

Beachwood Buzz

March 2025 Resident. Every Business. Every Month.

MAGAZINE

THROUGH THE LENS:

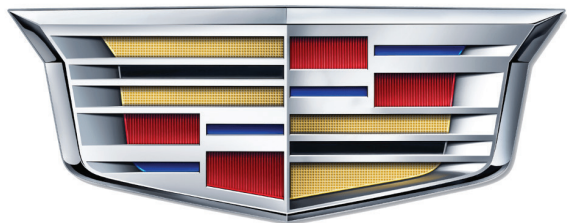
STEVE HACKER'S ART OF STORYTELLING

KIDS
Summer
CAMP

Special Section Starts on Page 40

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Dale Carnegie was a self-help pioneer who shaped and inspired today's best-selling authors. When *How to Win Friends and Influence People* was first published in 1936, the world had never seen anything quite like it. Carnegie didn't just write a book; he launched a movement. His revolutionary ideas on communication, influence, and leadership laid the groundwork for the modern self-help industry.

Nearly 90 years and a few updated versions later, Carnegie's influence echoes through the works of today's personal development superstars, including Brené Brown, Mel Robbins, Jay Shetty, James Clear, Simon Sinek, and so many more.

Carnegie recognized a truth that was ahead of its time: Success isn't just about technical skills or knowledge, it's about authenticity and how we connect with people. By emphasizing presence, empathy, active listening, and genuine appreciation, he transformed human interaction into a pathway to success.

Carnegie's approach was practical. He didn't lecture his readers; he equipped them with actionable steps to improve their lives, such as showing genuine interest by asking open-ended questions,

smiling often, complimenting specific actions or qualities, talking about another person's interests, acknowledging their achievements or contributions, owning your errors, encouraging cooperation, and so many more.

Whether it was learning how to remember someone's name or mastering the art of persuasion, his advice was accessible, relatable, and effective. This down-to-earth style resonated with people of the times and set the tone for future self-help literature.

Today, the self-help industry is more dynamic than ever with a new wave of authors carrying on Carnegie's legacy. These modern thought leaders share his commitment to empowering individuals while adapting to contemporary challenges like digital communication, mental health, and entrepreneurial resilience.

Despite the evolution of the self-help genre, Carnegie's principles remain relevant because they are rooted in fundamental human truths. The need for connection, understanding, and respect transcends time and technology. In an age of social media and digital communication, Carnegie's advice on building genuine relationships feels more pertinent than ever.

His legacy is not just in the words he wrote but in the way he changed how people think about success and influence. Carnegie didn't just teach people how to win friends, he taught them how to become better versions of themselves.

He was not just a pioneer – he was a visionary whose influence continues to shape the way we learn, grow, and connect. As long as people seek to improve themselves and their

relationships, his wisdom will remain timeless, inspiring future generations of readers and authors alike.

By embracing Carnegie's legacy, today's self-help superstars are proving that the desire for personal growth is universal and eternal.

Carnegie didn't just teach people how to win friends, he taught them how to become better versions of themselves.

How to Win Friends and Influence People takeaways:

- Use people's names frequently to remember them
- Show genuine interest by asking open-ended questions
- Smile more often
- Give honest and specific appreciation
- Talk in terms of the other person's interests
- Make the other person feel important
- Avoid arguments by finding common ground
- Admit mistakes quickly
- Ask questions instead of giving direct orders
- Let others feel the idea is theirs
- Praise improvements, even small ones
- Throw down a challenge to inspire motivation

Dale Carnegie Quotes:

- Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get.
- Today is life – the only life you are sure of. Make the most of today. Get interested in something. Shake yourself awake. Develop a hobby. Let the winds of enthusiasm sweep through you. Live today with gusto.
- It isn't what you have, or who you are, or where you are, or what you are doing that makes you happy or unhappy. It is what you think about.
- If you want to gather honey, don't kick over the beehive.

JOIN US!

MARCH 27 — APRIL 5, 2025

CLEVELAND 49TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PLAYHOUSE SQUARE

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+CUFF49 STREAMS APRIL 6–13, 2025

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Calendar Section

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.

Subscriptions

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General Information

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Beachwood Buzz
Every Resident. Every Business. Every Month.



Through the Lens: Steve Hacker's Art of Storytelling

Beachwood resident Steve Hacker, an Emmy Award-winning producer and innovative cinematographer, brings captivating narratives to life with his insightful vision and unwavering passion. Since founding Steven Hacker Films in 1993, Steve has specialized in feature films, documentaries, TV news sweeps, and local productions that consistently engage and inspire audiences. *Story starts on page 6.*

Cover photo: Award-Winning Producer/Cinematographer Steven Hacker reflects on his years behind the camera.

Written by Debby Zelman Rapoport. Photo by Scott Morrison, Discovery photo.

KIDS
Summer
CAMP

IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP FOR CAMP!

Various camp opportunities are listed in our camp section, which starts on page 40. Please check them out!

The Beachwood Bison Theater program is proud to present

SHREK The Musical

Friday, March 7 • 7 p.m. | Saturday, March 8 • 7 p.m. | Sunday, March 9 • 2 p.m.
Beachwood High School Auditorium

Based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film, this Tony Award-winning musical brings a hilarious and heartwarming fairy tale adventure to the stage. Audiences will follow Shrek, an unlikely hero who embarks on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking donkey and a spirited princess who resists her rescue. Along the way, they encounter a short-tempered bad guy, a cookie with an attitude, and more than a dozen other fairy tale misfits. Irreverently fun for the whole family, Shrek proves that beauty is truly in the eye of the ogre.

Directed by Taylor Mortensen and Johnathan Luster, choreographed by Haley Luster, and produced by Topher Helm, the production features 23 talented high school and middle school students. The principal cast includes seniors Rachel Kantarovich, Michael Karas, and DeShaun Williams, along with junior Vega Craig and freshman Eli Ward.



Tickets are available for purchase at the door or in advance at www.beachwoodschoools.org/tickets

A photograph of Steve Hacker, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a grey zip-up sweater over a white shirt and blue jeans. He is sitting in a black leather chair, smiling at the camera. Behind him is a dark wooden shelf filled with various awards, including several Emmy Awards, and framed photographs. The background wall is dark wood.

THROUGH THE LENS:

STEVE HACKER'S ART OF STORYTELLING

Every picture tells a story. Steve Hacker in his studio. | Photo by Scott Morrison, Discovery Photo.

Beachwood resident Steve Hacker, an Emmy Award-winning producer and innovative cinematographer, brings captivating narratives to life with his insightful vision and unwavering passion. Since founding Steven Hacker Films in 1993, Steve has specialized in feature films, documentaries, TV news sweeps, and local productions that consistently engage and inspire audiences.

Steve approaches each project with the same level of personalization and professionalism that defined his Emmy Award-winning videos. His empathetic sense of human connection fuels his passion for storytelling, allowing his narratives to resonate deeply and authentically with audiences.

Reflecting on his journey, Steve humbly shared, "We often do jobs to make a living. I'm blessed that almost everything I do goes beyond that, allowing me to be part of meaningful moments. When you love what you do, it never feels like work."

He paused, and then added, "I'm deeply grateful for the many opportunities I've been privileged to be a part of."

Steve brings a cinematic approach to video production, skillfully blending moving images, dialogue, compassionate messaging, and music. Each scene is crafted to convey a specific message, resulting in videos that are showcased at film festivals, museums, award shows, tributes, corporate events, and on television. Steve's passion shines through in both the final product and his conversations about his

work. "Good enough isn't in my vocabulary," he said. "When I complete a project, it has to be better than good."

Steve secures most of his projects through word of mouth. "It's such a privilege to help bring so many stories to life," he said, "I'm grateful to work with clients – including many repeat clients – to help raise awareness, bring comfort, educate, and effectively deliver their messages."

Steve takes great pride in his career. "What I'm most proud of is the reputation I've built, the opportunities

that have come my way, and the profound privilege of documenting so many meaningful stories."

Throughout Steve's career, his work has been featured on *Entertainment Tonight* and *CBS Sunday Morning*, with Jane Pauley. He has also interviewed numerous TV celebrities for NBC and CBS.

His passion shone as he enthusiastically shared details of some feature projects, past and current, each with its own compelling story that truly touches his heart. Details are featured below.

The Palm Sunday Project

The Palm Sunday Project tells the harrowing story of the F4 tornado that tore through the Goshen United Methodist Church in Piedmont, Alabama, 30 years ago, during a Palm Sunday service, claiming the lives of 20 people. Andrew McDermott, producer and director, was a survivor of this nightmare – something that, understandably, traumatized him since age 5 after being taken to the hospital, recalling that his parents didn't know where he was.

He was driven to create the film, 30 years later, after returning to his hometown in search of answers and closure, a journey on which he embarked as part of his own healing process.

The Palm Sunday Project is a story about revisiting the site of the church with people who had been there to share memories, figure out what happened, and to try to make some sense of it. Like many survivors, Andrew

hadn't come to grips with what happened that day, which is why he chose to bring together a group of survivors, including his father, with whom, until recently, he had a difficult relationship.

"When Andrew reached out to pitch the idea, he had me at hello," Steve said. "Helping him tell his story – through music and sound to convey compassion – resulted in a compelling documentary of which I'm proud. It's a powerful story that resulted in awareness and healing.

"The tornado came out of nowhere," Steve explained. It was a beautiful day, and it turned into utter chaos. Years later, Andrew went to a therapist who, through hypnosis, walked him through the incident that pulled his family apart and silenced him. Creating the film brought people together, to talk about the event and process the aftermath of what happened."

"*The Palm Sunday Project* has been an incredibly meaningful journey," Andrew said. "If there's one major takeaway, it's the power of storytelling – not just for an audience, but for myself as well. This project has reinforced how vital it is to create space for difficult conversations and to turn pain into something that resonates beyond personal experience.

"We were honored to win Best Documentary Film at the Rome International Film Festival, which was truly humbling," he added. "But beyond any awards, the most rewarding part has been seeing how the story connects with people in deeply personal ways.

"A huge part of that emotional impact was working with Steve, who brought an incredible depth to the narrative through sound design and music choices," Andrew added. "When dealing with a subject that has affected so many people directly – and still does today –

Steve had an amazing way of using sound, silence, and music to amplify the weight of those moments. His approach added a whole new emotional dimension to the film, allowing audiences to truly feel the story rather than just hear it."

Andrew then told us that creating the film has been therapeutic in many ways. "Healing is an ongoing process. While the weight of what happened never fully disappears, I've been able to channel it into something meaningful. Today, I find myself reflecting on that journey, grateful for the opportunity to share this story and hopeful that it continues to make an impact."

Andrew wrote and directed the movie. Steve worked his magic in sound design and post production to sweeten it by enhancing its audio elements to improve the overall quality of the sound.



Left: Andrew McDermott, producer and director of *The Palm Sunday Project*, was a survivor of the nightmare that resulted from the tornado that tore through the Goshen United Methodist Church in Piedmont, Alabama. **Right:** United Methodist Church debris. Photos courtesy of *The Palm Sunday Project*.

Exact Change

Exact Change is a poignant and powerful documentary that chronicles Christine Howey's personal and emotional journey – from growing up as Richard Howey, grappling with gender identity, and ultimately transitioning to Christine, at age 45.

The film explores Christine's struggles with self-acceptance, societal expectations, and the process of finding her true self. Christine shares deeply personal moments of fear, courage, and resilience, offering a raw and authentic look at her life.

Exact Change, created in 2017, is based on Christine's acclaimed one-woman play of the same name, where she recounts her journey with unflinching honesty, wit, and vulnerability.

Throughout the film, Christine plays herself at different ages, as well as the roles of many other people and characters, some of whom only existed in her mind. The film intersperses personal photos and family movies, animating the hopes, fears, and desires of a transgender person navigating through an often hostile and unaccepting world.

"*Exact Change* is more than a story about gender transition; it's



Co-producer Andrew Gorell and Steve behind the scenes. | Photo courtesy of Amanda Lu Cates.

a broader exploration of identity, self-discovery, and the human spirit," Steve explained. "The film challenges societal norms and highlights the universal struggle of living authentically, making it relatable to a wide audience. It was a true honor to help create this movie."

By sharing her story, Christine aims to foster understanding and empathy for transgender

individuals and their experiences. The film serves as a tool for advocacy, helping to break down stereotypes and encourage dialogue about gender identity.

As a filmmaker, Steve sought to highlight the beauty and strength in Christine's vulnerability and authenticity. Her story holds a personal connection with Steve since he had attended her coming-out party at the

Union Club in 1990 and then had the privilege of recreating a scene from that very event for this film, which premiered at Cleveland's Capitol Theatre and was showcased in the Chagrin Falls Film Festival. *Exact Change* was also an official selection of the New York International Fringe Festival in 2018.

"It was wonderful to work with Steve on the film because he was always open for suggestions while he provided his own ideas in abundance," Christine said. "It made the entire film-making process a joyful experience."

Steve served as both producer and cinematographer for *Exact Change*, collaborating with Andrew Gorell and Jeff Grover under their production company G2H Films. Best known for *On a Technicality*, a darkly comic short that premiered at the Cleveland International Film Festival in 2015, G2H Films has also produced *Technically Marvin* and *Between the Lines*. *Exact Change* marks the company's first feature film.



Christine Howey from a scene in *Exact Change*. | Photo courtesy of G2H Films.

Sefer Torah Project

Rabbi Bec Richman is a multifaceted artist and spiritual leader who was selected in June 2024 by Beth El-The Heights Synagogue to scribe a new Torah in honor of the late Rabbi Moshe and Nili Adler. The Adlers were esteemed figures in the Cleveland Heights Jewish community, with Rabbi Adler serving as the rabbi of Beth El-The Heights Synagogue and Nili serving as the director of Hebrew Studies at the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies (now Siegal College).

Steve was hired to document *The Sefer Torah Project*, which commenced with a celebration at the synagogue on June 9, 2024. More than 50 people attended, many dressed in white, to honor the sacredness of the moment. Throughout the event and the Torah-scripting process, Rabbi Richman invites congregants to touch the quill or place their hand on her arm as she writes, allowing them to become a meaningful part of this sacred tradition.

"The *Sefer Torah Project* is a three-part series that documents the complete project, which will take years," Steve said. "I'm grateful to be following Rabbi Richman's progress throughout the journey to bring this project to life – a process that is usually done by men. When women take on this sacred task, it marks a significant shift in tradition and community dynamics."

Rabbi Richman's role is to meticulously transcribe each letter and word exactly as they have been scribed for generations, ensuring the continuity of tradition in the newly created Torah. The hope is that, as Rabbi Richman's children come of age, they will each read from this Torah as they become B'nai Mitzvah. As she lovingly inscribes their individual Torah portions, they will sit on her lap to be part of the process.

Community members are also invited to participate by attending open-studio gatherings and interactive events that blend teachings, music, and reflection.

"This is a humbling and spiritually transformative experience. Although I have been learning and practicing safrut (scribal arts) for many years, this is my first time writing a full Torah scroll and I am blessed to get to do so for my home synagogue here in Cleveland," said Rabbi Richman. "Writing locally means the community can regularly be part of the process, from witnessing writing to helping write letters, and



Rabbi Richman focusing as she writes each letter. | Photo courtesy of Steven Hacker Films.

eventually assisting in checking the scroll and sewing together the panels.

"Working with Steve allows our community to appreciate this project from the outside, witnessing the care and sweetness poured into it by so many," she said. "From just a few short clips, he has beautifully captured the emotional intensity and spiritual depth of the project and its impact on our multigenerational community. I am thrilled to see this project unfold and to benefit from Steve's artistic, professional, and sensitive approach to documenting this sacred process."

Steve agrees. "To have this Torah written in our neighborhood is truly unique and special. There's something powerful and deeply moving about seeing individuals of all ages as they place

their hand on Bec's, as she scribes each letter, to be part of the process."

In addition to filming, Steve says, he's profoundly grateful to work alongside still photographer Janet Century. "Her exceptional talent brings so much depth and beauty to this work."

Steve's role in the *Sefer Torah Project* is to blend storytelling, filmmaking, and videography. His goal is to capture both the sacred and communal essence of the Torah's creation while showcasing the human connections and artistry behind this deeply spiritual journey.

Beth El-The Heights Synagogue, located in Cleveland Heights, embraces everyone in a welcoming community dedicated to participatory, traditional, and egalitarian worship and learning.



Rabbi Richman writing as kids touch her hand. | Photo courtesy of Steven Hacker Films.

Maltz Museum

Steve has been working with Maltz Museum for close to 15 years. He is currently working with the museum on its Stop the Hate® program by creating a video that highlights the growth and history of the program and its impact on student winners that span the past 17 years.

Over the years, Steve's collaboration with the museum has grown significantly. He has also produced videos highlighting the impact of grants awarded to school districts and the workshops held in classrooms. In addition, he captures history in the making by filming the Stop the Hate® Awards Ceremony.

"Steve is fantastic to work with. He is creative, collaborative, and is a tremendous partner,"

said Will Pearce, marketing manager. "He brings a blend of creativity and technical skill to every project, which elevates the work and helps to tell the story of the Maltz Museum.

"Steve's many talents include the ability to draw out the best of each person he films, Will says. "For many students, participating in Stop the Hate® is their first time in front of a camera. Although some of them are naturally nervous, Steve has a way with people and a personality that helps put them at ease."

Steve also works with Maltz Museum to produce a tribute video for honorees of the Maltz Heritage Award who are selected for their exceptional leadership and unwavering dedication to

enhancing the health, prosperity, and well-being of everyone throughout Northeast Ohio.

"We work with Steve to create a video that tells the story of each honoree that details their impact in both the local community and across Northeast Ohio," Will explained.

This year's honorees are Karen and Paul Dolan, who will be honored on Monday, May 5, at the Cleveland Museum of Art. You may learn more at www.maltzheritageaward.org.

Steve also creates a year-in-review video that looks back

over the past year and highlights the museum, its visitors, programs, exhibitions, and the impact of the work that Maltz Museum does both within its walls and in our community.

"Steve brings a blend of creativity and technical skill to every project, which elevates the work and helps to tell the story."

– Will Pearce

[Maltz Museum marketing manager](#)



Bikur Cholim of Cleveland

Bikur Cholim of Cleveland is Cleveland's safety net for Jewish families in medical crisis. Whether someone lives in town or is traveling here because of a medical crisis, Bikur Cholim provides physical, emotional, and religious support. It also offers medical support services and helps individuals navigate the complexities of the healthcare system.

Bikur Cholim literally means *visiting the sick*.

The organization currently manages five homes in and around Cleveland Heights and recently acquired a 4,276-square-foot building on Cedar Road, across the street from the Cleveland Clinic's main campus. This building, purchased and donated by a generous donor, will be subdivided into a multi-use

housing facility for Jewish patients and families receiving medical care in Cleveland.

To raise awareness of Bikur Cholim and shine a spotlight on individuals being honored at annual events, Steve creates informative, heartfelt videos that are shown at annual fundraisers.

"Steve has been spearheading all of our films for the past six years," said Rabbi Alan Joseph, Bikur Cholim executive director. "With his expertise and the genuine passion he brings to every project, Steve has elevated our visibility to new heights."

Rabbi Joseph wants the community to know that Bikur Cholim offers guidance, referrals, advocacy, transportation, food, and housing – basically whatever someone needs to navigate the medical system.



לב מרים
Bikur Cholim
OF CLEVELAND

On Monday, Feb. 24, Bikur Cholim held a fundraising event at which Dr. Alan Lichtin, MD, was awarded Physician of the Year. Dovid and Sasi Malcmacher received the Community Leadership Award and a special tribute to Binyomin Greenberger, of blessed memory, was presented.

In 2020, Steve was honored as Mensch of the Year, at the very same event.

"Steve is very dedicated to our organization and does

much more than what we can pay him for," Rabbi Joseph said. "He's very close to the organization and helps us tell our story – which is that we want people to feel comfortable reaching out to us when going through a medical crisis.

Rabbi Joseph's conviction is clear. "We are here to help. Whether it's transportation, finding the right doctor, advocacy, kosher food, or a place to stay, we've got it all covered."

City of Beachwood presents:

Beachwood Community Book Nook: Take a Book, Share a Book

Discover your next great read at the Beachwood Community Book Nook, a cozy space inside the Beachwood Community Center where readers of all ages can exchange books. From children's stories to senior favorites, cookbooks to page-turning novels, there will always be something new to explore! To help stock the shelves for this exciting new program, residents are encouraged to donate gently used books in good condition. Then, starting Friday, March 14, once the shelves are filled, stop by and pick up a book that sparks your interest.

As the Book Nook grows, new literary treasures will appear regularly – so visit often. You never know what hidden gem you'll find. Come read, relax, and connect

with fellow book lovers in our community!

To help stock the shelves
for this exciting new
program, residents are
encouraged to donate
gently used books in
good condition.

CITY OF
Beachwood



Beachwood Chamber of Commerce presents:



Supporting Employee Mental Health & Wellness in the Workplace Summit

March 19 • Embassy Suites Beachwood • 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
CEU Credits Available

Investing in employee mental health and wellness is a strategic business decision. With one out of six employees experiencing mental health challenges in the workplace and 48% reporting declining mental well-being in recent years, proactive steps are critical to sustaining productivity, retention, and workplace culture.

Attending the Chamber's upcoming summit, on March 19, will equip you with actionable strategies to address these challenges while driving measurable return on investment

Special guest speakers include:

- Mr. Scott Osiecki, CEO, ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County
- Ms. Rachel Martin, Territory Director, Charlie Health Company

- Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Training Specialist, Cleveland Clinic
- Ms. Sadigoh Galloway, CEO/owner, Your Recovery Counseling
- Mr Alan Gecht, Account Manager, All One Health

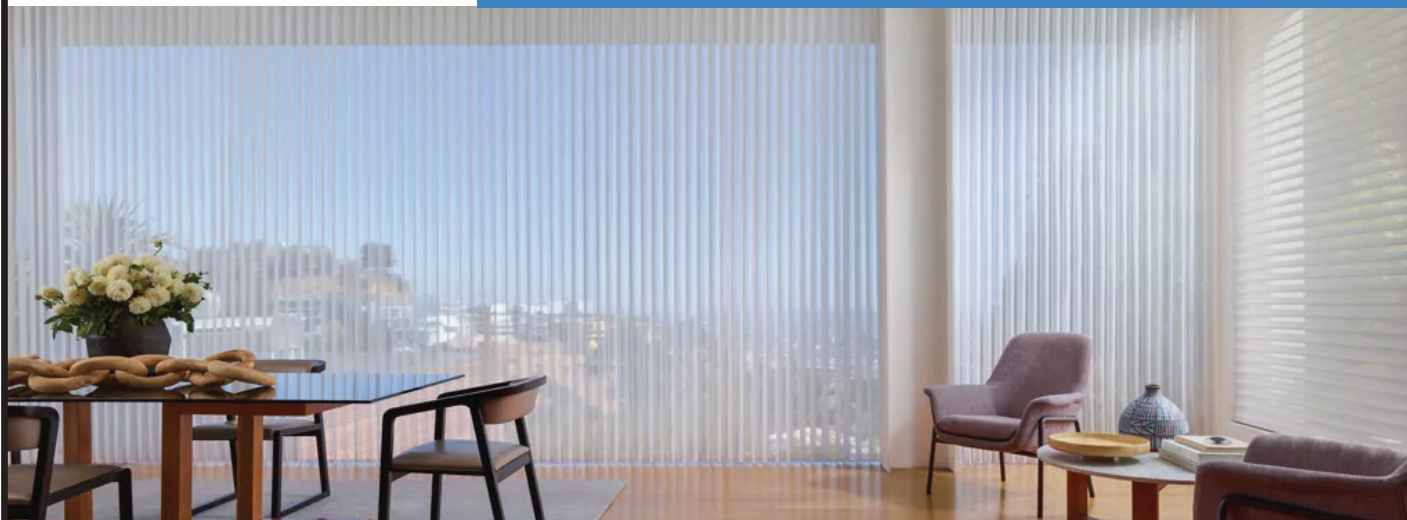
Join us as we address challenges; strategies; practical, immediate solutions; tactics that decrease sick days and absenteeism; and much more.

For additional details and to register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/BCC-Summit>.

To learn more about the Beachwood Chamber and additional events that are scheduled this month, visit www.beachwood.org.



Earl R. Agin & Associates has been a family-run business for over 55 years. We sell everything for the window and more, including custom-made draperies, valances, cornices, bedding and pillows. We sell all Hunter Douglas blinds and shades, as well as custom shutters.



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Stronger, Safer, Steadier: Fall Prevention Tips for Seniors



Don't wait for a fall to take action –
simple changes can make all the difference!

Limited Time Offer! Fall Risk Screening



Call Now to Schedule a
FREE

Fall Risk Screening
for you or a loved one!

Simply mention
Beachwood Buzz
when calling to schedule!
Limited Spots Available

A fall can change everything But the right steps can keep you standing strong!

Falls are a serious health concern for older adults, and they happen more often than many people realize. Every year, one in four seniors experiences a fall, making it the leading cause of injury-related hospital visits among older adults. In Ohio, the problem is even more alarming: **Fall-related deaths among seniors have tripled in recent years.**

For seniors in Beachwood, falls can lead to serious injuries like hip fractures, head trauma, and loss of independence. Even when a fall doesn't cause a major injury, it can create fear, leading to decreased activity and a greater risk of falling again. This can affect not only the senior but also their family members, who may struggle to provide care or make difficult decisions about long-term safety.

The good news is that most falls can be prevented. Simple steps like strength and balance exercises, proper lighting in the home, medication reviews, and removing tripping hazards can significantly lower the risk. Physical therapy can also play a key role in improving balance and mobility, helping seniors stay active and independent.

If you or a loved one is concerned about fall risks, now is the time to take action. A fall prevention program can help identify risks and provide personalized strategies to keep seniors safe at home and in the community. Together, we can prevent falls and ensure a higher quality of life for our loved ones.

440-449-3400

BalanceSolutions.com
23175 Commerce Park

Stronger, Safer, Steadier: Fall Prevention Checklist for Seniors

General Safety Considerations

- ❑ **Regular Exercise:** Engage in strength, balance, and flexibility exercises.
- ❑ **Medication:** Consult your doctor or pharmacist to identify medications that may cause dizziness.
- ❑ **Vision Check:** Have your eyes checked annually and update your glasses if needed.
- ❑ **Footwear:** Wear well-fitting, non-slip shoes. Avoid slippers and shoes with high heels.
- ❑ **Assistive Devices:** Use a cane, walker, or handrails as recommended by your healthcare provider.
- ❑ **Lighting:** Ensure adequate lighting in all areas of your home, especially stairways and entryways.
- ❑ **Emergency Plan:** Keep a phone or wearable medical alert device on you at all times.



Living Room & Common Areas

- ❑ **Clear Clutter:** Remove unnecessary furniture, cords, and loose items from walkways.
- ❑ **Rugs:** Use non-slip pads under rugs or remove them altogether.
- ❑ **Furniture:** Arrange furniture to provide clear pathways. Avoid sharp edges.
- ❑ **Lighting:** Place lamps within easy reach. Install motion-sensor night-lights.
- ❑ **Cords:** Secure electrical cords along walls or use cord covers.



Kitchen

- ❑ **Step Stools:** If you must use a step stool, be certain to use a sturdy, non-slip step stool with a handle.
- ❑ **Frequently Used Items:** Store frequently used items at waist or shoulder height to avoid bending or overstretching, and avoid the need for a step stool.
- ❑ **Spills:** Clean up spills immediately to prevent slipping.
- ❑ **Mats:** Place non-slip mats near the sink and stove.



Bathroom

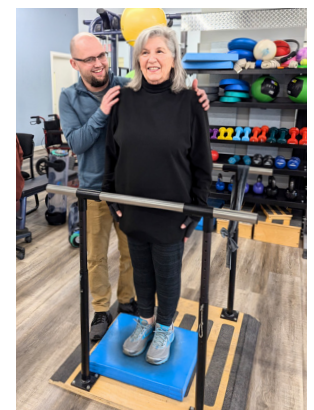
- ❑ **Grab Bars:** Install grab bars near the toilet and inside/outside the shower or tub.
- ❑ **Non-Slip Mats:** Use non-slip mats inside and outside the shower or tub.
- ❑ **Raised Toilet Seat:** Consider using a raised toilet seat with armrests.
- ❑ **Shower Chair:** Use a shower chair and handheld showerhead for added stability.
- ❑ **Lighting:** Ensure bright lighting in the bathroom, including night-lights.

Bedroom

- ❑ **Bed Height:** Ensure the bed is at a comfortable height for easy sitting & standing.
- ❑ **Nightstand:** Keep a sturdy nightstand nearby with a phone, glasses, and water.
- ❑ **Pathways:** Keep the path from the bed to the bathroom clear of obstacles.
- ❑ **Lighting:** Install motion-sensor night-lights along the path to the bathroom.

Stairways

- ❑ **Handrails:** Install sturdy handrails on both sides of the staircase.
- ❑ **Steps:** Ensure steps are even and free of loose carpeting or damage.
- ❑ **Lighting:** Use bright lighting and consider adding step lights.
- ❑ **Treads:** Add non-slip adhesive strips or carpet runners to stairs.



Outdoors

- ❑ **Pathways:** Keep outdoor pathways clear of debris, snow, or ice.
- ❑ **Handrails:** Install handrails for any steps or uneven surfaces.
- ❑ **Lighting:** Use motion-sensor lights near entrances and pathways.
- ❑ **Garden Tools:** Store tools securely to avoid tripping hazards.

❑ **Schedule physical therapy at Balance Solutions for balance training & strengthening and prevent falls today!**

Answering the Call: Beachwood's 911 Team

By Debby Zelman Rapoport

Last month, Beachwood resident Nancy Udelson reached out to say how much she and her husband, Les Rosenberg, learned about our city's paramedics and dispatch program while taking a CPR class presented by the Beachwood Fire Department. In doing so, she suggested that we share with the community information about this program and the Fire Department's impressive process.

Nancy says she and Les were very impressed by the dispatchers' speed and efficiency and the emergency teams' rapid response. "Beachwood residents should feel confident that if an emergency occurs, help will quickly arrive and, until then, a trained dispatcher will talk them through any necessary steps to be taken."

To follow up, I met with Assistant Fire Chief Matthew Domonkos and Lt. Dave Peterson to get behind-the-scene insight. When I asked what a typical day for a dispatcher or paramedic looks like, Lt. Peterson told me that there is no typical day.

"Although we have a general schedule that includes roll call, vehicle assignments, various training programs, and vehicle and equipment checks, ambulance calls set our first priority," he said. "Although schedules are good in theory, we are constantly pivoting since calls are our No. 1 priority and it is not uncommon to have between 15 and 30 calls a day."

Beachwood is served by two strategically located fire stations, ensuring efficient response times across the city. When an emergency call is received, dispatchers aim to relay the call within 30 seconds. Once dispatched, the team strives to be en route within two minutes and arrive at the scene in under five minutes, providing prompt and reliable emergency assistance.

Eleven firefighters/paramedics and three dispatchers are on duty at all times, all of whom have extensive training. Firefighters complete a six-to-eight month fire academy course, paramedics train in the classroom and clinical

environments for about a year, and dispatchers complete emergency medical dispatch training so they can calmly and effectively provide medical instructions to callers before help arrives.

"No two days are ever the same," Assistant Chief Domonkos said. "Our team is highly experienced, extensively trained, and equipped to solve problems efficiently. On average, members of this department bring an impressive 17 years of experience to the job."

Common medical emergencies include falls, heart conditions, breathing difficulties, car accidents, and fire alarms – all of which are treated with the utmost urgency, as every alarm is approached as though it signals an actual fire. On the preventative side, the city employs two full-time inspectors who visit every business at least once a year.

"We are one of the only agencies you can call and someone will show up at your door," Lt. Peterson said. "Whether you have a medical emergency, gas leak, broken pipe, or unusual smell in your home, we are here to help you."

Assistant Chief Domonkos is quick to point out that the city's support and understanding are critical. "Mayor Berns was a volunteer firefighter and knows first hand what it takes to run a state-of-the-art department. We couldn't do our work at this level without their support. In 2024, the department handled 5,760 service calls, including 4,855 EMS calls."

Both Lt. Peterson and Assistant Chief Domonkos agree that the most rewarding aspect of their careers is helping people. They both shared a message that no

matter the scale, when someone calls, it's an emergency to them. Staff always works together as a team to address each situation to help those in crisis feel at ease.

"Whether it's purchasing equipment, funding training, or covering overtime costs, we deeply appreciate the city's unwavering support," said Assistant Chief Domonkos. "This backing enables us to operate at our optimal level. We're fortunate to serve a city that truly values us and ensures we're well-equipped to succeed."

When an emergency call is received, dispatchers aim to relay the call within 30 seconds. Once dispatched, the team strives to be en route within two minutes and arrive at the scene in under five minutes, providing prompt and reliable emergency assistance.

Protect Yourself

Protecting yourself involves preparation, awareness, and proactive measures. Here are the best ways to ensure your safety and the safety of your family:

- **Create an Emergency Plan:** Create a plan that includes escape routes, a meeting point, and emergency contacts.
- **Fire extinguishers:** Keep at least one fire extinguisher in your home, know where it is, and know how to use it. A fire blanket is also a good precaution, provided you know how to use it.
- **Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Make sure you have working detectors on each level of your home.
- **Training:** Complete a CPR certification course (see next page).
- **AED Training:** Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are lifesaving devices designed to help someone experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. They are easy to use and can restore a normal heart rhythm when used promptly. However, training in how to use them and recognizing the signs of sudden cardiac arrest is crucial. Many public places now have AEDs (including all city buildings, Beachwood City Park West pavilion, the new playground, and the tennis courts), but their effectiveness depends on people knowing how to use them confidently.

About AEDs:

AEDs are increasingly common and can be found in more locations than ever before. Designed for ease of use and rapid deployment, these devices are built with one simple goal in mind: to save lives. To help reduce any intimidation around using them, it's important to know that the device will only deliver a shock if needed—there's no risk of shocking someone who doesn't require it. For more information, contact the Beachwood Fire Department at 216.292.1965.

CITY OF Beachwood

CPR Certification Course

Tuesday, March 4 or Tuesday, May 6

Beachwood Public Safety Center • 3777 Richmond Rd.

\$35/resident; \$50/non-resident

Register at www.beachwoodrec.com or by calling 216.292.1970

The Beachwood Fire Department offers CPR Certification Courses on the first Tuesday of every other month, 8:30-11 a.m., at the Beachwood Public Safety Center. These courses are designed to equip participants with the skills needed to recognize cardiac arrest and provide assistance until emergency responders arrive. The classes typically cover essential techniques such as chest compressions, rescue breaths, and the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

This American Heart Association Heartsaver course, complete with a two-year certification, will teach skills needed to recognize cardiac arrest and help someone until EMS arrives. These skills save lives.

Private training programs may be also scheduled by calling the Beachwood Fire Department at 216.292.1970.

Instructors include Lt. Dave Peterson and Lt. Robert Searles, and firefighters David Baird, Lauren Fisher, Don Coyne, Michael McDermott, and Adam Ripley.



Lt. Dave Peterson and Asst. Fire Chief Matthew Domonoske share behind-the-scenes safety information.

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From Beachwood Arts Council

Ileen Kelner Juried High School Art Show

Through Saturday, March 29

Beachwood Community Center

Gallery Hours: Monday – Friday • 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Weekends: Call 216.292.1970 for available hours

This special exhibit features inspiring artwork from students representing 23 high schools in Northeast Ohio.

Judges were professional local artists Joyce Morrow Jones, Stuart Pearl, and Susan Cone Porges.

Megan Sullivan and Dave Kasper Concert

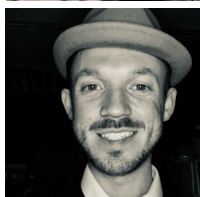
Sunday, March 9 • 2-3 p.m. • Beachwood Community Center

Free and open to the public • Refreshments following the concert

Sponsored by grants from Ohio Arts Council and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

Please join us for an entertaining performance by violinist Megan Sullivan and saxophonist and woodwinds musician Dave Kasper, who are musicians in residence at the Marble Room restaurant in downtown Cleveland.

Megan has performed at over 500 weddings and private events, with music ranging from classical and rock to pop to R&B. She has played for many prestigious events and at venues including the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. She has also had numerous performances with award-winning artists Michael



Bubl , Josh Groban, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Il Volo, and the Playhouse Square Orchestra.

Dave has played with the Temptations, DJ Kool, Al Martino, Guy Lombardo, Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra (playing the role of “Jimmy Dorsey”), Tito Puente Jr., and Either/Orchestra, and has opened up for Ja Rule, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Pancho Sanchez, and Tony Bennett. Active on the local scene, Dave enjoys teaching saxophone, clarinet, and flute, and is often performing at community events, like the Cleveland Browns halftime show.

Upcycled Mini Bird Collage Workshop

Saturday, March 15 • 10 a.m. – noon

Beachwood Community Center • All Skill Levels

\$20/BAC member, \$25/non-member • Supplies are included

Led by artist and art instructor Mandy Spisak, from Mindfully Made Arts, participants will learn to create a bird from upcycled textiles and wallpaper. They will have a selection of bird templates from which to cut the materials and form them into a unique and whimsical collage.

Call 216.595.3400 to make your reservation. Send checks (payable to Beachwood Arts

Council) to Beachwood Arts Council, 25225 Fairmount Blvd., Beachwood, OH 44122.



Backtraxx Concert

Sunday, April 6 • 2-3 p.m. • Beachwood Community Center

Backtraxx is a popular high energy rock, disco, and soul band based in Cleveland. Known for its dynamic performances throughout Northeast Ohio, the band covers hits from the 60s through the 80s with its

signature sound and energy.

The event, sponsored by grants from Ohio Arts Council and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, is free and open to the public, with refreshments following the performance.

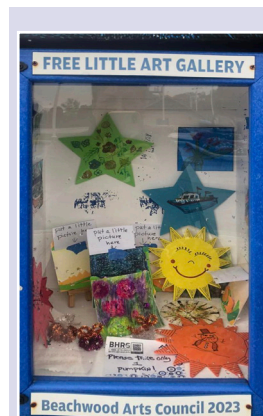
Backtraxx
Band Members

Front row:

Jeannie Tyler,
Hal Becker, and
Gwen Coats.

Back row:

Bill Friedson,
Dave Rader,
Jon Negrelli,
Bob Liskiewicz,
and Marc Paige.



There is new artwork at BAC's Free Little Art Gallery (FLAG), located at the side entrance of the Beachwood Community Center. Brighten your day by helping yourself to a one-of-a-kind masterpiece and/or feel free to leave art, too.

BAC Sponsors

Beachwood Buzz

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Ohio Arts Council • Marshall Flooring
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(now part of the Brennan, Manna and Diamond Family)



Real Estate Statistical Update by Sharon Friedman



The first months of any year are typically a quiet time in the market.

However, the trend of a strong seller's market has improved!

In Beachwood, while the number of for sale listings remained level in January compared to previous months, the average of sold to list price over the past three months rose to 106%, indicating sellers are getting list price or better. 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

Nov. 14, 2024 – Feb. 12, 2025

Street	Days	List	Sold	LP/SP%	Bed	Bath	Built
Cedar	52	\$ 275,000	\$ 277,000	99%	3	2	1956
E Silsby	69	\$ 299,000	\$ 285,000	105%	3	2	1952
Glenhill	4	\$ 310,000	\$ 305,000	102%	4	2	1953
Shaker	58	\$ 429,900	\$ 345,000	125%	4	3	1978
Fairmount	30	\$ 399,999	\$ 367,000	109%	3	2	1954
E Baintree	151	\$ 395,000	\$ 367,500	107%	4	3	1952
Halcyon	55	\$ 369,000	\$ 370,000	100%	3	2	1958
Halcyon	27	\$ 419,900	\$ 380,000	111%	4	3	1965
E Groveland	41	\$ 350,000	\$ 393,000	89%	3	3	1959
Timberlane	88	\$ 455,000	\$ 400,000	114%	3	3	1955
S Woodland	5	\$ 429,000	\$ 419,000	102%	4	4	1961
Halworth	10	\$ 425,000	\$ 425,000	100%	4	3	1956
Tunbridge	3	\$ 475,000	\$ 450,000	106%	3	3	1956
Brucefield	5	\$ 475,000	\$ 480,000	99%	4	3	1976
Haverhill	109	\$ 599,000	\$ 500,000	120%	4	5	1993
Duffield	39	\$ 549,900	\$ 548,900	100%	4	4	1964
Brian	5	\$ 650,000	\$ 592,000	110%	4	3	1968
Fairmount	59	\$ 635,000	\$ 600,000	106%	4	4	1966
Dianne	4	\$ 645,000	\$ 645,000	100%	4	5	1964
Hurlingham	122	\$ 800,000	\$ 650,000	123%	4	6	1983
Bernwood	63	\$ 744,000	\$ 716,000	104%	4	5	1987
Halburton	146	\$ 975,000	\$ 900,000	108%	5	5	1980
Hurlingham	34	\$ 1,399,000	\$ 1,330,000	105%	6	4	2024
Elmhurst	5	\$ 1,395,000	\$ 1,395,000	100%	6	7	2024
Sulgrave	40	\$ 1,495,000	\$ 1,485,000	101%	6	6	2024

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.

SHARON LISTS AND SELLS BEACHWOOD!

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25412 Halburton Road
List price \$595,000
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NEW LISTING!



24701 Wimbledon Road
List price \$539,900
4 Bed, 3.5 Bath COLONIAL

NEW LISTING!



26451 Fairmount Blvd
List price \$525,000
4 Bed, 2.5 Bath CAPE COD

NEW LISTING!



25102 Wimbledon Road
List price \$524,900
4 Bed, 3.5 Bath COLONIAL

Sharon Says:
"Call My 'Sell' Phone
To Get Your
Beachwood Home
SOLD!"



SHARON SOLD A RECORD 27 BEACHWOOD HOMES IN 2024!

Sharon's Recent Beachwood Sales & Listings

PENDING: 23580 Ranch Road *list \$399,900*
JUST SOLD 1/25: 26800 Hurlingham Road *list \$800,000*
JUST SOLD 1/25: 3 Bennington Court in The Village *list \$449,900*
SOLD 12/24: 25405 Halburton Road *list \$975,000*
SOLD 12/24: 4 Haverhill Court in The Village *list \$599,000*
SOLD 12/24: 2141 Halcyon Road *list \$419,900*
SOLD 12/24: 23512 E Baintree Road *list \$395,000*
SOLD 12/24: 3272 Richmond in Baywood Estates *list \$359,900*
SOLD 10/24: 25053 Letchworth Road *list \$645,000*
SOLD 9/24: 24418 Hazelmere Road *list \$399,900*
SOLD 9/24: 6 Stratford Ct in The Village *list \$599,000*
SOLD 9/24: 27500 Cedar Road #402 in Point East *list \$265,000*
SOLD 8/24: 2166 Lyndway Road *list \$499,900*
SOLD 8/24: 15 Saratoga Ct in The Village *list \$439,900*
SOLD 8/24: 3094 Richmond in Wedgewood *list \$325,000*
SOLD 8/24: 24001 Glenhill Drive *list \$275,000*
SOLD 7/24: 25129 Maidstone Lane *list \$650,000*

Sharon Friedman

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Izzy Shoots 1,000: Swish!

Beachwood resident Isabella “Izzy” Wilbur, a 17-year-old junior at Fuchs Mizrahi School, has been passionate about basketball for as long as she can remember. Her talent and dedication were evident early on when, as an eighth grader, she proudly earned MVP at a tournament in Miami while playing for her high school varsity team. By her freshman year, Izzy had already secured her spot as the starting point guard – a role she continues to dominate.

Izzy’s commitment to the game extends beyond school. She plays for two AAU travel teams, TNBA and MAC, and represents Fort Lauderdale in the Maccabi Games. This summer, she’ll take her skills to an international stage as she joins Team USA at the Maccabiah Games in Israel.

Last month, Izzy achieved a remarkable milestone by scoring her 1,000th point – an extraordinary feat for someone just three years into her high school career.

Reflecting on her journey, Izzy shared, “It’s taken thousands of hours practicing

on the court before and after school, and on weekends. I’ve also learned to be open to constructive feedback from my coaches and, of course, my dad, which has helped me improve my shot and overall game.”

With her sights set on playing at the collegiate level, Izzy dreams of joining a Division II team. “I want basketball to be a part of every week – if not every day – for the rest of my life,” she said. “Someday, maybe, I’ll even be lucky enough to coach my own kid’s team.”

For Izzy, basketball is more than just a sport; it’s an adrenaline rush like no other.

“Before games, I feel a mix of nerves and excitement that I don’t experience anywhere else,” she explained. “I love facing the

mental and physical challenges of practice and training, knowing that my hard work pays off, not only for me but also for my team.”



Top: Izzy shoots her 1,000th point!

Bottom: Izzy with her proud parents, Jon and Carly Wilbur.



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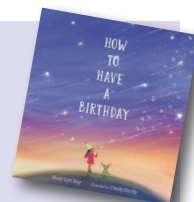
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StoryWalk

Every month, the Beachwood Library hosts StoryWalk™ along the walking trails through Beachwood City Park East. This month’s story is *How to Have a Birthday*, by Mary Lyn Ray, illustrated by Cindy Derby, in honor of some very important birthdays in February and March, including some U.S. presidents, Black history leaders, women’s history leaders, and many more. Bundle up, take a stroll, and enjoy the beautifully illustrated pages displayed along the trail.





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High School Musicians Earn Top Honors at OMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest

The Beachwood High School Music Department delivered an outstanding performance at the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble Contest on Saturday, Jan. 25, at Madison High School. Choir, orchestra, and band students participated in 28 events, performing selections from OMEA's required repertoire and demonstrating scales or drum rudiments for solo performances. Congratulations to the 30 students who earned superior ratings.

Band: Eden Cohen, Mathilde Spaller, Sumeet Chakravarti, Michael Karas, Arpith Prasad, Griffin Preisler, Jessie Gao, Noah Isaacson, and Eli Ward.

Orchestra: Raphael Kahana, Shreya Chellu, Ori Balkan, Benjamin Keyerleber, Elan

Shcherbakov, Noah Beilstein, Daniel Chen, Cay Lee Colson, Sydney Anderson, Siena James, Rachael Fishman, Noah Isaacson, Artiom Tkachenko, Nathan Mu, Sophia Wang, Micah Port, David Nikitin, Lorena Tovanche, Aaron Zheng, and Shirley Zhang.

Choir: Juan Coz.



Pictured from top:

BHS Orchestra students Kendall Finley, Arynne Chang, Shayna Kelly, Iggy Ream, Felix Ream, Kiran Sankararaman, HariKeshav Coimbatore, Kale Ehasz, Olivia Keller, Zoie Donald, Angelica Tall, Ellen Hawkins, Natalia Zeiler, Isabella Sanabria, and Yuewen Li.

Mirica Woodley, Vega Craig, Itamar Gabay, and Taylor Greer-Jones.

Eli Ward, Jessie Gao, and Noah Isaacson.

Avery Robinson-Goodnight, Eva Zheng, and Kathryn Roush.

Juan Coz.



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Winners of the Maltz Museum's Stop The Hate® Contest To Be Announced at Ceremony on April 3

The Maltz Museum is proud to announce that the 2025 Stop the Hate® Youth Speak Out and Youth Sing Out Awards winners will be named on Thursday, April 3, 6:30-9 p.m., at an awards ceremony to be held at Tri-C Eastern Campus, Simon and Rose Mandel Theatre at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center.

The community is invited to attend this free event. Seating is limited and advanced registration is required. Register at www.maltzmuseum.org/sth25.

Over 3,300 students across 15 Northeast Ohio counties participated in the Stop the Hate contest and workshops this year, writing individual essays, poetry, or group songs for a chance to win prizes for themselves and their schools. To say the entries are inspirational understates their power. The voices of these young students shine a light on hate and intolerance – yet guide the way to a more accepting and inclusive society.

Through the generosity of Milton and Tamar Maltz, the Maltz Museum's Stop the Hate® contest annually awards \$100,000 to Northeast Ohio middle and high school students, teachers, and schools who stand up to bias and discrimination.

Since the contest started, nearly 50,000 students in 15 counties across Northeast Ohio have participated. In April 2025, the total amount of scholarships, prizes, and anti-bias education grants awarded through the contest to Northeast Ohio students, teachers, and schools will be \$1.7 million.

Join us for the 17th Annual Stop the Hate® Youth Speak Out and Youth Sing Out Awards Ceremony to meet the Youth Speak Out essay and poetry finalists from 6th to 12th grades, and discover which schools wrote the winning Youth Sing Out song lyrics. Plus, find out who will take home \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes.

Get inspired by the next generation of voices, representing different cultures, backgrounds, and identities – all raising their voices to drive change in our communities.

Special thanks to all volunteer essay readers, essay judges, poetry readers, poetry judges, and songwriting contest judges. Stop the Hate® is made possible by the generous support of its generous sponsors.

For details, visit www.maltzmuseum.org/sth25.

2025 Stop the Hate® Youth Speak Out Awards Ceremony

**Thursday, April 3
6:30-9 p.m.**

Tri-C Eastern Campus,
Simon and Rose Mandel Theatre at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Humanities Center

4250 Richmond Road
Highland Hills, OH 44122.

*Please enter from Harvard Road. Complimentary parking is available in lot B2

Register at
www.maltzmuseum.org/sth25

Maltz Museum Presents

STOP THE HATE AWARDS CEREMONY



Thursday, April 3, 6:30 pm
Free and open to the public

**Tri-C, Eastern Campus
4250 Richmond Road,
Highland Hills, OH**

MEET THE WINNING STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

Be inspired by young people of different cultures, backgrounds, and identities raising their voices to effect change in our communities.

**REGISTER AT
MALTZMUSEUM.ORG/STH25**



To Be Decent

by Jennifer Stern

What the world needs now

Love is reflected in our actions. So is decency. Acts of loving kindness. Compassion for others. I worry that we have forgotten how to truly care about others in word and action. We have forgotten how to be decent.

It pains me to see the complete and callous disregard for the emotional and physical safety and well-being of others. We rationalize, justify, minimize, dismiss, or compare down in order to make okay what is **never** okay: The disregard for human life.

It has been 30 years since Mom died. She was strong in ways I cannot begin to understand. I am profoundly struck by all that she has missed. All that we have missed. The current state of our

world is making me, and so many, feel untethered. I long for my childhood feeling of unconditional love, support, comfort. Of believing that everything will be okay.

I see the terror in strangers' eyes, only to later read comments filled with hatred – or worse, apathy – from those who remain untouched. This absence of empathy is what allows evil to take root.

So many examples of ruthless, impulsive, thoughtless, merciless behavior destroying the faith in all I believed

foundational, if not sacred.

We are living in dystopian times. Heartbreakingly so.

We must intentionally consider what we can and cannot control.

I feel better when I notice kindness. When I witness compassion. Decency.

You meet saints everywhere. They can be anywhere. They are people behaving decently in an indecent society.
~ Kurt Vonnegut

Jennifer Stern, LISW, is a Loss and Bereavement Specialist at Ellen F. Casper, PH.D and Associates in Beachwood. or more information, call 216.464.4243, or visit www.transformativegrief.com and sign up for monthly posts.

Moments that Matter

Holi: A Celebration of Colors and Brotherhood

by Ananya Rao

As winter fades and spring blossoms, millions of people across India and around the world get ready for Holi, one of the most vibrant and exciting festivals. This year, the Beachwood community will have the chance to experience this colorful celebration as the Beachwood High School Indian Family Affinity Group hosts Holi: Celebration of Colors, on Sunday, April 27, at Beachwood High School.

What is Holi?

Holi is a Hindu festival that has evolved from a regional religious holiday into a pan-Indian celebration enjoyed by people of all backgrounds.

It is a time for universal brotherhood, where bad past

experiences are forgotten, and people come together in unity and joy. The festival symbolizes the victory of good over evil and the arrival of spring.

The Mythology Behind Holi

There are various mythological stories associated with Holi, the most famous being the tale of Prahlad and Holika. According to Hindu legend, the evil king Hiranyakashipu sought to destroy his son, Prahlad, a devout follower of Lord Vishnu. His sister, Holika, who was immune to fire, attempted to burn Prahlad alive. However, divine intervention led to the death of Holika while Prahlad emerged untouched, which symbolized the triumph of good over evil.

Another popular story ties Holi to Krishna and Radha, where Krishna, while mischievously playing with colors, started the

tradition of throwing colored powders to express love and joy.

How is Holi Celebrated?

Holi is mainly a two-day festival that can last up to 40 days, with Holika Dahan (bonfire night) on the first evening, followed by the grand celebration of colors the next day. During Holika Dahan, people gather around bonfires to sing and pray, symbolizing the burning away of negativity. The next day, streets transform into playgrounds filled with colors as people throw gulal (colored powders), splash water on each other, dance to music, and enjoy festive treats like gujiya and thandai.

Beyond its vibrant colors, Holi fosters unity and togetherness. During Holi, people wear white clothing as a symbol of the peace and new beginnings this holiday brings. It is said that even sworn enemies embrace, set aside differences, and smear



colors on each other in the spirit of peace and harmony.

Holi in Beachwood

The upcoming Holi event at Beachwood High School will bring this rich cultural experience to the Beachwood community. It's an opportunity to immerse yourself in the festive spirit, enjoy traditional music and dance and, of course, play with colors! Stay tuned for more details next month.

Join the Celebration!

As we prepare to welcome spring, let's celebrate Holi with colors, love, joy, and a spirit of togetherness. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 27, and get ready to experience the magic of Holi right here in Beachwood!





What Does Ohio Higher Education Need? And What Does It Not Need?

By State Senator Kent Smith

It is confounding that the very first bill advanced by Republicans in the Ohio Senate would be a radical reworking of the Ohio higher education system that no university solicited, no professor requested, no state university student wanted, and hundreds protested against.

This priority legislation was introduced on Jan. 22, 2025, and passed by the Ohio Senate on Feb. 12. This is a staggering rate of speed for a piece of legislation over 70 pages in length that addresses no fewer than 24 major higher education policy topics.

Some of subjects within Senate Bill 1 include:

1. Prohibiting university faculty members from striking;
2. Banning diversity, equity, and inclusion programs; and

3. Forbidding Ohio colleges from taking positions on "controversial beliefs or policies."

Based on who submitted committee testimony about Senate Bill 1, it had 837 opponents, over 200 of whom showed up in person to testify in opposition to the bill, and only 14 supporters. That means that 851 people cared enough about this issue to make sure Columbus knew their opinion on Senate Bill 1 and over 98% of Ohioans did not want Senate Bill 1 enacted.

Let me remind you that our Ohio higher education system is actually a success story. According to the *US News and World Report* college rankings, Ohio has nine state universities in the nation's top 200 colleges. Only Texas, California, and Michigan have more. In my view, the only problem facing Ohio college kids is the cost of that education is too high. That's what needs to be fixed.

Senate Bill 1 now moves to the Ohio House of Representatives for additional debate ... We hope.

Townhall Meeting

Beachwood Community Center
Thursday, March 13
6:30-8 p.m.

Want to hear more about Senate Bill 1 and the State Budget, or an update on the FirstEnergy House Bill 6 scandal?

Join Sen. Kent Smith and House Democratic Leader Allison Russo at this Townhall Meeting

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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The Mayor's Message

Leadership, Collaboration, and Innovation in Action

Dear Beachwood Residents,

As we move closer to spring, I am excited to share several important updates and acknowledgments that highlight the spirit of our community.

This month, I am delighted to welcome Pete Smith, our newest City Council member. Pete was sworn in on Feb. 3 at Beachwood City Hall, where his oath of office was administered by former City Council President James Pasch. With his commitment to service and forward-thinking approach, Pete will make lasting contributions to our community. His perspective and dedication to our community will enhance our collaborative efforts to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

I would also like to acknowledge the Beachwood Fire Department for their extraordinary mutual aid response during a fire at an under-construction apartment in Cleveland Heights. Beachwood's ladder truck, Unit 1021, remained on the scene for over 20 hours, with four different crews rotating in shifts. During their response, they pumped an estimated 1.5 million gallons of water to extinguish the fire. Their swift and decisive efforts were instrumental in mitigating the threat. I'm proud of our department's response and their role in safeguarding not only Beachwood but our entire region.

I was also honored to attend a comprehensive "tabletop" training exercise hosted by the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. This event brought together over 140 attendees from various law enforcement agencies, local religious congregations, and community partners. The exercise, which simulated a terrorism incident, was designed to strengthen preparedness and mutual aid response protocols. I was particularly proud to see the Beachwood Police Department Command Staff take the lead as the initial responding local law enforcement agency. Their proactive role and the collaborative effort of all involved affirm our commitment to protecting our city's religious congregations. Events like this

fortify our readiness and highlight the importance of unity in safeguarding every member of our community.

Furthermore, I wish to acknowledge the tireless work of our Public Works team in addressing the lingering challenges of winter weather in Northeast Ohio. Their efforts in maintaining safe and accessible infrastructure emphasize their professionalism and commitment to our residents.

Looking ahead, our Community Services Department is preparing to distribute the Recreation Guide for spring and summer 2025. This guide will highlight various engaging programs and activities designed to unite our community. Among these programs, we are proud to continue our same-gender swimming events, building on the success of last year's pilot program and reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and equal access for all residents.

Lastly, I invite you to watch for the upcoming April issue of *Beachwood Buzz*, which will feature a story on my State of the City address. This feature promises to shed light on Beachwood's accomplishments in 2024 and to provide a look ahead to our goals for the remainder of this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for being an essential part of our thriving community. Together, we will continue to build a community defined by leadership, collaboration, and innovation.

Sincerely,



Mayor Justin Berns

MayorBerns@beachwoodohio.com



Beachwood City Council



How To Email A Council Member: FirstName.LastName@BeachwoodOhio.com



Alec Isaacson
Council President
216.291.2797



Danielle Shoykhet
Council V.P.
216.212.9212



Jillian DeLong
216.509.3514



Joshua Mintz
650.464.6788



Pete Smith
216.299.3557



Ali B. Stern
240.706.7478



June E. Taylor
216.533.7640



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 Update

January 21, 2025 - February 3, 2025

The city is focusing on six key areas essential for the city's advancement, which serve not only as a roadmap, but as a guiding light for our city's progress. Each legislative update highlights ordinances and resolutions within these critical focus areas, underscoring the measures we are undertaking within each.

Jan. 21 City Council Meeting

City Council Appointments:

- Jillian DeLong - Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission
- Danielle Shoykhet - Member of the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC)
- Josh Mintz - RFQ Selection Committee for the Fairmount Temple Property
- Pete Smith - City Council Member

Public Safety:

The City Council voted to approve the installation of new computers and modems in a portion of the police vehicle fleet. These will replace the current technology in these vehicles.

Community Engagement:

The city will continue its agreement with Picklebill Pickleball Academy for 2025. This service provides pickleball lessons and clinics at a nominal fee for residents.

Feb. 3 City Council Meeting

Infrastructure Improvements:

The city accepted a proposal from Fonroche Lighting America for a solar lighting pilot program. The city will install residential lights on Beachwood Boulevard and Ranch Road. for a prescribed amount of time to determine their effectiveness before moving forward with a community-wide residential lighting solution.

Public Safety:

City Council approved the purchase of four vehicles for the police fleet. Three Ford Explorer Police Interceptors will replace older police vehicles in the fleet. A Ford F-150 will also be purchased for the traffic bureau to efficiently deploy speed trailers, traffic signs, and generators.

Innovative Partnerships

The city continued its relationship with the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) to receive additional grants toward energy savings-related projects. The city has over \$78,000 to use toward applicable projects.

STAY ENGAGED IN YOUR COMMUNITY:



Meeting agendas, minutes including legislation, live and recorded meetings are available on our website at BeachwoodOhio.com or please attend an upcoming meeting.

Beachwood Police Department Welcomes New Officer



The Beachwood Police Department proudly welcomes Jeff Garcia Jr. as our newest lateral entry police officer.

Jeff joins us from the Brunswick Police Department, where he dedicated the past 10 years to serving his community. In addition to his extensive law enforcement experience, Jeff has a 15-year

military career with the Ohio Army National Guard, serving as a captain and military police officer. His service includes a tour in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

A graduate of the University of Akron, Jeff holds a bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice. Beyond his professional achievements, Jeff is a devoted husband to Jena, and a proud father of three daughters. Please join us in welcoming him to our community!



Officer Jeff Garcia Jr. with Mayor Berns and Beachwood Police Department personnel.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

City Council:
March 3 at 7:00 p.m.
March 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning:
March 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Architectural Board of Review:
March 3 at 4:30 p.m.
March 17 at 4:30 p.m.

Work - Live - Learn - Thrive

Pete Smith, Beachwood's Newest City Council Member

Beachwood welcomed its newest City Council member, Pete Smith, who was officially sworn in during the Feb. 3 council meeting at Beachwood City Hall. Former Beachwood City Council President James Pasch administered Smith's oath of office.

After taking the oath, Smith remarked, "Leadership is service, and service implies accountability."

Before taking his seat at the council table, he shook hands with each council member and expressed his gratitude. "I want to thank the council for your decision. I promise you I'll give it my very best and my most sincere efforts, and to the City of Beachwood, thank you for your trust in me."

Smith was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Eric Synenberg, who was sworn in to the Ohio General Assembly on Jan. 6 to represent the 21st District. Smith's current term runs through Dec. 31, 2025, and he will need to run for reelection in Nov. 2025.

Mayor Justin Berns presented Smith with a public service recognition certificate in honor of his six years of leadership as a member of the Beachwood Civil Service Commission, which he had chaired since 2020.

"We're going to miss you on the civil service commission; somebody is going to have some big shoes to fill," Berns said. "Thank you for your service. We appreciate it, and I look forward to working with you on City Council." Following Smith's transition to city council, the mayor will appoint a new member and chair for the commission.



Pete Smith

A 17-year resident of Beachwood, Smith has a strong background in public service and a vision for the city's future. As a council member, he plans to focus on maintaining Beachwood's economic stability, ensuring public safety, and investing in sound infrastructure. He is also passionate about attracting and retaining young families and developing sustainable energy solutions for public facilities.

Professionally, Smith is an experienced sales and marketing leader in the pharmaceutical industry, with over 25 years of experience at companies like Johnson & Johnson and Teva Pharmaceuticals. He currently works as a consultant in the field, bringing his leadership and strategic expertise to his new role in city governance.

With a commitment to service and a forward-thinking approach, Smith will bring valuable insights and contributions to Beachwood City Council.



City Council Left to Right: Ali B. Stern, Pete Smith, June E. Taylor, Alec Isaacson (President), Mayor Justin Berns, Danielle Shoykhet (Vice President), Joshua Mintz, Jillian DeLong

COMMUNITY CENTER ROOM RENTALS:

Beachwood residents, Beachwood businesses and community groups are able to rent rooms for meetings, events, and parties. Details and rental forms are available at BeachwoodRec.com.

Pickleball Court Reservations

After a successful mid-August launch last summer, the YourCourts pickleball reservation system will continue this season. YourCourts is an exclusive benefit for Beachwood residents, allowing them to reserve pickleball courts at no cost. The platform is accessible via an app for Apple and Android or through any web browser on a laptop, tablet, or other device. You are able to view the court schedule on-demand, 24 hours per day.

Residents can reserve courts for up to 90 minutes, up to four days in advance, with a limit of one reservation per day and three per week.

To gain access, residents must show proof of residency in person at Beachwood City Hall. If you signed up last summer, your account remains active, and there is no need to re-enroll this year.



Spring Shred Day

Bring personal documents, mail, and files to have them shredded on-site. This is a free service for Beachwood residents! Proof of residency (driver's license) is required. Please use paper bags and banker boxes only; no plastic grocery bags, please.



A Recycling Awareness Grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District supports this community service. Join us Friday, May 9, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmount Temple property parking lot (23737 Fairmount Blvd.) — rain or shine.

Residential Solar Streetlight Pilot Program

The City of Beachwood is taking a significant step toward sustainable urban development with a new residential solar streetlight pilot program. In response to resident feedback—nearly 70% of whom have called for street lighting—the administration has collaborated closely with city council to develop a practical and fiscally responsible solution.

Under the pilot, solar-powered streetlights will be installed along Beachwood Boulevard and Ranch Road, with units placed approximately 150 feet apart. The installation is tentatively scheduled for Spring or early Summer of 2025. Through a proposal process, Fonroche Lighting America has been selected to supply its innovative SmartLights for this initiative. The pilot's duration remains to be determined, as city officials plan to evaluate the performance and overall effectiveness of the SmartLights before considering a community-wide rollout.

The Fonroche solar lights are designed with environmental sustainability in mind. Every component — from the solar panels to the light poles — is between 95% and 99% recyclable. These lights operate with zero emissions and reduced energy consumption, aligning with the city's commitment to green initiatives. The SmartLights are dark-sky compliant, providing necessary illumination while minimizing light pollution to

protect the natural night sky.

One of the standout features of these lights is their adaptive lighting profile. The system is programmed to deliver maximum brightness for a set number of hours after sunset and before sunrise, ensuring well-lit roads during critical times. The lighting is automatically reduced for the remainder of the night to conserve energy while providing sufficient visibility. In addition, wireless connectivity allows for real-time control and performance monitoring, potentially reducing future maintenance costs.

If the pilot program proves successful, Beachwood anticipates that the solar streetlights will not only enhance neighborhood visibility and reduce light pollution but also lead to substantial long-term savings in utility costs. This initiative represents a forward-thinking blend of technological innovation, environmental stewardship, and community-focused planning, setting the stage for a brighter, greener future in Beachwood.



Solar lighting visual example.

BFD's Mutual Aid Efforts in Cleveland Heights Apartment Fire

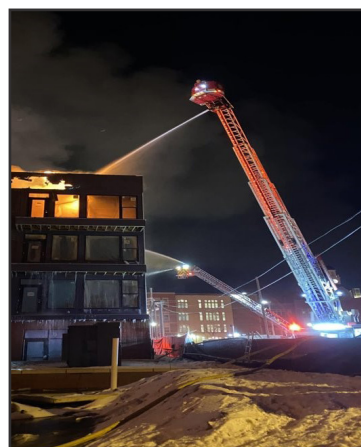
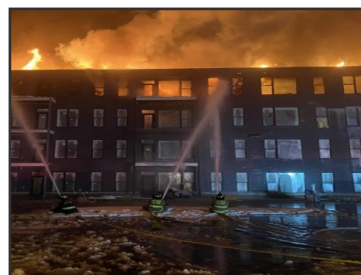
On Jan. 24, 2025, around 7:30 p.m., the Beachwood Fire Department was dispatched for mutual aid to Cleveland Heights, responding with a ladder truck to reports of smoke near Cedar Road and Lee Road. The situation quickly escalated into a four-alarm fire involving a four-story apartment building under construction, with intense fire conditions upon arrival.

Beachwood's unit 1021 arrived on the scene 10 minutes later and was assigned to the left side of the structure. Incident command initially considered sending crews inside to contain the fire. However, after evaluating the conditions, they determined that the interior operations were too dangerous due to the heavy fire engulfing the roof. As a result, they opted for a defensive strategy, prioritizing containment and prevention of the fire's spread.

Firefighters faced multiple challenges while battling the fire. Upon arrival, heavy fire had already breached the roof. The initial placement of police cruisers created delays in positioning fire trucks, further complicating access to the site. The extreme cold, with temperatures around 10 degrees Fahrenheit, added strain as hoses froze, ice formed on surfaces, and firefighters faced increased physical stress.

Unit 1021 remained on scene for over 20 hours, with four different crews rotating in shifts. During that time, 1021 alone flowed an estimated 1.5 million gallons of water to combat the inferno. The combination of strategic resource management, teamwork, and relentless effort helped contain the fire, preventing it from spreading to adjacent buildings. Remarkably, despite the fire's intensity, no injuries were reported among firefighters or civilians, and surrounding structures remained undamaged.

The success of this operation is a testament to the dedication, skill, and coordination of the Beachwood Fire Department and the other agencies involved. Their ability to adapt to extreme conditions and overcome substantial obstacles demonstrates their professionalism and commitment to protecting lives and property. The Beachwood Fire Department's swift response and efforts in providing mutual aid were instrumental in mitigating this dangerous fire, showcasing their invaluable role in regional emergency response.



March Recreation Guide

February Freeze Brightens Beachwood's Winter

Fire, ice, and neon lights collided at Beachwood's fourth annual February Freeze, presented by Crestmont Automotive. Approximately 700 attendees lit up winter with a spectacular evening of glowing attractions and icy thrills, both indoors and outdoors, at the Beachwood Community Center on Feb. 13.

This year's event introduced a new fire and ice tower, a mesmerizing centerpiece that captivated families and friends of all ages.

Beyond the fun, February Freeze helped warm hearts by collecting new pajamas for Sweet Dreams for Kids, which will be distributed to pediatric hospital patients. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this magical winter celebration!

CRESTMONT
AUTOMOTIVE



The glow room with activities and fun for all ages.



LED light performers in front of the fire and ice tower at February Freeze.



Event photography captured by Discovery Photo.

BEACHWOOD ART GALLERY:

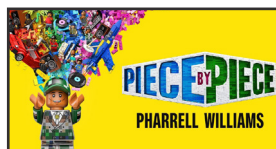
Ileen Kelner Juried High School Art Show | February 23 - March 29

Inspiring work from students representing over 20 local high schools, presented by the Beachwood Arts Council.

Summer Movie Night Schedule

The outdoor movie schedule for this summer is now available! Make plans to see these three free favorites beginning at 5:00 p.m. A great night out for the whole family. Bring your own chairs and blankets. More details coming soon at BeachwoodRec.com or follow @BeachwoodRec on Facebook.

- **Thursday, June 19**
Piece by Piece
- **Sunday, July 13**
Dog Man
- **Sunday, August 10**
Harold and the Purple Crayon



BEACHWOOD
Baseball & Softball

Boys & Girls, Ages 5-14 Years
Register: BeachwoodRec.com

Aquatic Center Memberships On Sale Beginning April 7



From splash pads to water slides, you can find it all at the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center! We're looking forward to another great summer as your go-to destination for fun in the sun. **Memberships go on sale**

Monday, April 7, at City Hall. Save 20% with early bird rates through Friday, May 23. Please bring a driver's license and current utility bill as proof of residency. For more information and a membership application, visit BeachwoodRec.com.

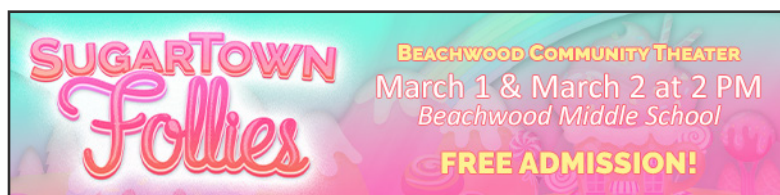
	Membership	Early Bird (4/7-5/23)	Summer Rate
	Children 3 & Under	Free	Free
	Individual	\$60	\$72
	Family of 2	\$115	\$138
	Family of 3	\$165	\$198
	Family of 4	\$175	\$210
	Each additional member	\$25	\$30
	Seniors (60 & Better)	\$35	\$42

Same-Gender Swimming Schedule Announced

Following last summer's successful pilot with approximately 300 men and 300 women attending the four initial sessions, a weekly same-gender swimming schedule will be established at the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center this year. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays (7:30–9:00 p.m.) and Sundays (9:00–10:30 a.m.), alternating genders between each day. A full schedule will be available at BeachwoodRec.com by March 31.



Memberships, available April 7, will include same-gender swimming. Drop-in rates: \$5 residents, \$10 non-resident adult guests, \$7 non-resident youth guests (4-17), \$6 non-resident senior guests (60+). Non-resident guests must attend with a Beachwood resident. Children 3 and under are free and may swim during either session.



Beachwood Seniors

Upcoming Programs

- Bingo Bonanza**
 Monday, March 10, 1:00-2:30 p.m.
 Beachwood Community Center
 Join us for a friendly and fun game of bingo! Enjoy the excitement, win prizes, and connect with friends. Just \$5 per person. Registration required in advance at BeachwoodRec.com or call 216.292.1970.
- Drawing Class with Marlene Weinstein**
 Tuesdays, March 11-April 15, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. or 1:00-3:00 p.m.
 Beachwood Community Center
 Explore light, composition, color and more. All artistic levels welcome. The upcoming session will cover still life drawing over the course of six weeks. Register by March 4, \$79 for residents and \$89 for non-residents.
- Beginner Mahj Lessons with Fern Grunberger**
 Mondays, April 7-April 28, 12:30-2:30 p.m.
 Beachwood Community Center
 The sound of clicking tiles will become music to your ears with this beginner class! Register by April 2, only \$48 for residents and \$58 for non-residents. No class April 14, replacement class on April 15.

March Meet & Eat

Hello Julia
Thursday, March 20, at Noon
Beachwood Community Center
 Residents \$13
 Non-Residents \$16
 Program Only \$5
Register by March 13.

Julia Child, a legendary cookbook author and television superstar, led an amazing life which Ruth Pangrace, from Women in History, will share. Julia's methods, quotes, and personality were one of a kind. Come and discover her recipe for success!

Meal choices include a nicoise salade with a croissant or Chicken Francese (lemon chicken) with a baguette. All entrees served with a cup of vichyssoise, beverage, and dessert.

April Meet & Eat (4/17): Elvis tribute artist Frank Worley is in the building! Take a trip back in time to legendary performances with his KINGtinued tribute. Register by April 10.

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

WHERE BUSINESS IS BOOMING!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Breaking Borders: Tips for Tapping Into Foreign Markets



The latest episode of the Beachwood Business Compass podcast hosts a great discussion with Nicki Sulandari, Vice President of the Collaborative Chambers of Commerce, and Don Larson, Chairman of the British American Chamber of Commerce, on foreign markets and how small business owners can set strategy to explore and enter into new market areas. Accessing foreign markets can seem overwhelming, but through regional networks, connections, and no-cost consulting services, this episode empowers listeners to identify new business growth opportunities. Episode 2 of the Beachwood Business Compass is available now on Apple Podcasts.



Female Entrepreneur Networking Event

The city's Economic Development Office recently hosted female entrepreneurs from FES (The Female Entrepreneur Summit) at Anne Cate's new makerspace in Commerce Park. The City of Beachwood and the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce are proud to support the growth of female-owned businesses through events like this and monthly women's networking meetings, held every second Thursday of the month. For more information, visit the City of Beachwood's One Stop Resource Center online.

Discover How C-PACE Financing Can Benefit Your Business

The City of Beachwood is a proud member of the Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District, a coalition of more than 25 communities in Cuyahoga County. This district offers a unique financing option called Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE). The program helps commercial property owners implement energy efficiency improvements or add energy generation capabilities to their buildings.

C-PACE financing is an attractive option for many business owners because it typically requires little to no money down to get started. The program offers flexible repayment terms with periods that can extend over the life of your project, making it easier to manage costs over time. Additionally, the repayments are conveniently added as a voluntary assessment on your property tax bill, simplifying the budgeting process for these improvements.

Since its inception in 2010, C-PACE financing has supported over \$1 billion in energy improvements across Ohio. Projects funded through C-PACE have ranged from roof replacement to extensive multi-million-dollar renovations involving building envelopes, HVAC systems, and lighting upgrades.

We invite business and commercial property owners to our upcoming webinar on Tuesday, April 8, at noon. This session will provide an in-depth explanation of how the C-PACE program works. Attendees will gain valuable insights from local lenders who have successfully financed projects using C-PACE and hear from local businesses that have benefited from the program. Email Economic Development Director Catherine Bieterman at catherine.bieterman@BeachwoodOhio.com for a registration link.

Community Advantage Loan Program

Beachwood is taking significant steps to help small businesses secure the financing they need. The city's Community Improvement Corporation, Loan Review Committee, in partnership with Growth Capital Corporation — a nonprofit established to handle government-assisted loan requests — has introduced the Community Advantage Loan Program. This new program allows businesses to borrow up to \$350,000, which can be used for a variety of essential purposes. Because this is an SBA 7(a) loan, it can offer crucial support to businesses that may not qualify for conventional financing.

For more information on these lending opportunities, please contact Catherine Bieterman, the Economic Development Director, at 216-292-1915, or visit Beachwood.com/EconomicDevelopment.

Always Be An Insider, Stay Connected!

Official Social Media Pages



Facebook Pages:

@BeachwoodOH
@BeachwoodPolice
@BeachwoodFire
@BeachwoodOHRec
@BeachwoodPublicWorks
@BarkwoodDogPark

X Accounts:

@BeachwoodOH
@BeachwoodPolice

Instagram Account:

@BeachwoodOhio

LinkedIn Account:

@CityOfBeachwood

Same-Day Sick Care

Feeling sick? Get fast, expert care, today.

A sudden cold, a nagging cough, or an unexpected fever can disrupt your life. But waiting days for an appointment or spending hours in the ER for minor issues isn't the solution. That's why University Hospitals offers same-day sick care, so you and your family can get the care you need, often in under one hour.

Same-day sick care visits let you see a UH provider for sudden illnesses like:

- ▶ Colds and coughs
- ▶ Flu
- ▶ Pinkeye
- ▶ Skin rashes
- ▶ Sore throats
- ▶ Sinus infections
- ▶ Vomiting and diarrhea
- ▶ Urinary tract infections (UTI)

In-person or virtual visits are available, making it easy to get treated from the comfort of home or at a nearby UH location.

Plus, with integrated care, your provider has instant access to your medical records, ensuring personalized and seamless treatment.

Don't let a minor illness slow you down – get fast, expert care today.

To learn more about our care options and to find a location close to you, visit UHhospitals.org/SameDay.

Services Offered:

- ▶ **On Demand Virtual Care:**
Connect with a provider via real-time video for minor illnesses.
- ▶ **Urgent Care:**
Walk-in for same-day treatment of minor health concerns

Convenient Care

- ▶ Same-day treatment
- ▶ Care in under an hour
- ▶ Virtual or in-person visits

BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

Developing Intellectual Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience

Three Beachwood Students Named National Merit Finalists



Three Beachwood High School seniors – Eden Cohen, Radha Pareek, and Amy Zhou – have been named National Merit Finalists for the Class of 2025. This prestigious recognition places them among the top 1% of high school seniors nationwide.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition that begins with the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), taken by approximately 3.6 million students each year. Of those, about 15,000 students advance to Finalist standing based on their academic record, extracurricular involvement, leadership, and a personal essay. Finalists will now compete for 2,500 National Merit Scholarships, which will be awarded later this year.

Beachwood Schools congratulates Eden, Radha, and Amy on this outstanding achievement.

Beachwood Schools Set to Adopt New PreK-5 Literacy Curriculum

Beachwood Schools is adopting *Benchmark Advance* and *Ready to Advance* for preschool through fifth grade to align with Ohio's science of reading standards. The Beachwood Board of Education approved the curriculum after a thorough review by a team of teachers and administrators.

The new curriculum is designed to help all students build strong reading and writing skills through systematic, research-based instruction. "What attracted us to this program are the high-quality texts it provides for students," says Dr. Linda LoGalbo, director of curriculum and instruction. "The texts are culturally affirming, engaging, and developmentally appropriate. We wanted to ensure students see themselves reflected in the literature they read."

State guidelines require districts to choose from an approved list of literacy programs. *Benchmark Advance* will be used in kindergarten through fifth grade, while *Ready to Advance* will support preschool students. A key advantage, according to Dr. LoGalbo, is that the built-in assessments closely align with Ohio's state tests and enable teachers to monitor students' progress and provide targeted support.



The new curriculum will complement Beachwood's existing *Foundations* phonics program. Lessons will focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing. Multimodal and multisensory tools will help teachers tailor instruction to different learning styles, while resources for English learners and paired audiobooks will support emerging readers and students with reading challenges like dyslexia. Teachers will begin working with the new materials this school year, with full implementation planned for 2025-26. "Our staff is excited about these new resources," says Dr. LoGalbo. "At the end of the day, these are just tools. Our Beachwood curriculum is grounded in the work we do as educators."

EVENTS CALENDAR



Shrek The Musical

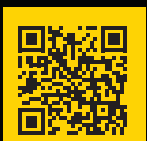
March 7-9, Times Vary
Beachwood High School, 25100 Fairmount Blvd.
Purchase Tickets: www.beachwoodschoools.org/tickets

Elderclass

March 13, 12 - 2:15 p.m.
Beachwood High School, 25100 Fairmount Blvd.

BHS Spain Preview Concert

March 19, 7 p.m.
Beachwood High School, 25100 Fairmount Blvd.



**VIEW THE
FULL CALENDAR**
www.beachwoodschoools.org/calendar

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

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BHS Computer Science Club Wins Hyland Hackathon with AI-Powered Prescription App

Five Beachwood High School Computer Science Club students took first place at the Jan. 11-12 Hyland Hackathon, a weekend-long coding competition that brought together roughly 100 students on 20 teams from across Northeast Ohio.

Juniors Tony Zheng, Leo Wang, Dotan Dana, Shamith Murthy and Alex Rabochii won the competition with their app, Medley, an AI-powered prescription tracker designed to help users manage their medications. The app allows users to upload prescriptions by taking a photo, which is processed using OpenAI. Users can then review the information and integrate it with Google Calendar for medication reminders. "We wanted to create something that could make a real difference and was doable in 36 hours," says Dotan. "We were throwing around ideas as a team and realized we could easily solve prescription tracking and integrate it into existing apps like Google Calendar. It was almost like there was a hole in the shape of our app in the ecosystem for prescription management."

The team built Medley using JavaScript and HTML/Jinja2 for the front end and Python for the back end. They integrated OpenAI's ChatGPT through an Application Programming Interface and used OpenCV, an open-source computer vision library, to optimize image formatting for AI interpretation, according to Alex.

Over 36 intense hours, the students remained focused on coding, breaking only for meals, brief rest, and a few rounds

of knockout basketball at Hyland. "This dedication eventually paid off, as we only finished the app five minutes before the deadline," says Shamith.

The students faced several challenges during development. "We definitely got stuck at some moments," says Dotan. "One challenge was getting AI to answer with a consistent format as we fed it prescriptions. We had to give it strict guidelines so our code would be able to read the AI's output."

Tony said the team sees potential for expanding Medley's capabilities beyond the hackathon. "The Hyland Hackathon is only the beginning of what is possible for this app," says Tony. "The next step in our app development is potentially connecting the app with pharmaceutical companies so patients' prescriptions are automatically added to their profile."

Shamith said the team benefited from the hackathon's collaborative atmosphere. "The Hyland employees were fantastic and created a great environment for learning and programming," he says. "The event wouldn't have been the same without them."

Leo expressed the team's gratitude toward Computer Science Club advisor John Kaminski, saying, "We'd like to thank Mr. Kaminski for finding numerous programming opportunities for us throughout the year and teaching us the fundamentals of what we know today."

Beachwood High School Honored for Advancing Female Representation in AP Computer Science

Beachwood High School is a proud recipient of the College Board's Female Diversity Award for expanding female representation in AP Computer Science and AP Computer Science Principles.

The award recognizes 1,153 schools that increased female enrollment in AP computer science during the 2023-24 school year. Beachwood is one of just 69 schools honored for both courses. Schools qualify by achieving at least 50% female enrollment in AP computer science or by having the percentage of female exam takers match or exceed the school's overall female population.

"We're honored that Beachwood High School earned this distinction," says Principal Paul Chase. "We appreciate the dedication of AP computer science teachers John Kaminski and Craig Alexander for expanding opportunities for young women to achieve success in computer science education and careers."

Explore AP Computer Science courses in the BHS Program of Studies at bhs.beachwoodschoools.org, under Academics.



BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

Developing Intellectual Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience

Beachwood Students Get a Head Start on College

High school students can get a jump-start on college without ever leaving campus. Through Ohio's College Credit Plus (CCP) program, Beachwood High School offers three college-level courses on site: English 101 and 102, taught by Dr. Casey Matthews, and Multivariable Calculus, taught by Ms. Liuyi Liu.

As with all CCP courses, students earn tuition-free college credit. But unlike online or off-campus options, Beachwood's courses provide structure and support for students as they manage the demands of college-level academics.

"Students can have the best of both worlds," says Dr. Matthews. "They receive direct instruction and one-on-one feedback but don't have to travel to a college campus as transportation is not provided through College Credit Plus."

CCP English

Offered in partnership with Cleveland State University, English 101 and 102 are part of Ohio's First Year Writing Course sequence developed by the Ohio Department of Higher Education. English 101 focuses on composition and rhetoric, while English 102 builds on those skills with an emphasis on research and information literacy. Students conduct original research while learning how to navigate the CSU library

system, manage citations, and create multimodal projects such as videos, podcasts, and presentations. They also develop essential college-readiness skills, including how to read a syllabus to stay on top of course requirements and use Blackboard, a widely used learning management platform.

With students writing more than 5,000 words per course, time management is essential. "The benefit I can provide students at BHS is that we meet every day as opposed to a typical collegiate course where students only meet a few times a week," says Dr. Matthews. "There is more time for students to meet with me and receive feedback on their progress."



Multivariable Calculus

At Beachwood High School, Multivariable Calculus builds on AP Calculus BC, challenging students to explore functions with multiple variables and their applications in three-dimensional spaces. Ms. Liu, who has taught the course since 2019, says students engage deeply with real-world applications of advanced concepts such as partial derivatives, multiple integrals, and vector analysis.

Students apply these concepts across disciplines, analyzing electromagnetic fields, fluid dynamics, and heat transfer in physics and evaluating material stress and fluid flow in engineering. The course also explores economic models that maximize profit under constraints and computer science applications that refine image processing and optimization algorithms.

The course attracts highly motivated, STEM-focused students who are eager for an academic challenge. "Multivariable Calculus requires persistence and a willingness to tackle challenging problems," says Ms. Liu. "This course really pushes the limits of students' math skills and requires a lot of attention to detail and precision."

Says Ms. Liu, "It's exciting to teach a college-level class with engaging and motivated students who enjoy math and want to challenge themselves academically."

Learn more about College Credit Plus at bhs.beachwoodschoools.org.

BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS



Recent Resolutions

- Approved elementary construction executive budget summary and change orders
- Approved out-of-district trips for BHS Model UN and BMS MathCounts Club
- Held study session on Board of Education goals for the district

Upcoming Board Actions

- Approve contracts for service for athletics for the 2025-2026 school year
- Hear elementary facilities project update
- Hold public hearing on approval of the 2027-2028 district calendar

Board Meeting Calendar

- Monday, March 10 @ 7 p.m.



VIEW AGENDAS & MINUTES

www.beachwoodschoools.org/BOE

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Alumni Spotlight: Jody Wagner (Class of 1973)



Jody Wagner has never been one to shy away from a challenge. As president of Jody's Gourmet Popcorn and Virginia's first female Secretary of Finance, she exemplifies Beachwood Schools' mission of developing intellectual entrepreneurs with a social conscience.

Jody credits Beachwood Schools for helping shape her entrepreneurial spirit and success. "Beachwood Schools gave me leadership skills and academic training so that I could excel at college," she says.

After graduating from Beachwood High School, Jody earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Northwestern University. She then pursued a law degree, spending a year at Washington University Law School in St. Louis before completing her degree at Vanderbilt Law School.

Jody spent more than two decades practicing corporate and securities law before transitioning into public service. Appointed Treasurer of Virginia in 2002, she helped preserve the state's AAA bond rating, modernized treasury functions,

and served as president of the National Association of State Treasurers. She later made history as the state's first female Secretary of Finance under Gov. Tim Kaine.

In 2005, Jody and her husband, Alan, turned a shared love of popcorn into a business venture. Jody's Gourmet Popcorn was inspired by their college date nights, strolling through Chicago and snacking on caramel corn. Alan even hid her engagement ring in the prize envelope of a Cracker Jack box. To this day, he still won't tell her how he got the ring into the sealed box.

By 2010, Jody became the company's full-time president. Today, Jody's Gourmet Popcorn offers 30 flavors, from classics like Recipe 53 Caramel Corn, Old Fashioned Kettle Corn, and Cheddar to unique varieties like Cinnamon Roll, Birthday Cake, Hot Honey, and Chili Lime. "I love growing the company and creating new flavors and packaging for people to enjoy," she says. "My favorite phone calls are those from customers who want to know where they can buy it because they love the flavor!"

Outside of work, Jody enjoys golf, skiing, cooking, and spending time with her four grown children, their spouses, and eight grandchildren. She is also actively involved in charitable organizations, arts groups, her synagogue, and the Jewish Federation. "I have truly enjoyed being a part of efforts that make our community better," she says.

Her advice to Beachwood students? "Seize every opportunity to try something, as you never know where it will take you," she says.

Preschool and Kindergarten Registration Now Open!

Give your child the best start! Our early childhood programs nurture creativity, confidence, and a love for learning in a supportive, high-quality environment.

Fairmount Early Childhood Center

Now accepting applications for residents and nonresidents! Our Step Up to Quality Gold-rated program serves children ages 3 to 5 with half-day and full-day options. Learn more and register at fairmount.beachwoodschoools.org or contact Preschool Director Karen Leads at (216) 464-2600, ext. 2101 or kml@beachwoodschoools.org.

Kindergarten Registration

If your child will enter kindergarten in the 2025-2026 school year, visit www.beachwoodschoools.org/registration to complete the enrollment form. A kindergarten parent orientation will be held on Thursday, May 15, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Bryden Elementary to help families prepare for the transition. For enrollment questions, contact District Registrar Grace Perryman at gperryman@beachwoodschoools.org or (216) 464-2600, ext. 2107.



From Special Forces to Special Bonds

Beachwood resident Sam Jessel is a professional dog trainer with more than 10 years of experience, including three years serving as a commander in the Israeli K-9 special forces unit, specifically working with bomb-sniffing dogs.

During his first year in the army, Sam underwent rigorous basic and unit-specific training, which prepared him to become a combat soldier in the elite K-9 unit. He was partnered with his dog, Paudy, and together they were tasked with critical responsibilities such as securing perimeters and detecting ammunition, mines, and explosives. Sam also trained Paudy to respond to commands from miles away, using a radio system attached to his harness. After gaining experience, he advanced to the role of commander, where he was responsible for training the next generation of combat soldiers and their dogs.

After completing his service in the army, Sam moved to

New York City to establish his own dog training program, Commander Paw. Nearly a decade later, he and his wife, Jordyn, relocated to Beachwood to raise their family, with the goal of creating a dog training and daycare facility that would offer a full suite of high-end services, including daycare, boarding, training, fitness and agility, and bathing. That vision, K-11 Canine Care, is now open at 4501 Taylor Lane, in Warrensville Heights.

They chose Beachwood because Sam had fond memories of attending Camp Stone as a child, where he formed lasting connections with many members of our close-knit, family-oriented community.

"It's been a long road to get to where we are today," Sam said proudly. "As humans, we've come to understand the importance of maintaining an active routine – and the same is true for our dogs. That's why we created a space where dogs can stay active, safe, and engaged under the guidance of experienced trainers."



Top: Sam Jessel with his dog, Chloe.

Bottom: The lobby of the new K-11-Canine Care dog training and daycare facility.

1st Annual

Beachwood Athletic Boosters

MATTRESS FUNDRAISER

HUGE SAVINGS
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When it comes to training, it doesn't matter what age or breed your dog is. "Whether you are a dog parent looking for some basic training, advanced command training, and/or aggression training, I offer in-person and virtual training to fit your specific needs," Sam said. "My values and approach are all about chemistry. Strengthening the chemistry between you and your dog is my top priority."

"Through positive reinforcement, I will teach your dog how to express and behave to the best of the dog's ability," he added.

Sam has been fortunate enough to meet all kinds of dogs with an array of different personalities: from super timid to extremely hyper, and from traumatized to tough, Sam is happy to work with any and all backgrounds.

"Like us, dogs need a regular and steady lifestyle," he said. "When I

meet your dog, I first try to create a routine for them and think about what is the highest priority. Is your dog getting enough sleep? Do they have enough food? How comfortable are they around your home? And then I get into aspects of training such as: Is your dog listening to you? Have you been able to interact with them indoors and outdoors? How can you better connect with them? And from there, we get into the specific needs of what you and your dog would like to work on."

Sam, Jordyn, their son, Lev, and dog, Chloe, cherish being a part of our vibrant community.

"We are grateful to live in this wonderful community and to open the doors at K-11 Canine Care," Sam said. "We have our soft opening this month, with an open house planned on Sunday, March 30. Please visit www.k11.dog for details."

Plastic Surgery Faces New Era With Artificial Intelligence

By June Scharf

Plastic surgeons hold fast to the belief that their profession is largely an art form based on the merging of science and skill. It's about aesthetics and approaches to beauty enhancement that are unique to each individual. But in the age of artificial intelligence, that art form is now facing an equally disruptive and beneficial force that requires those in the field to reckon with this new form of technology.

Beachwood-based plastic surgeon Dr. Diana Ponsky has been diligently determining how AI applications can help with patient care, but also how they can potentially misguide patients. It's a murky area where it behooves prospective patients to be managed by a professional, lest artificial intelligence lead them astray through predictive objective image modeling and other forms of suggested modifications. Subjectivity, provided by experienced doctors, is a key element in the beauty business.

According to Dr. Ponsky, "AI will never replace physicians and surgeons, but those who know how to harness it well will have a professional and competitive advantage."

When performing cosmetic procedures, she notes that it's important to maintain natural individual beauty rather than produce a standardized look. Essentially, her gold standard is to perform surgery on faces with an outcome that does not appear to have been surgically touched.

Cherry Imaging is an app that Dr. Ponsky prefers for post-procedure evaluation through its use of 3D pictures after fillers have been used that help determine the percentage of improvement. Another app she relies on is Deep Surface AI, which provides morphing capabilities for rhinoplasties. It helps patients see what they will look like when a doctor performs skeletal alterations in places such as bones in the forehead or jaw.

On the flipside, Dr. Ponsky offers cautionary words when it comes to using cell phone apps

that suggest what procedures one should have done. When AI makes recommendations and provides an image of what that might look like, she is concerned about a one-size-fits-all approach, sometimes based on popular trends.

"I think it's important for people to recognize and embrace that beauty is not just about a look or something like symmetry. Beauty is in the ratios, and it also can be in imperfections." She mentions the Japanese word for this: *wabi sabi*, defined as an aesthetic that appreciates beauty which is imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete, as seen in nature.

"Hopefully, with the generative aspect to machine learning, the idea would be for the algorithms to figure out that perfect symmetry is not the goal. We don't want to produce clones."

One example is a trend in rhinoplasty, driven in part by the popularity of the Barbie doll look, but also the look of the "Whoville" characters as drawn in a Dr. Seuss book (*Horton Hears A Who*), which features an unnaturally upturned nose.

Another new example of an AI application with rhinoplasty lies with the opposite of prescriptive approaches. The app, RhinoNet, depends on an algorithm that can determine whether a person has had a rhinoplasty – and the AI is highly accurate. But for Dr. Ponsky, the optimal result would be to have an outcome that's so natural, it would be undetectable by AI. This is achieved by surgery that conforms well to a patient's own facial dimensions, distance ratios, and planes. With this type



Left: Dr. Diana Ponsky
Inset: Dr. Ponsky views
an image created by Cherry
Imaging 3D software, which
allows patients to see a 3D
representation of themselves,
helping them understand
facial symmetry, volume,
and proportions.

Photos by Kim Ponsky Photography

"Hopefully, with the generative aspect to machine learning, the idea would be for the algorithms to figure out that perfect symmetry is not always the goal. We don't want to produce clones."

of technology, Dr. Ponsky would likely outsmart the AI.

Ultimately, she questions how much AI is going to possibly override a surgeon's concept of beauty. Also, the effectiveness of any procedure needs to take into consideration a person's age and skin condition. Will AI be able to effectively factor in these considerations when procedures are suggested? She's also concerned with an outcome where people begin to look like mannequins.

"What I believe is best is to look like an individual, and not to have a manufactured, prescribed appearance," she explains.

She hopes that future apps will have a positive utility that might evaluate your face and notice issues such as where you're losing fat and where a

filler might help or where there's correctable skin damage. She also understands that learning this information from an app might be easier to receive than from a doctor, who might make patients feel judged or increase their self-consciousness.

"My whole goal is to build self-confidence," she notes.

Looking toward the future, Dr. Ponsky believes that the medical profession is going to depend more on AI. "Right now, it's mostly complementing our work, but in the future, it may perform better than humans."

Dr. Diana Ponsky, MD, FACS, is double board certified in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery, and otolaryngology, head, and neck surgery. For more information, visit www.dradianaponsky.com.

Shinto Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi Bar to Open at Legacy Village



Shinto Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi Bar, which will offer 18 hibachi tables, three private dining rooms, and an open kitchen with a stunning sushi bar plans to open at Legacy Village this summer. Shinto will also offer sushi classes twice a month which will include sushi making, along with saki and wine pairings. Private team-building experiences will also be available.

"Our new eastside location will take the Shinto experience to the next level," said Sheng Long Yu, owner. "Sushi classes are just one example of the fun, amazing food and drink, and stunning ambiance that awaits guests at our new Shinto restaurant."

Diners will have the opportunity to select from a lunch and dinner menu of upscale traditional and fusion-style Asian dining experiences, including Shinto sushi favorites and more exotic sushi offerings. The space will include a large bar area with big screen TVs, as well as three private rooms.

"With a planned opening this summer, diners will be greeted with a mix of the best of traditional Japanese dining with innovative new dishes and an atmosphere that will be second to none," said Susan Windle, Legacy Village general manager.

Beachwood Library Programs

Hebrew Language Storytime

Wednesday, March 5 • 4:30-5 p.m.

Join us for stories, songs, movement and rhymes in Hebrew and English. Presented in collaboration with Cleveland Shin Shinim and the Mandel Jewish Community Center.

Read & Wonder Book Club

Tuesday, March 4 • 4-4:45 p.m.
Grades 1-4

Join us for a fun chat and themed activities about a different chapter book genre each month. Details are online and at the library.

Kindergarten Countdown

Thursday, March 6 • 4-5 p.m.

For children entering kindergarten next fall and their caregiver

Join us as we help your child build kindergarten readiness skills in a program aligned to Ohio's Early Childhood Standards. This month's theme is community. Register online or at the library.

To view the library's full list of events and to register, visit <https://cuyahogalibrary.org> or call 216.831.6868.

Park Synagogue Virtual Event

Jews, Ivies & Antisemitism: The American Dream on Trial

Thursday, March 20 • 7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Featuring Mark Oppenheimer, Ph.D.

Professor at the John Danforth Center of Religion & Politics at Washington University in St. Louis

About 100 years ago, Columbia University pioneered anti-Jewish admission measures that quickly spread around other Ivy League colleges. Ever since, the welcoming of Jews has been a litmus test for the openness of a college campus – never more than today.

Come learn about the history of Jews in higher education, from the alleged quotas of a century ago through the sense of unease after the Hamas attacks of Oct. 7, 2023.



This event is free and open to the community. Pre-registration is required to receive Zoom link. To register, visit www.parksynagogue.org or email Ellen Petler at epetler@parksyn.org

This event is sponsored by the Park Senior Adult Group.

Yarn Over Beachwood

Participants of Yarn Over Beachwood knit, crochet, and loom items for different organizations and charities throughout Northeast Ohio. The group shares ideas, patterns, projects, websites, links to patterns, and more. Meetings are held the first Friday of each month from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Beachwood Library. Upcoming meetings are March 7 and April 4.

Participants create varied projects, including hats,

scarves, bunnies, bears, lapghans, soap sacks, and more. Winter items are needed and yarn donations are always welcome.

For more information or to donate yarn, contact Iris November at 216.375.9111 or lbertyclub@gmail.com.

Warm thanks to everyone who attends our meetings, donates items, and/or donates yarn and accessories. All of your efforts make a difference!



Soap Sacks

Soap sacks are requested for many diverse communities. They are easily made with cotton yarn. Once completed, add a bar of soap.

Whether you prefer to knit or crochet, various patterns are available online.

Beachwood Songbird Soars

By Arlene Fine

Hathaway Brown junior Ananya Yadati was born with a song in her heart and has been belting out tunes ever since.

"My mom's side of the family is very musical and by the time I was 2 years old, I was ear-trained in Indian classical music," Ananya said. By age 4, the budding vocalist began taking music lessons from her mom, an Indian classical music teacher.

Ananya's early training in traditional music segued into appearances in a number of community musical theater productions. This sparked her appreciation of Western music, particularly R&B and pop. "Along with Indian music, my mom and I enjoy singing popular music, particularly from one of our favorite artists, Mariah Carey," Ananya said.

Singing along with her family members, including her older sister, Anika, continues to be a joyful part of Ananya's family's life. Anika is also an accomplished singer who played lead roles at HB and was in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) finals with The Ohio State of Mind A Cappella group.

Having two musical daughters was a gift for the girls' parents, Aparna Devaguptapu and Chandra Yadati, who ensured their daughters had proper instruction to further their talents. From third grade on, Ananya studied classical music with Cleveland Heights vocal coach Helen Todd who helped the young soprano "on my musical journey in ensembles and leading roles," she said. And her piano lessons with Azee Keen continue to fuel her passion for the musical genres she enjoys playing and singing.

As her talent and training progressed, Ananya successfully entered local and state-wide vocal competitions. The Beachwood resident scored the highest rating



Ananya Yadati performing at Shining Star CLE, where she placed in the top 10.

at the Ohio Music Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble Contest for her vocal performance of classical music (2023-24).

As a sophomore, Ananya was cast as Glinda in HB's production of *The Wiz*. Her performance earned her The Dazzle Award for the best supporting actress. The Dazzle Awards inspire and honor excellence in high school musical theater and recognize the importance of musical theater and arts education within the Northeast Ohio community.

She also participated twice in the Shining Star CLE singing competition and placed in the top 10 both times.

These experiences led to Ananya's participation in award-winning composer Allan Licht's *We Are the World* remake, released on ABL Records and available on digital platforms and select radio stations.

"Ananya, one of the *We Are the World* soloists, is an amazing talent," said Allan. "I met her while I was judging the Shining Star competition. We connected after her performance which led to my recording and releasing her version of Mariah Carey's

She has a very mature, soulful style far beyond her years. I've watched her grow into a confident stylistic artist.

— Allan Licht,
Award-winning Composer

hit, *Hero*. She has a very mature, soulful style far beyond her years. I've watched her grow into a confident stylistic artist."

When she is not practicing or performing, Ananya's other interests include her school's debate team and STEM activities. Her college plans include a double major in chemical engineering and vocal music.

Whether performing the *National Anthem* at a Lake Erie Crushers game or the U.S. Army's Change of Command Ceremony, Ananya finds her greatest joy in sharing her musical talents with the Cleveland community.

"Over the years I have gained so much confidence that even if I get nervous when performing before an audience, I use my fears to propel me forward and do the very best I can," she said.

We Are the World



Last month we ran a story about the remake of *We Are the World*, which was recently brought to life at Voracity Studios, in Beachwood. This ambitious project was the brainchild of Allan Licht, an award-winning composer, lyricist, and producer who specializes in R&B, country, pop, rock, jazz, gospel, and Broadway. When we ran the story, the iconic song was about to be released. It has now been released on ABL Records and is available on digital platforms and select radio stations.

"The importance of this song is to hopefully make a difference in a divisive world: to inspire people to accept and love one another as one," Allan said.

Allan describes his work as a way to bring joy, healing, and inclusivity to others. "The importance of this song is to hopefully make a difference in a divisive world: to inspire people to accept and love one another as one," he said. "This is the culmination of a longtime dream. I grew up with the original song and replicated it, making it more relevant for today. This was the biggest project I've ever undertaken and I'm incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together."

You may listen to the new version of *We Are the World* at <https://tinyurl.com/WATWnew>.

KIDS Summer CAMP



Sign Up Today!

There are many camp and educational options in and around Beachwood.

Please review offerings that are displayed below and on the following pages.

When you register, please say you saw it in *Beachwood Buzz*!

As summer approaches, parents are looking for ways to keep their children engaged, active, and learning outside the classroom. Summer camps offer the perfect solution, providing a safe and enriching environment for kids to explore new interests, build friendships, and develop important life skills.

Key Benefits of Summer Camps:

- **Social Growth and Friendship Building** – Kids interact with peers, develop teamwork skills, and form lasting friendships.
- **Structured Fun and Learning** – Camps offer a mix of educational activities, creative projects, and outdoor play to keep young minds engaged.
- **Encourages Independence** – Children gain confidence by making choices and problem-solving in a supportive setting.
- **Physical Activity and Outdoor Time** – Camps promote a healthy lifestyle through sports, games, and nature exploration.
- **Screen-Free Engagement** – With hands-on activities, kids take a break from screens and experience real-world play.
- **Exposure to New Interests** – From arts and science to sports and leadership, camps introduce children to new passions and skills.

Summer camps provide a well-rounded experience that supports personal growth while ensuring kids have a memorable and fun-filled break. There are many options from which to choose in and around Beachwood. Spots fill up quickly so please explore your options and register early!

FAIRMOUNT EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



Fairmount Early Childhood Center is a private, district-sponsored learning center within the Beachwood City Schools.



SUMMER CAMP

FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-5 YEARS
(entering preschool-kindergarten)



7 Weeks of Fun in the Sun!
June 9 – July 25



Call Jennifer Kobylski today for information

216-464-2600, ext. 2114

24601 Fairmount Blvd. • www.beachwoodschoools.org/fairmount.aspx

Flips for Kids Summer Gymnastics Camp 2025



Jump Start Gymnastics

Ages entering K-14 yrs.

June 9-Aug. 15, 2025

9:15 am-3 pm



JSG offers gymnastic camps for ages 4-14, boys and girls, and all levels of gymnastics experience, from recreational to competitive gymnastics. Gymnastic camp at Jump Start is a great way to explore and experience gymnastics for the first time, learn new skills, or build a solid competitive base for the next season. We coach all levels of new, experienced, and competitive gymnastics. Our philosophy at JSG is that gymnastics is for everyone, an excellent basis for physical fitness, and benefits coordination for every sport and children's health.

JSG Gymnastics offers nine weeks of Flips for Kids Gymnastics Summer Camps for ages entering Kindergarten to 14 years, beginning Monday, June 9, through Friday, Aug. 15, 2025. The full-day camp is from 9:15 am to 3 pm. Weekly and daily enrollment is available.

Aftercare is offered daily from 3 to 5 pm. The fee is \$10 per day and pre-registration is required.

There are no refunds for canceled, absent, or unattended camp days or weeks, aftercare, or open gym.

Week 1 • June 9-13

Get the Summer Moving Flip Style!

9:15 am - 3 pm • Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.

Get the summer started with Flips for Kids Camp! In addition to basic gymnastics on bars, beams, floors, and trampolines, gymnasts will engage in gymnastic games and an open gym.

Week 2 • June 16-20

Gymkata for Boys and Girls – Train like a Gym Warrior!

9:15 am - 3 pm • Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.

In addition to gymnastic instruction in all of the traditional Olympic events, games, and open gyms, campers will be introduced to various forms of strength and coordination activities, agility course planning, creating, and group participation.

No camp June 19. The camp fee is prorated.

Week 3 • June 23-27

Dance Explosion! Ballet to Breakdancing

9:15 am - 3 pm • Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.

In addition to gymnastic instruction in all traditional Olympic events, games, and open gyms, campers will be introduced to various dance genres, including hip hop, ballet, jazz, free dance, and how to create a gymnastic balance beam and floor routine.

CLOSED JUNE 30-JULY 4

Week 4 • July 7-10

Pajama - It's a Party Week! Part 1

9:15 am - 3 pm • Mon., Tues., Wed, Thurs.

In addition to gymnastic instruction in all traditional Olympic events, games, and open gyms, camper groups will have all the fun of PJ day for a week, including crazy hair, mismatched, backward, and comfy PJ day!

Week 5 • July 14-17

Pajama Party - Part 2!

9:15 am - 3 pm • Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.

In addition to gymnastic instruction in all traditional Olympic events, games, and open gyms, camper groups will have all the fun of PJ day for a week, including crazy hair, mismatched, backward, and comfy PJ day! Thursday will be "movie night" with a G-rated film and popcorn!

Week 6 • July 21-24

Best of the Olympic Events – Gymnastic Style

9:15 am - 3 pm • Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.

In addition to gymnastic instruction at all traditional Olympic events, games, and open gyms, camper groups compete in various Olympic sports, utilizing gymnastic equipment in track and field, volleyball, and group gymnastic routines, of course!

Week 7 • July 28-31

Invention Convention for Thrills

Let's Learn a New Skill!

9:15 am - 3 pm • Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.

In addition to gymnastic instruction in all traditional Olympic events, games, and open gyms, camper groups will focus on acquiring new gymnastic skills and learning how to create a gymnastic routine.

Week 8 • Aug. 4-8

Team Spirit Week

9:15 am - 3 pm • Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.

In addition to gymnastic instruction in all traditional Olympic events, games, and open gyms, campers will learn team building skills through group games and gymnastics activities.

Week 9 • Aug. 11-15

Flips, Twists, and More

9:15 am - 3 pm • Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.

In addition to gymnastic instruction in all traditional Olympic events, games, and open gym, campers will create their own routines.

**Weekly enrollment, daily enrollment, and aftercare are available through the Parent Portal at <https://portal.iclasspro.com/jumpstartgymnastics>
23700 Mercantile Rd. • Beachwood
216.896.0295 • www.jsngymnastics.com
jsngymnastics@jsngymnastics.com**

**Flips for Kids Camp Fees: \$300 Mon. - Fri.;
\$240 Mon. - Thurs., four-day week; or \$60 per day**

Daily aftercare 3-5 pm: \$10 per day



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Cultivate curiosity, learn new skills, and explore science and nature during summer adventures at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. From learning the ropes as a field scientist, to creating your own cast of a fossil or protecting Ohio's rarest species, our 2025 experiences promise an unforgettable summer for every camper.

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Michael & Anita Siegal One Happy Camper Program Offers Incentive Grants for Overnight Jewish Camp

Families with children attending one of over 160 nonprofit Jewish overnight camps, for 12 days or more, may be eligible for a grant of up to \$1,000, regardless of need.

Grants are also available for second-year campers attending denominational camps, such as Ramah camps, URJ Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI), and Camp Stone.

Summers at overnight camps are packed with a wide range of activities – aquatics, arts and crafts, sports, dance, music, cooking, archery, drama, outdoor adventure, podcasting, and much more! Campers are encouraged to discover new skills and interests.

Jewish camp weaves Jewish values, culture, and traditions into the fabric of camp, helping campers to connect to their own identity and the larger Jewish community. Dynamic staff members use experiential learning to reveal what makes Jewish religion and culture special in today's world.

Families can find camps and apply for grants by visiting www.jecc.org/onehappycamper.

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Camps are designed for children in preschool through 8th grade. Whether your child is a budding artist, an up-and-coming actor, an inspiring dancer, or simply looking to dig into the arts, we have a camp for them. Don't miss out – registration is now open at www.fairmountcenter.org.



Summer Camp Grant Program for Russian-Speaking Jewish Campers

A scholarship is available for campers from the Russian-speaking Jewish community attending a Jewish overnight summer camp.

Russian-speaking Jewish families make up an important part of our community, but are often underrepresented at Jewish overnight camp. We're hoping to connect with families and demonstrate what a great value Jewish camp can be for their child's development.

Greater Cleveland-area campers with at least one Russian-speaking parent are eligible for the grant, which is \$750 per camper. While both first-time and second-time campers can apply, priority will be given to first time campers.

At camp, in addition to arts-and-crafts, swimming, sports, and Hebrew, campers learn skills like leadership, teamwork, independence, and problem solving, all of which are extremely important and applicable to life year-round. They try out new things and find the best version of themselves. Furthermore, Jewish overnight camp provides the opportunity to connect with Jewish peers and role models.

This grant is available through a partnership between the Foundation for Jewish Camp, the Jewish Federation of Cleveland and the Jewish Education Center. Cleveland is one of the first communities to have been offered this partnership.

For more information, please visit www.jecc.org/rsjcamp, email campgrants@jecc.org, or call 216.371.0446.

Greater Cleveland-area campers with at least one Russian-speaking parent are eligible for the grant, which is up to \$750 per camper. While both first-time and second-time campers can apply, priority will be given to first-time campers.



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This scholarship program is a unique opportunity for Jewish children living in Greater Cleveland with at least one Russian-speaking parent.

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This scholarship program has been made possible with the generous support from:



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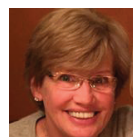
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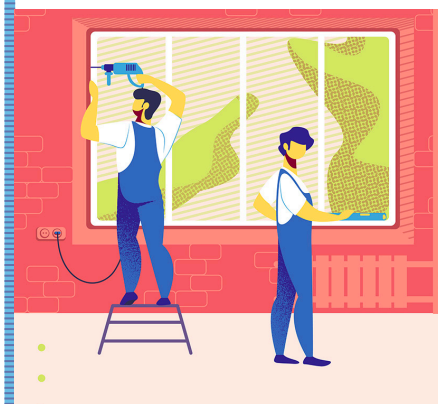
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