are developing strong mathematicians and the areas in which we are finding students need more help," says Dr. LoGalbo. "The review is an opportunity for us to strengthen the alignment of our K-12 curriculum."

Early Milestones Reached in the Elementary Facilities Project



Megan Walsh

On Tuesday, July 25, the District sold its voter-approved bonds in the amount of \$65 million. Strong demand for the Aaa-rated bonds resulted in an average interest cost of 4.36% – well below the estimated interest rate of 5.25%. If interest rates decrease after seven years, the District can "call the bonds" and reissue them at a lower rate. The funds were remitted to the District on August 15. Several early milestones are underway as we enter the design phase.

The Board recently approved the hiring of Project Management Consultants (PMC) to continue serving as the owner's representative. PMC will coordinate all aspects of the master plan and act on the District's behalf to ensure the project is delivered on time and on budget. At its meeting on August 14, the Board of Education entered into another contract with ThenDesign Architecture, which led our elementary master planning process. In addition, the Board recently approved a request for qualifications to hire a construction manager at-risk (CMAR) to direct the pre-construction and construction phases of this project. After a thorough vetting process, the Board will vote on a CMAR recommendation in September.

As we continue to put together the pieces and parts to carry out the elementary facilities master plan, we will look to you – our community, staff, and students – to provide input in the design phase. Your involvement is critical to our success in bringing new buildings and improved grounds that will serve our entire community.

Thank you for your partnership,
Megan Walsh
President, Beachwood Board of Education

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Robert Hardis, Superintendent · (216) 464-2600 ext. 2201 · rph@beachwoodschoools.org
Matthew Brown, Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer · (216) 464-2600 ext. 2211 · mbrown@beachwoodschoools.org
Diana Maher, Assistant Treasurer · (216) 464-2600 ext. 2210 · dmaher@beachwoodschoools.org
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Jennifer Polak, Director of Pupil Services · (216) 464-2600 ext. 2215 · jpolak@beachwoodschoools.org
Kevin Houchins, Director of Equity & Community Engagement · (216) 464-2600 ext. 2207 · kth@beachwoodschoools.org
Dr. Linda LoGalbo, Director of Curriculum & Instruction · (216) 464-2600 ext. 2208 · lhl@beachwoodschoools.org



beachwoodschoools.org

Alumni Spotlight: Bagatur Askaryan (Class of 2016)



AI-powered language processing tools such as ChatGPT are revolutionizing daily life. Bagatur Askaryan (Class of 2016) is harnessing these breakthroughs in large language models in his role as a founding engineer at LangChain. The skillset behind his success is something he learned as a student at Beachwood High School, where he cherished opportunities for hands-on inquiry

and real-world problem solving in AP Computer Science. Realizing he had a knack for coding and mathematics, Bagatur decided to pursue a degree in computer science at Harvard University. He currently lives in San Francisco, where he enjoys pushing the limits of artificial intelligence to improve human lives.

Tell us about your career path.

My first job was at a wonderful tech startup called Robust Intelligence (RI), where I worked as a machine learning engineer. I joined the company in 2020 when there were 10 folks and left in 2023 with 60. The company builds software for ensuring that artificial intelligence models are safe to use, and I spent a lot of time thinking about how to actually do that. After RI, I joined my current company LangChain in a software engineering capacity. LangChain builds software that enables other developers to use large language models such as ChatGPT in their applications. I spend my time thinking about how to turn these very powerful conversational models into valuable applications that aren't just more chatbots.

What are some things you like most about your job?

I've really loved all the folks I've worked with throughout my career. They're smart, hard-working, humble, kind, and optimistic. They have a clear vision of what they want the world to look like and a sense of actually being able to move the needle on the things that matter to them. I also think the AI space is technically fascinating and has the potential to do a lot of good. And last but not least, I do really enjoy coding.

How did Beachwood Schools get you to where you are today?

In very broad strokes, Beachwood Schools is chock-full of teachers and students who have a very sincere curiosity about many, many different things. And that curiosity is infectious. Combined with some good tools for inquiry, which the teachers at Beachwood are very capable of providing, I think curiosity can take you a really long way. I'm very grateful that the school district fostered that in me.

What advice or life lessons would you like to share with current students?

Be curious about why things are the way they are. Be patient and open-minded when learning something new. A lot of interesting things take a bit of work to understand, but the payoff is well worth the cost. Also, be wary of very general advice!

Alumni: Share your story! Go to www.beachwoodschoools.org/alumni.aspx.

NOMINATE NOW! NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

— BEACHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL —
**GALLERY OF
SUCCESS**
— 2024 —

The Gallery of Success, which began in 1985, takes place every three years and currently has 139 honorees.

Nominees must be
BEACHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
whose accomplishments since high school
make them outstanding role models for our students.

Nominees must exemplify leadership, service,
humanitarianism, creativity, courage, and/or career
contributions that have benefited others.

Nomination packets are due Friday, November 10, 2023.
The induction ceremony will take place
Friday, April 19, 2024.

For information and a nomination form, visit
www.beachwoodschoools.org/Gallery

If you would like a form
mailed to you, please contact:
Paula Zavell Rollins,
Gallery of Success Coordinator,
at 216-789-3995

Let's Celebrate Together!

Dear members of the Beachwood community,

I am proud to have lived, worked and participated in the Beachwood community for nearly 30 years. I continue to reflect on challenges presented by the pandemic and how we found resilience and a clear perspective on what we find truly important: family, creating memories, and the importance of remaining connected.

For the Menorah Park community, we enthusiastically celebrate the beauty of togetherness with several opportunities throughout September when we invite you to join us. National recognition days including Grandparents' Day and Assisted Living Week (the theme Season of Reflection) enable us to pause and reflect on the special relationships and bonds in our community.

Being a grandparent is such a special role, with memories and the moments that we all cherish and remember from every stage of our lives. I have always appreciated

my grandparents' influence, their unconditional love, and the special touch that only grandparents can give. It is fitting to me that this day most often kicks off National Assisted Living week, an added opportunity to celebrate important members of our community that include family, friends, and caregivers.

I hope to see you at one or more of these upcoming events. Please call me at 216.839.6678 or email me at bsilver@menorahpark.org for more information.

- Grand Times, a joint celebration of grandparents, will take place at Eton

Chagrin Boulevard on Saturday, Sept. 9, 10 am-2pm. Grandparents' Day is celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day. This year it is on September 10.

- Wiggins Place says "cheers" to Assisted Living Week with a Mocktail Contest and More on Monday, Sept. 11, 11:30 am.
- Stone Gardens brings added glow to celebrating at a Grandparents Day Campfire, Wednesday, Sept. 13, 7 pm.



Beth Silver, Beachwood resident and Menorah Park Director of Public Relations and Marketing

- The community comes together for an Assisted Living Celebration Party with all sorts of fun, Thursday, Sept. 14, 2 pm.
- Menorah Park hosts a community-wide art show with an Artists Reception, Wednesday, Sept. 27, 5 pm. Exhibits include an inaugural display of artwork by Israeli-American artist Gadi Zamir, founder of the nonprofit Negative Space Gallery, and artwork from members of the Menorah Park community.

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Wiggins Place

Stone Gardens

R. H. Myers

High Holy Days 5784 Service Schedule

שנה טובה
Happy New Year!

Selichot	Saturday, September 9 th
Erev Rosh Hashana	Friday, September 15 th
Rosh Hashana*	Saturday, September 16 th
Kol Nidre	Sunday, September 24 th
Yom Kippur*	Monday, September 25 th
Sukkot	Friday, September 29 th
Simchat Torah	Friday, October 6 th

**Youth and family programming available*

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Congratulations to Bonnie Marks

Bonnie Marks of Beachwood was awarded the 2023 Ruby Bass Challenge Award, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland's most prestigious award for women philanthropists. She was recently honored with the award at the Federation's Women IN Philanthropy Signature Event.

"I became a Lion of Judah shortly before I became chair of Women's Philanthropy in the 1990s. It's so important to me what the Lion of Judah pin represents," said Bonnie. "I have worked in the Jewish community all my life and it was always something I wanted to do. It's in my DNA. Ruby Bass was a mentor to me and I'm so honored to receive this award in her name."

Bonnie has taken an active role in serving the Cleveland Jewish community for many years. She has served as Women's Philanthropy chair, Jewish Volunteer Network chair, and Campaign vice chair, along with roles on the Development Committee, Allocations Committee, and

Federation's Board of Trustees. Bonnie currently serves as Bellefaire JCB's LIFE & LEGACY® co-chair. She has also served as a board member for Bellefaire JCB, Jewish Family Service Association, and Mandel Jewish Community Center.

"Bonnie is someone who says 'yes,'" said Jennifer Cohen, Women IN Philanthropy chair. "She is a role model of what Women IN Philanthropy is all about."

Established in memory of Ruby Bass, the award is given annually to a woman who honors Ruby's lifelong passion for the Federation, her commitment to Women IN Philanthropy, and fundraising for the Campaign for Jewish Needs, the Federation's annual



fundraising campaign which provides critical dollars needed to change and improve lives in Cleveland and around the world.

In Bonnie's honor, the Ruby Bass Challenge Endowment Fund will make a donation to the Women IN Philanthropy

Campaign for the 2024 Campaign for Jewish Needs. This award was established in 2007 by Ruby Bass' son Jonathan, his wife Stephany, and Lenore Kessler, Stephany's mother and a dear friend of Ruby's who has since passed.



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Money With Maverick: Learning Financial Literacy

When Maverick Peters and his wife, Tehila, married at a young age, they quickly learned that they didn't know much about managing their finances. Practical knowledge, like balancing a checkbook, maintaining a high credit score, and how to make big purchases wasn't necessarily taught at home or school.

"As it turned out, many of our friends were in the same boat," Maverick said. "We didn't have the financial literacy we need to succeed as adults, so we did our own research with books, videos, and podcasts to become financially competent."

Maverick has been creating podcasts for five years and recognizes the importance of financial literacy, so he started his own podcast, *Money with Maverick*. Each weekly episode is no more than 15 minutes so listeners can enjoy information on various topics in a short amount of time. For each episode, Maverick selects a topic, does his research, solicits experts, and asks questions

that every beginner would like to know the answers to. "As cheesy as it may sound, I'm producing this podcast because I really want to help people. I want this podcast to feel welcoming and non-threatening. Essentially, it's my own financial journey and I'm inviting you to come along with me," he told us.

Episodes that are already published include:

- "What in the World is a FICO Score?" – Robert Marks
- "The Mortgage Maze" – Khash Saghafi
- "Life Insurance: Insuring Tomorrow, Today!" – Eddie Knezevich
- "Budgeting in Orthodox Jewish

Life" – Zeissa Spadone

- "You Must Accumulate Wealth" – Robert Marks

Although podcasts were expected to be targeted to people in their 20s and 30s, they're really for people of all ages. "I make learning about money enjoyable, fun, and accessible to anyone," Maverick told us.

In addition, Maverick has a YouTube channel where he summarizes each episode in a short-form video to make the information easy to digest.

"Learning finance isn't a direct path. Many people don't have a clue when it comes to credit scores, paying bills on time, getting a mortgage, budgeting, and so



much more," he said. "My goal is to teach lessons that we should have learned in school in a fun, non-intimidating way."

Listen to *Money with Maverick* everywhere you listen to your favorite podcasts, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and iHeartRadio. If you're new to podcasts, you can listen and download for free at maverickpodcasting.com.

For more information or questions, email Maverick at moneywithmav@gmail.com and visit him on Instagram at [moneywithmav](https://www.instagram.com/moneywithmav).

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Beachwood Arts Council Events

at the Beachwood Community Center

Music4Connections

Sunday, Oct. 15 • 2-3 pm

Three highly recognized student musicians, including Beachwood High School junior Chengyu Li, will present classical and contemporary music. (For musician bios and more, see article below.)

The African American Quilt and Doll Guild Exhibit

Wednesday, Nov. 8 –

Thursday, Dec. 7

Opening Reception:

Saturday, Nov. 11 • 5-7 pm

The African American Quilt and Doll Guild is a unique organization

filled with fabulous, friendly, and inspiring members who weave countless stories through fabric. Theirs is a purposeful journey of creating quilts and dolls that are inspired by African American history and culture.

David Spero Interview and Book Signing

Thursday, November 16
7-9 pm

A Life in the Wings:

My Sixty Year Love Affair with Rock and Roll: A Memoir

David Spero, a 1970s rock-radio pioneer and inductee of the Beachwood High School

Gallery of Success, is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame board of directors; music manager who has overseen the careers of Bad Company, Dickey Betts, Petula Clark, Billy Bob Thornton, Yusuf Islam/Cat Stevens, Survivor, Don Felder, Patty Smythe, Joe Walsh, Michael Stanley, and many others; and a 2023 inductee of The Personal Manager's Hall of Fame, will discuss his book.



Remember ... Make Art, Take Art, Love Art with Beachwood's Free Little Art Gallery (FLAG), located by the side entrance of the Beachwood Community Center.

FLAG provides a fun way to share art in our community. When you visit, you may take something and/or leave something. You'll find new art there all the time!



BAC Welcomes Music4Connections

Presented by Beachwood Arts Council • Sunday, October 15 • 2-3 pm • Beachwood Community Center

Music4Connections, founded in 2017 by brothers Edward and Evan Dan, is composed of over 80 passionate student volunteers who share a deep love for music. Originally established to bring the joy of music to nursing home residents, this group has performed six to ten concerts annually at various Northeast Ohio nursing homes, and three talented participants will now share their talent at the Beachwood Community Center.

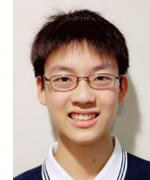
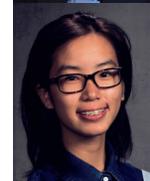
This program has nurtured the growth of local and internationally acclaimed young musicians who possess an immense talent and a profound passion and love for music. The student musicians firmly believe that music has the power to transform lives, and they are working together toward making a difference in our community. This concert's performers include:

- Solon High School sophomore Evan Dan, an internationally accomplished pianist who has achieved the first-place award at the Carmel Klavier International Concerto

Contest Competition and the Thomas F. Hulbert International Competition. After winning the CIM Preparatory Competition, Evan made his debut as a soloist with the CIM Orchestra.

- Beachwood High School junior Chengyu Li, who plays piano, cello, and drums, and is a member of the Beachwood High School Band and Jazz Band. She is one of the leaders for the Music4Connections concerts and also plays cello for the prestigious Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra.

- Solon High School sophomore Frederick Song, who plays piano and violin. Having performed for Music4Connections for more than five years, he received The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) grade 8 exam certificate from the U.K.'s largest music education body, which encourages learners to develop their musical skills, knowledge, and understanding.



Evan Dan, Chengyu Li, and Frederick Song

Music4Connections will perform classical music by Beethoven, Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Weber, Bach, Massenet, and Debussy, as well as a few contemporary musical pieces by Muczynski, Ginastera, Zimmer & Powell.

This free concert is sponsored by the Cleveland Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council. For more information about Music4Connections, visit Music4Connections on Facebook or email music4connections@gmail.com.

Cleveland Kosher Food Pantry Aims to Share the Sweetness

The Cleveland Kosher Food Pantry (KFP) is in the midst of its 2023 fall holiday campaign, "This Rosh Hashanah, share the sweetness with your neighbors in need."

As Jewish people sit at their holiday tables and dip apples in honey, they wish for all a good and sweet year ahead. But many people in our community struggle with food insecurity, especially as high inflation has recently resulted in tremendously increased food prices. Rosh Hashanah is an important time to share our blessings with those less fortunate – and KFP exists to do that.

A partner agency of both the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and the Hunger Network, KFP is one of the busiest food relief facilities in Northeast Ohio. It provides dry goods, staples, fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, and bread through drive-thru distributions that assist over 250 families weekly. As well, volunteers pack bags of food and deliver them bi-monthly to over 1,600 senior citizens in 10 low-income apartment buildings around town. In total, KFP provides food for close to 6,000 people every month.

This new year brings new leadership to KFP as Sarah Yaffe Alevsky takes the role of executive director. Devorah Alevsky, who has been at the helm for many years, is now director emeritus.

"As we approach the Jewish New Year, it is an opportune time to reflect on how we can better serve our community's most vulnerable. Kosher Food Pantry takes care of our struggling neighbors by providing them with food as well as items to set the holiday atmosphere. We appreciate every dollar donated so that our efforts can continue," said Sarah.

Prior to Rosh Hashanah, kosher chicken, round challahs, apples, and honey are included in food distributions. Additionally, Jewish calendars and Yizkor candles are given out.

"Anyone in need is encouraged to contact our office at 216.382.7202. All calls will be



Sarah Yaffe Alevsky and Devorah Alevsky

confidential and no one is turned away," Sarah said. "We pray that the year ahead will be a sweet one as Kosher Food Pantry positively impacts our community."

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to Cleveland Kosher Food Pantry at 2004 S. Green Rd., South Euclid, Ohio, 44121. Donations are also accepted online at kosherfb.org/donate.

Whatever the Reason, Whatever the Season... Beachwood Can Count On Smylie One!



Steven Smylie
President
OH LIC #18265



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**name has been changed for confidentiality*

CIFF Executive Director to Step Down in 2024

Marcie Goodman (BHS class of '73) announced her plan to step down from her position of Cleveland International Film Festival executive director.

Marcie started at CIFF in 1987, took a hiatus from 1994 to 1997 to work at moCa Cleveland, and returned to CIFF in 1998. In 2001, she became the organization's third executive director in its 47-year history – following founder Jonathan Forman and his successor, David Wittkowsky.

"It has been a labor of love to work with so many dedicated board members, talented staffers, loyal volunteers, and generous sponsors, donors, and funders," Marcie said. "Together we've helped filmmakers find audiences for their amazing work, bringing our artists and our attendees joy, wonder, and excitement. One year from now I will have been the Film Festival's executive director for 23 years. It's time for me to take a break and turn the page to the next chapter. The Cleveland International Film Festival is world-renowned, so I'm 100% certain the board will get to choose from amazing candidates to replace me. And the board will find someone with the right leadership skills, energy, and vision to keep CIFF going as one of the crown jewels of Cleveland's arts and culture community. The new director will also have time to prepare for CIFF's 50th anniversary in 2026!"

Board president Chris Blake said, "Marcie has overseen an extraordinary run of success for CIFF during her tenure as executive director. Under her leadership, CIFF managed extraordinary growth during the Festival's time at Tower City Cinemas, successfully pivoting to showing films online at the start of the pandemic, and transitioning the Festival to its new forever home at Playhouse Square. We are grateful for her service to



CIFF and we're looking forward to celebrating her during CIFF48 – her final Festival as executive director. In the meantime, we will use the advance notice she's given us to identify the next great leader for CIFF!"

The board of directors will soon begin a national search for CIFF's next executive director.

CIFF48 will take place April 3-13, 2024, at Playhouse Square – the country's largest performing arts center outside of New York. The Festival will screen films in five of the iconic theaters at Playhouse Square, with a handful of other spaces being used for CIFF talkbacks, community events, and patron and filmmaker gathering places. Information on CIFF48 Streams – the Festival's online component – will be announced in the coming months.

The Cleveland International Film Festival is supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Also, the Cleveland International Film Festival is made possible in part by state tax dollars allocated by the Ohio Legislature to the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC is a state agency that funds and supports quality arts experiences to strengthen Ohio communities culturally, educationally, and economically.

New Holocaust Exhibition makes Cleveland Premiere

The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Lodz Ghetto

The Maltz Museum announces a new special exhibition making its Cleveland premiere next month. *The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Lodz Ghetto* tells the remarkable story of 1945, when a Soviet doctor found a school notebook in the liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau Camp that had been written by a teenager named Rywka Lipszyc during her incarceration in the Lodz Ghetto from October 1943 to April 1944.

The Girl in the Diary is the testament of a Jewish girl who lost her siblings and parents, but never lost hope despite moments of doubt. Through excerpts from the diary, expert commentary, photos, multimedia, and historical artifacts, the exhibition allows visitors to briefly walk the streets of the Lodz ghetto and get to know one of its residents, Rywka Lipszyc. For more information, ticket pricing, and group tour discounts, visit www.maltzmuseum.org or call 216.593.0575.

"We are proud to bring *The Girl in the Diary* from Kraków to Cleveland. The exhibition is a powerful testament to the devastating human loss of the Holocaust and a call to action to double down on our commitment to building a more inclusive future," said Dr. Sarah Spinner Liska, chair of the Maltz Museum's Special Exhibitions Committee.

The public is invited to celebrate the opening of the Maltz Museum's newest special exhibition at an exciting launch event on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 7-8:45 pm. Go behind the scenes with a representative from the Galicia Jewish Museum in Poland, where the exhibition originated, to learn how *The Girl in the*

Diary was brought to life as an exhibition that would travel the world. Discover where Rywka's story has been told and how it has been received nationally and internationally. Then, explore the exhibition yourself with a guided tour and opportunity for Q&A. Event tickets are \$10 per person and free for members of the Maltz Museum. Seating is limited, advance registration is highly encouraged. To register, visit www.maltzmuseum.org or call 216.593.0575.

The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from Lodz Ghetto, presented in cooperation with the Galicia Jewish Museum, Krakow, Poland, will be on view October 25, 2023 – April 28, 2024 at the Maltz Museum. It is sponsored by the Ohio History Connection, John P. Murphy Foundation, Irving and Gloria Fine Foundation, Alan and Barbara Rosskamm Philanthropic Fund, Rina Frankel: In memory of Samuel M. Frankel, who survived the Lodz Ghetto and Auschwitz, The Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission, and many other generous supporters.



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The Girl in the Diary

Searching for Rywka from the Lodz Ghetto

On View
October 25 – April 28, 2024



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Find Your Voice Now

Annie Roth found her voice and now helps other women find theirs. Find Your Voice Now, a nonprofit organization founded by Annie and Mary Ellen Bartlett, supports women in toxic relationships: Women who are feeling unheard and alone, and are searching for the strength to believe in themselves. Its mission is, "To create a network of women to help support and navigate through emotionally abusive relationships and to discover their own voice; to offer a safe space to become empowered to live their healthiest and happiest of lives."

This group was established as a safe space to share, discuss, and simply listen to other women who may be going through

similar hardships. It now has 443 members, continues to build its Instagram following, @findyourvoice, now, and recently launched its new website, www.findyourvoicenow.today.

"We offer a loose agenda. After introductions, I ask if anyone has anything pending or if someone needs help right now. These women communicate – they share stories they wouldn't share anywhere else," Annie told us. "That's the safe space we want to provide. It's support when you need it. We work on your timeframe.



"Support is different than therapy," she added. "Group support is horizontal. We're all equal and there is no judgment. We're on the same plane and are all there to hear, share, comfort,

and help each other heal. We don't have to face our problems alone."

Find Your Voice Now meets every other Thursday. Upcoming online events will be held on September 7, September 21, and October 5. You may join a one-hour session by visiting meetup.com/find-your-voice-a-women's-support-group/.

The Cleveland and Detroit chapters will both hold in-person meetings starting in 2024.

Embracing the Power of Choice – Decoding the Essence of True Happiness

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By Ralph Marston
Creator of *The Daily Motivator*

"NOTHING CAN DIM THE LIGHT WHICH SHINES FROM WITHIN." – MAYA ANGELOU

Programs at the Beachwood Library

Ahuja Medical Center Biometric Screenings

Wednesday, Sept. 6 • 2-4 pm
Join University Hospitals Ahuja Medical center for *free* biometric screenings. <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/8362974>.

NAMI Presents: Understanding Mental Illness

Monday, Sept. 11 • 2-3 pm
Presented by Matt Gesicki, Community Outreach and Education Coordinator of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Greater Cleveland. <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/8362990>.

Tuesday Book Chat

Tuesday, Sept. 12 • 7-8 pm
A discussion of *Book Lovers* by Emily Henry. Registration not required.

Knit and Lit

Monday, Sept. 18 • 6:30-8 pm
Knitting and informal chats about what everyone is reading. <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/7086115>.

Third Wednesday Book Discussion

Wednesday, Sept. 20 • 2-3 pm
A discussion of *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*, by Robert Dugoni. <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/8609522>.

Medicare 101

Wednesday, Sept. 20 • 7-8 pm
Licensed Medicare advisor Marcy Rosenthal will answer your questions about Medicare plans and benefits. <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/7954142>.

Stonewall Riots, Marriage Equality and Beyond

Monday, Sept. 25 • 7-8 pm
Explore the evolution of the LGBTQ rights movement with the Plexus LGBT and Allied Chamber of Commerce. <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/8647582>.

Meet Author Linda Kass in Conversation with Kelly Fishman

Wednesday, Oct. 4 • 7-8 pm
Join us when author Linda Kass visits to discuss her new book, *Bessie*, with Kelly Fishman of the Anti-Defamation League. <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/8702611>.



Yarn Over Beachwood

Yarn Over Beachwood members knit, crochet, and loom items for different organizations and charities throughout Northeast Ohio. Group members share ideas, patterns, projects, websites, links to patterns, and more.

The group meets the first Friday of each month, 10-11:30 am, at the Beachwood Library. Upcoming dates are September 1, October 6, and November 3.

Participants create varied projects that include hats, bird nests, lapghans, soap sacks, and more – and yarn donations are always welcome!

To participate or donate yarn, contact Iris November at lbtyclub@gmail.com or 216.375.9111.

Mia Buchwald Gelles Receives Statewide Parent Award from OCECD

Milestones Autism Resources co-founder and operations director Mia Buchwald Gelles recently received the 2023 Margaret M. Burley Outstanding Parent Award from The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD).

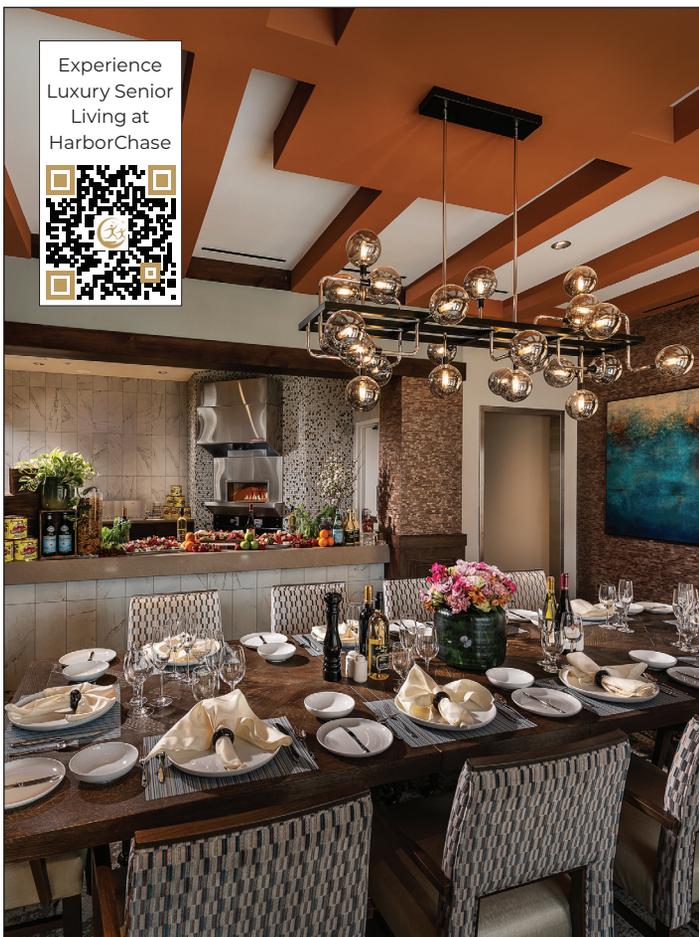
The Margaret M. Burley Outstanding Parent Award is presented annually in recognition of one Ohio parent of a child with disabilities who has demonstrated commitment to advocacy for their child and other children to receive quality educational services; leadership in local, state, or national organizations; initiatives to promote public awareness of issues affecting children with disabilities and their families; and creation of innovative programming to improve services for children with disabilities.

This award is named in honor of Margaret Burley, founder and executive director emeritus, of OCECD.

Mia is a graduate of Oberlin College and co-founded Milestones Autism Resources in 2003, out of the need she experienced herself. She is the proud mom of an adult autistic son. Over the past 20 years, Mia has brought the Milestones organization to a staff of 20, building a diverse team of dedicated professionals, which includes autistic employees and interns. She is committed to giving autistic individuals a platform to share their experiences through programs and services, including the Milestones National Autism Conference, and has helped support the organization's DEIA initiatives to bridge the gap in diagnosis and services for autistic individuals of color.

Mia is a longtime board member of OCECD and Beth El – The Heights Synagogue. She has received numerous awards throughout her career including the Individuals Devoted to Educational Advocacy Award (IDEA) for Outstanding Advocacy on behalf of the educational progress of children with special needs; the Alan R. Schonberg Community Rescuer Award from Project Love; the Difference Maker Award from the Cleveland Jewish News; and the Lois and Larry Davis Award from LiveSpecial.com for improving lives through education and advocacy. She is also in the Beachwood High School Gallery of Success.

Founded in 2003, Milestones Autism Resources improves the lives of autistic individuals, families, caregivers and professionals by educating, coaching, and connecting them with trusted resources. We envision a community in which autistic individuals reach their full potential as integrated members of society, with their needs supported and their abilities, strengths, and voices valued. Milestones serves professionals, parents, and individuals of all ages and abilities through an annual conference, consultations and trainings, social groups, a free autism Helpdesk, and a robust website with more than 1,500 resources, including our new Milestones Autism Planning (MAP) tool.



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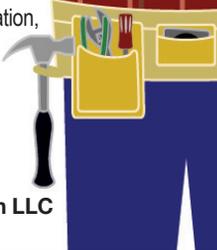
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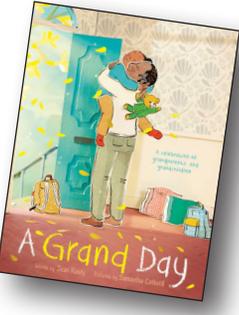
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September StoryWalk®

The September StoryWalk is, *A Grand Day*, by Jean Reidy, illustrated by Samantha Cotterill. It connects with National Grandparents Day on September 10 and celebrates the special bond between grandparents and their grandchildren.

The StoryWalk® Project was originally created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg- Hubbard Library to help build

childrens' interest in reading, while encouraging healthy activity for children and adults. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Anne.



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