

Beachwood Buzz

June 2026

Every Resident. Every Business. Every Month.

MAGAZINE

Cleveland Pops Orchestra A Love Story Set to Music

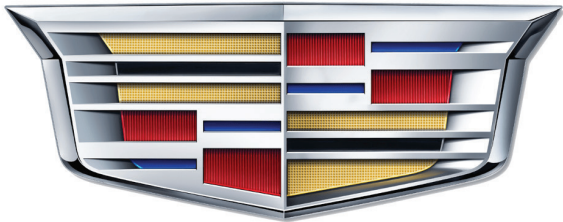


Also inside:

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Pool Party Nights
Beachwood Beats
Megan Piccione High Jewelry Featured at Met Gala
Wally Kaplan Art Exhibit
Summer Favorites at Legacy Village
Arbor Day Celebration
Family Kindness Festival
... and so much more!

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Capturing the Moment

Over the past few years, I have found myself drawn to photography – specifically nature photography – not only as a way to capture pictures, but as a way to see.

This year, I became a member of both the Beachwood Photography Group and the Chagrin Valley Camera Club, and I am grateful to continue learning from both. Each club offers something different; both have helped me understand that photography is less about the camera and more about perspective, patience, composition, light, and storytelling.

The heart of photography is the practice of noticing – and then capturing a feeling, a mood, a memory, or an emotion that lingers. Sure, there are settings to learn and lenses to understand, but the deeper lesson relates to observing, slowing down, and recognizing beauty in the ordinary – how to frame an image and resonate with the “why” behind why I took the shot in the first place.

Last month I participated in a Beachwood Photography Group project that was created 12 years ago by Herb Ascherman, who leads the club. The assignment was to create a self-portrait that reflects who we are today, not who we were in the past or who we hope to become in the future: Who we are right now, at this exact moment in life.

Herb first created the project because, as he put it, “It seemed like a good idea that would challenge those who participated and, once completed, it would become a valuable life document.”

Instructions for this assignment were to compose a self-portrait with eight to 10 items that represent who we are today and then have someone shoot it.

In my self-portrait, I have photos of loved ones and items that represent my interests and shape my days. I also included my 2026 vision board and word of the year – pause – as a reminder to slow down and focus on what I feel is important.

At every stage of life, we grow, change, stretch, regroup, and sometimes face challenges that reshape us. This project, when done regularly, becomes a visual timeline – something we can share, revisit, and reflect upon. Much like a journal, it helps us see what continues to serve us, what no longer serves us, and how we are evolving with the passage of time.

Now, I extend this challenge to you: Create your own self-portrait.

You don’t need an expensive camera or perfect lighting – a cell-phone camera will do. Gather some objects that reflect who you are today. Arrange them, stand among them, and have someone capture this moment in time. Then, repeat the process next year. Even more powerful? Make this a family project.

Over time, you will thank yourself as you look back at these images and reminisce.

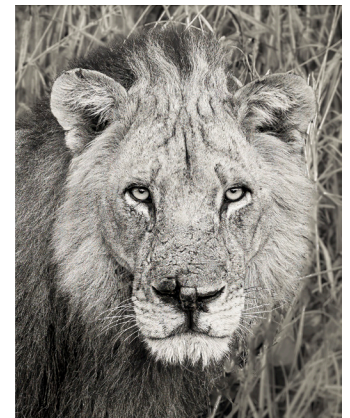
I am especially grateful that, through both the Beachwood Photography Group and the

Chagrin Valley Camera Club, I am continually learning, stretching creatively, and seeing the world with fresh eyes. Last month, I participated in my first juried show with the Chagrin Valley Camera Club and was honored to place third in the black-and-white category with *Sovereign Stare*, a photo I took last summer in Botswana.

Both the portrait assignment and photography competition pulled me from my comfort zone and reminded me that photography is not simply about what we see through the lens. It is about what we notice, the story we’re trying to tell, the lighting, and how we feel from the outcome of captured memories.

With spring in the air, let’s take time to notice what is blooming – both internally and externally – and to capture the moments that matter.

Photography is not simply about what we see through the lens. It is about what we notice, the story we’re trying to tell, and the memories we choose to capture.



Sovereign Stare, third-place winner in the black-and-white category of the Chagrin Valley Camera Club competition.



Beachwood Photography Group self portrait, 2026.

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Cleveland families can get 100% kid-focused care without driving too far or waiting too long. Visit our locations in Mayfield Heights and Beachwood, and look for our new location at Boys & Girls Club, Broadway, coming soon.

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Lab

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(ENT, orthopedics,
gastroenterology)

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surgery

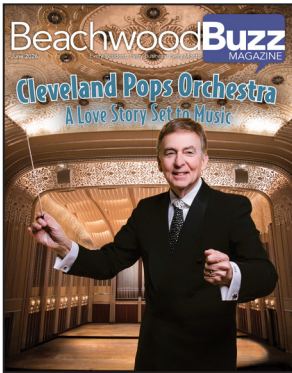
Radiology

Urology

Cover Story:

Cleveland Pops Orchestra

A Love Story Set to Music



Pictured: Carl Topilow, founding conductor and music director of Cleveland Pops Orchestra.

In many ways, Cleveland Pops Orchestra is a love story set to music. It began with a shared vision between Carl Topilow and his late wife, Shirley Morgenstern Topilow, rooted in the belief that orchestral music could be exceptional, accessible, and fun. Although The Cleveland Orchestra had a strong presence, it did not have an orchestra devoted to symphonic pops. Carl and Shirley believed there was room in the city's cultural landscape for both – and that Northeast Ohio audiences would embrace the energy, familiarity, and excitement of pops music performed by a full symphonic orchestra.

Full story, by Debby Zelman Rapoport, starts on page 7. Photos by Scott Morrison, Discovery Photo, with select photos submitted by Cleveland Pops Orchestra.

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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

Beachwood Buzz is a privately owned, independent community magazine that supports the City of Beachwood and Beachwood Board of Education. We reserve the right to accept or decline any advertising or content.

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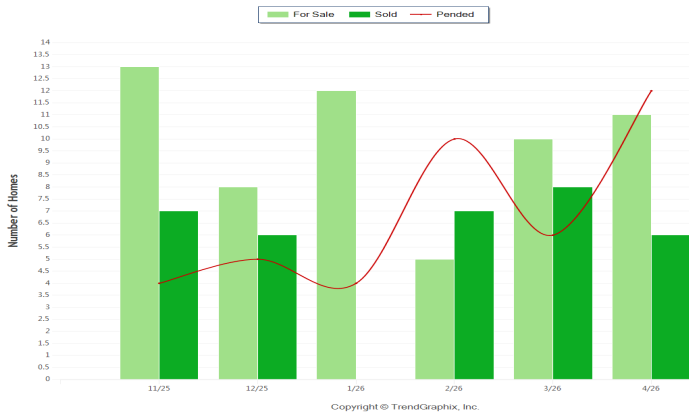
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Real Estate Statistical Update by Sharon Friedman



Homes SOLD in Beachwood Feb. 12, 2026 – May 13, 2026

| Street | Days | List | Sold | LP/SP% | Bed | Bath | Built |
|------------|------|-----------|-----------|--------|-----|------|-------|
| S Green | 87 | 379,900 | 350,000 | 92% | 3 | 2 | 1955 |
| Hazelmere | 8 | 350,000 | 400,000 | 114% | 3 | 3 | 1964 |
| Halworth | 65 | 399,900 | 405,000 | 101% | 4 | 3 | 1952 |
| Halburton | 4 | 439,000 | 451,500 | 103% | 4 | 3 | 1954 |
| Bryden | 17 | 465,000 | 472,500 | 102% | 3 | 4 | 1956 |
| E Baintree | 107 | 525,000 | 500,000 | 95% | 5 | 3 | 1956 |
| Ramsay | 8 | 499,000 | 510,000 | 102% | 3 | 3 | 1956 |
| Hendon | 1 | 515,000 | 515,000 | 100% | 4 | 3 | 1973 |
| E Baintree | 37 | 499,000 | 520,000 | 104% | 4 | 2 | 1950 |
| Meldon | 13 | 589,900 | 685,000 | 116% | 4 | 3 | 1963 |
| Belvoir | 34 | 650,000 | 690,000 | 106% | 5 | 5 | 1928 |
| Annesley | 5 | 699,000 | 693,200 | 99% | 3 | 3 | 1969 |
| Haverhill | 11 | 719,500 | 709,000 | 99% | 3 | 5 | 1993 |
| Fairwood | 55 | 725,000 | 725,000 | 100% | 3 | 4 | 2008 |
| Bryden | 50 | 775,000 | 730,000 | 94% | 4 | 3 | 1950 |
| Bridgeton | 1 | 699,000 | 750,000 | 107% | 4 | 3 | 1968 |
| S Belvoir | 1 | 820,000 | 820,000 | 100% | 5 | 5 | 1932 |
| Halburton | 12 | 849,000 | 850,000 | 100% | 5 | 4 | 1978 |
| Brian | 59 | 875,000 | 850,000 | 97% | 5 | 4 | 1968 |
| Wendover | 2 | 860,000 | 860,000 | 100% | 4 | 5 | 1977 |
| Shaker | 32 | 950,000 | 900,000 | 95% | 5 | 6 | 1959 |
| Bernwood | 33 | 995,000 | 1,000,000 | 101% | 4 | 6 | 1984 |
| Greenwich | 253 | 1,697,000 | 1,697,000 | 100% | 6 | 7 | 2026 |

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 Friedman

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PENDING!

26161 Shaker Boulevard
List price \$950,000
4 Bed, 4.0 Bath COLONIAL



PENDING IN 6 DAYS!

25235 Penshurst Drive
List price \$895,000
4 Bed, 3.5 Bath COLONIAL



PENDING IN 5 DAYS!

3 Windrush Ln in The Village
List price \$449,900
3 Bed, 2.5 Bath TOWNHOME



JUST SOLD!

4 Chelsea Ct in The Village
List price \$395,000
2 Bed, 2.5 Bath TOWNHOME

Sharon's Recent Beachwood Sales & Listings

- JUST SOLD 3/26: 2660 Ramsay Road list \$499,000
- JUST SOLD 3/26: 26091 Shaker Boulevard list \$950,000
- JUST SOLD 2/26: 5 Hampshire Ct in The Village list \$599,000
- JUST SOLD 2/26: 25805 Fairmount #107 Fairmount list \$399,900
- JUST SOLD IN 7 DAYS 12/25: 25219 Duffield Road list \$665,000
- JUST SOLD 12/25: 2172 Lyndway Road list \$450,000
- JUST SOLD 12/25: 27500 Cedar #305 in Point East list \$349,900
- JUST SOLD 11/25: 23420 Wendover Drive list \$650,000
- LISTED/SOLD IN 3 DAYS 11/25: 2500 Deborah Dr list \$550,000
- JUST SOLD 11/25: 23105 E Groveland Road list \$418,000
- JUST SOLD 11/25: 24335 Fairmount Blvd list \$367,500
- JUST SOLD 11/25: 3194 Richmond Rd Wedgewood list \$325,000
- JUST SOLD 10/25: 26701 Bernwood Road list \$799,000
- JUST SOLD 9/25: 25106 Duffield Road list \$745,000

- JUST LEASED: 2500 Deborah Dr list \$3,800/mnth
- JUST LEASED: 25111 S Woodland Road list \$3,300/mnth
- JUST LEASED: 2207 Campus Road list \$2,450/mnth

Sharon Friedman Is The #1 Agent in Beachwood in 2025*

*as ranked by MLS Now



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Cleveland Pops Orchestra



A Love Story Set to Music

By Debby Zelman Rapoport

In many ways, Cleveland Pops Orchestra is a love story set to music. It began with a shared vision between Carl Topilow and his late wife, Shirley Morgenstern Topilow, rooted in belief that orchestral music could be exceptional, accessible, and fun. Although The Cleveland Orchestra had a strong presence, it did not have an orchestra devoted to symphonic pops. Carl and Shirley believed there was room in the city's cultural landscape for both – and that Northeast Ohio audiences would embrace the energy, familiarity, and excitement of pops music performed by a full symphonic orchestra.

Founded in 1993, Cleveland Pops Orchestra grew from that belief. After years of hard work, community support, and the dedication of friends and believers, the orchestra made its public debut on Oct. 12, 1996. Today, Cleveland Pops is known as one of the few independent symphonic pops orchestras in the nation.

Since its creation, Carl has been bringing music to life from the podium with warmth, artistry, and a sense of showmanship. As founding conductor and music director, he has shaped programs that blend the familiar and the unexpected – Broadway, Hollywood, jazz, big band, light classics, patriotic marches, and popular favorites – performed with the richness of a full symphonic orchestra.

Cleveland Pops Celebrates a Milestone Season

Cleveland Pops Orchestra is celebrating its 30th anniversary season, marking three decades of music that has filled concert halls, lifted spirits, and reached into the community. The organization announced its 2026–2027 season as part of this milestone celebration, with performances at Severance Music Center and special programming designed to showcase the breadth, energy, and heart of symphonic pops. In addition to the shows listed below, the orchestra will be performing this summer in outdoor concerts. Be sure to visit clevelandpops.com for details.

Carl's love of music began in childhood. His older brother was a pianist and, when Carl was 9, he was given a clarinet. By 11, he had added saxophone and, by 13, flute, playing in a local community orchestra. At 15, he conducted *The Star-Spangled Banner* at a high school basketball game and, at 18, he conducted Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture* with the community orchestra – early opportunities that helped point him toward the path he would follow.

That same year, Carl attended Camp Indian Hill, an arts camp that became a turning point in his life.

"It was a revelation," he recalls. "I realized I wasn't the odd man out. I was surrounded by people who loved the same things I loved – music, art, dance, and drama."

Playing the clarinet along with LPs of the music of Beethoven and Brahms deepened what he describes as a "tremendous love" for orchestral music. He went on to participate in all-state orchestra and band, and initially enrolled at Rutgers University before realizing, just a few weeks into the semester, that he needed to fully pursue music. He transferred to the Manhattan School of Music, where he continued building the foundation for a life in performance, teaching, and conducting.

To help pay his way, Carl played saxophone and clarinet at bar mitzvahs and weddings, including summer jobs in the Catskill Mountains beginning at age 16. Although he later earned a master's degree in music education and taught music in the Bronx, his dream was to conduct.

"I always wanted to be a conductor," he said. "Although it was a long process, I had the determination, willpower, and a great desire to succeed."

Carl's professional path eventually brought him to Cleveland. After serving as assistant conductor of the Denver Symphony and then conductor of the National Repertory Orchestra (NRO), a summer festival based in Breckenridge, Colorado, he came to Cleveland to hold auditions for potential new NRO orchestra members. While here, the dean from the Cleveland Institute of Music approached him about a job opportunity – a conversation that landed him a position as conductor of the CIM orchestra and instructor for the master's program in orchestral conducting.

Carl had always loved Broadway and show music, so when he and Shirley saw an opportunity in Cleveland's cultural landscape to create a pops orchestra, they acted on it. After hearing pops programming elsewhere, they wondered why Cleveland did not have an orchestra devoted to symphonic pops.

"Shirley and I asked, 'Why can't we do that here in Cleveland?'"
Carl



Carl Topilow performing on one of his signature clarinets.

said. "There was no pops orchestra here and we believed there was room for both The Cleveland Orchestra and a pops orchestra."

They shared their idea with Thomas Morris, then executive director of The Cleveland Orchestra, and received his blessing. Cleveland Pops first performed at venues including the Convocation Center and the Ohio Theatre, making Severance Hall its home in 2000.

Shirley brought the vision, leadership, and steady heart that helped give Carl's musical dream a home. As founding president and CEO, she understood that an orchestra is not built on music alone. It is built on relationships, trust, persistence, and the ability to make people feel part of something meaningful. Her influence helped transform an idea into an enduring Northeast Ohio institution.

Among Carl's many accomplishments, Cleveland Pops remains the most personal expression of his life's work – a place where music meets memory, where concerts become celebrations, and where audiences of all ages can experience the power of live orchestral music in a way that feels welcoming and alive.

Today, that legacy is being carried forward by the next generation. As director of strategy and planning, Carl and Shirley's daughter Emily is helping guide the Cleveland Pops into its next chapter – with deep respect for the organization's past and fresh energy for its future.

"My parents founded this organization nearly 30 years ago, and my vision is to carry it strong into the next 30 years and beyond," she said. "I want to bring new energy to the Cleveland Pops and elevate its presence across the community. We have something truly special here, a cultural gem, and it's important that more people experience it and feel connected to it."

"We have something truly special here, a cultural gem, and it's important that more people experience it and feel connected to it."

~ Emily Topilow, Cleveland Pops Director of Strategy and Planning



Emily Topilow, Cleveland Pops director of strategy and planning, is honored to carry forward her parents' legacy from the desk where her mother once led the organization.



From left: Cleveland Pops Orchestra co-founders Carl Topilow and Shirley Morganstern Topilow with John Newburger, the organization's first board chair.

For her, the work is both professional and profoundly personal. She now works from her mother's desk – the same desk where Shirley spent countless hours building and nurturing the organization.

"It's truly an honor to sit at my mother's desk," she said. "I have vivid memories of being a child, playing under it while she ran the organization. Growing up in the Pops office shaped who I am, and there's something deeply meaningful about continuing her work in that same space. I keep a photo of us together on the desk, and it's a daily reminder of her guidance and the legacy I'm proud to carry forward."

The Beachwood connection makes that legacy even more meaningful. A Beachwood High School graduate, Emily now helps lead the Pops from its Beachwood office – a full-circle moment that reflects both family history and community pride.

"Growing up in Beachwood taught me the value of community," she said. "The Pops has long been connected to that spirit. We're proud members of the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce, which played an important role in the organization's early growth. There's a real sense of camaraderie and pride in continuing our work here. For me, it truly feels like coming home."

That welcoming spirit is also reflected in the orchestra's educational mission. Through programs such as the Cleveland Pops Youth Orchestra and scholarship opportunities, the Pops continues to nurture new generations of musicians and music lovers. Its work reaches beyond the concert hall, enriching the cultural fabric of Northeast Ohio and reminding us that music is not only something we listen to – it is something we share.

Though Shirley is no longer here to experience each standing ovation, her presence still echoes in every note, every smile, and every moment when the music lifts an audience beyond the everyday. Her legacy lives on in the orchestra she helped bring to life, in the family that continues her work, and in the joy the Cleveland Pops continues to share with the community.

As the Cleveland Pops celebrates its milestone anniversary season, Carl and Shirley's shared dream continues to play on. What began as a vision has become a lasting gift to Northeast Ohio: a cultural institution built on artistry, love, perseverance, community, and the belief that music has the power to bring people together.

2026–2027 Season Highlights

A 250th Celebration

Saturday, June 6, 2026

Severance Music Center

A "Made in America" performance honoring America's semiquincentennial celebration, including ragtime, Dixieland, big band, rock, country, hip-hop and more, along with a salute to the armed forces and first responders.

Disco & Motown: A Night to Dance

Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026 • 7:30 p.m.

Severance Music Center

A high-energy evening where soulful Motown meets sparkling disco.

Jingle Bell Pops

Sunday, Nov. 29, 2026 • 2 p.m.

Playhouse Square

A Cleveland holiday tradition featuring festive favorites, Santa, and lobby activities.

Stage to Screen: Broadway Movie Hits

Saturday, Jan. 30, 2027 • 7:30 p.m.

Severance Music Center

A celebration of beloved music that moved from Broadway to film – and back again.

Tina Turner: Queen of Rock & Soul

Saturday, March 13, 2027 • 7:30 p.m.

Severance Music Center

An electrifying tribute to Tina Turner's powerhouse songs and unstoppable energy.

Rick Steves' Europe: A Symphonic Journey

Saturday, April 3, 2027 • 7:30 p.m.

Severance Music Center

Travel expert Rick Steves guides audiences across Europe on screen, accompanied by a sweeping Cleveland Pops soundtrack.

The Soundtrack of Our Lives with Helen Welch

Friday, April 23, 2027 • 7:30 p.m.

Severance Music Center

Helen Welch brings favorites from pop, Broadway, jazz, and more in a heartfelt concert celebrating the songs that mark our lives.

Symphony of Stars

Saturday, June 5, 2027 • 7:30 p.m.

Severance Music Center

A breathtaking journey through space, combining NASA imagery with dramatic music and narration by a veteran astronaut.



The Pickleball Boom

How to Keep Playing Strong

- According to Someone Addicted to the Sport



I have a confession: I'm completely addicted to pickleball.

What started as "I'll just try it out" quickly turned into:

- "One more game..."
- "Best 2 out of 3..."
- "Okay, maybe just one last match before dinner..."

Suddenly, I found myself playing multiple days per week, chasing shots I probably had no business chasing, and waking up sore in muscles I forgot existed.

Then it happened.

First came the elbow pain. Then came the Achilles tendon pain. Like many pickleball players, I

ignored the warning signs:

- tight muscles
- stiffness
- soreness after playing
- not stretching enough
- not recovering properly

I convinced myself I was "fine."

Spoiler alert: I was not fine.

As a physical therapist, and pickleball enthusiast, I now see firsthand how common these injuries have become. The sport is fantastic for activity, fitness, socialization, coordination, and cardiovascular health. But the fast movements, repetitive swings, quick pivots, and competitive nature of the game can

place significant stress on the body. Especially when we suddenly go from winter hibernation to "four games in a row without warming up."

Warning Signs You May Be Overdoing It

You limp the morning after playing

Your first few steps out of bed are painful

You skip stretching because "you'll be fine"

Your recovery takes longer every week

You say, "It's probably nothing" multiple times per day

The Pickleball Boom – How to Keep Playing Strong



6025 Kruse Dr #123, Solon, OH 44139

The Most Common Pickleball Injuries

Pickleball Elbow

This was my personal wake-up call.

One of the most common issues involves irritation of the tendons on the outside of the elbow from repetitive paddle gripping and swinging.

Players often notice:

- pain opening jars
- soreness lifting objects
- discomfort gripping the paddle
- aching after matches

This injury tends to creep up slowly — until suddenly even pouring coffee becomes painful and annoying. I personally had difficulty spraying hairspray!

Achilles Tendon Pain

Quick starts, sudden stops, lunging, and explosive movements place heavy stress on the Achilles tendon. Tight calves and poor flexibility dramatically increase the risk.

Many players describe:

- stiffness in the morning
- pain pushing off
- soreness after activity
- tightness walking downstairs

Ignoring it usually does not make it better.

Trust me.

Shoulder Injuries

Repeated overhead shots and fast volleys can irritate the rotator cuff and shoulder tendons, especially when posture and upper back mobility are limited.

Common complaints include:

- pain reaching overhead
- weakness during serves
- difficulty sleeping on the shoulder
- stiffness after playing



Knee Pain & Ankle Sprains

Pickleball requires rapid side-to-side movement and quick changes in direction. Weak hips, poor balance, and decreased ankle stability can increase stress on both the knees and ankles.

And, yes: Sometimes the court seems much farther away when chasing a short shot than it did a few years ago!

How to Help Prevent Injuries

The good news? A few simple habits can dramatically reduce injury risk.

1. Stretch Your Calves

Tight calves increase stress on the Achilles tendon and knees.

Quick Stretch: Stand facing a wall with one leg behind you and heel flat. Hold 30 seconds.



A BIG thank you to the amazing staff at ACE Pickleball Club in Solon!

Like Cheers, it's the club "where everyone knows your name."

2. Strengthen Your Glutes & Legs

Strong hips help reduce stress on the knees and ankles.

Exercise: Sit-to-Stand Squats - Stand up from a chair without using your hands if possible. Repeat 10–15 times.



3. Improve Balance

Balance training helps reaction time and ankle stability.

Exercise: Single-Leg Stand Balance on one leg for 20–30 seconds.

Bonus challenge: Try it while turning your head side to side or close eyes.



4. Stretch Your Forearms & Wrists

This can help reduce stress on the elbow tendons.

Quick Stretch: Straighten your arm with palm down and gently pull fingers downward until a gentle stretch is felt.



Play Smarter — Not Less

Nobody wants to stop playing pickleball. I certainly don't!

The goal is not to avoid playing, it's to prepare the body properly so you can continue doing what you *love* safely and comfortably.

Physical therapy can help improve:

- flexibility
- strength
- balance
- mobility
- injury prevention



so players can stay active and keep enjoying the sport long-term.

Because the only thing worse than losing a pickleball match, is having to sit out and watch everyone else play!

Kelly Beaudoin - Pickleball Enthusiast & CEO Balance Solutions Physical Therapy

Best Lawyers ONES TO WATCH

DAN BARON

2026



Utilizing Advanced Estate Planning Strategies

Estate planning represents a fundamental aspect of wealth management for all households; however, there are some strategies that some families utilize to save on taxes and ensure their assets are protected. For high-net-worth individuals, estate planning transcends the drafting of a simple will. It necessitates a comprehensive strategy to reduce estate taxes, safeguard assets from litigation and creditors, and ensure wealth distribution follows the client's intentions.

Irrevocable trusts play a pivotal role in this process, as assets transferred into such trusts are no longer considered part of the client's estate. Consequently, these assets are exempt from estate tax calculations and are shielded from potential claims, thereby reinforcing the

security of family wealth. Various irrevocable trusts, including a Spousal Lifetime Access Trust (SLAT), Grantor Retained Annuity Trust (GRAT), Irrevocable Life Insurance Trust (ILIT) and Ohio Legacy Trusts, serve as essential instruments within these strategies, facilitating the protection and continuity of financial legacies. Let's take a closer look at how each of these trusts works.

Spousal Lifetime Access Trust (SLAT)

A Spousal Lifetime Access Trust is a widely utilized estate planning tool among wealthy families and is excellent for those in a "happy marriage." This irrevocable trust enables one spouse to transfer assets into a trust for the benefit of the other spouse (and potentially other beneficiaries) while simultaneously removing those assets from the taxable estate. The principal advantages of a SLAT include the reduction of estate tax liability, protection from creditors, continued financial access for the beneficiary spouse, and the accrual of asset appreciation outside the taxable estate. The spouse can use funds from the trust to maintain their standard of living even though the trust assets have been removed from the estate. SLATs most often terminate at the death of the

beneficiary spouse, at which point the trust assets pass to the other SLAT beneficiaries (typically a younger generation), either outright or in trust. Assets held in trust are then completely protected, and the beneficiaries can take distributions as needed.

Grantor Retained Annuity Trust (GRAT)

Another effective estate planning instrument is the Grantor Retained Annuity Trust, which enables the grantor to transfer appreciating assets to beneficiaries while minimizing exposure to gift and estate taxes. Under this arrangement, the grantor transfers assets into the GRAT and retains the right to receive annuity payments for a predetermined period. Upon the expiration of the term, any residual assets in the trust pass to the designated beneficiaries without incurring additional estate taxes. For example, if you transfer \$1 million to a GRAT, receive an annuity payment, and during the term, it grows to \$1.5 million, the \$500,000 in growth will pass to your beneficiaries free of estate and gift tax. This strategy is ideal for business owners or individuals with rapidly appreciating assets.

The effectiveness of a GRAT is contingent upon the appreciation of trust assets at a rate exceeding the IRS's assumed rate of return, thereby allowing excess growth to be transferred tax-free. The principal benefits of a GRAT include the minimization of gift taxes, the efficient transfer of wealth, and the strategic use of asset appreciation. Nevertheless, this trust structure is subject to risks, such as mortality risk, wherein the premature death of the grantor results in the inclusion of trust assets in the estate, and the possibility of insufficient asset appreciation,

which may negate the intended tax advantages.

Irrevocable Life Insurance Trust (ILIT)

Beyond SLATs and GRATs, families frequently employ additional irrevocable trusts to optimize asset protection and estate management. An Irrevocable Life Insurance Trust (ILIT) serves to exclude life insurance proceeds from the taxable estate, ensuring that beneficiaries receive the full policy value while simultaneously providing liquidity to cover estate expenses and shielding insurance proceeds from creditors. ILITs were very popular in the 1990s and early 2000s however, their use is not as popular with the federal estate tax exclusion now at \$15 million.

Ohio Legacy Trust (aka Domestic Asset Protection Trust)

An Ohio Legacy Trust, designed for intergenerational wealth preservation, facilitates the transfer of assets across multiple generations without incurring estate taxes at each transfer, thereby preserving family wealth and affording protection from creditors and divorce settlements. An Ohio Legacy Trust, aka Domestic Asset Protection Trust (DAPT), is structured to insulate assets from creditors while allowing the grantor (creator) to remain a discretionary beneficiary under specific conditions. This trust mechanism enhances asset protection, offers potential estate tax benefits, and ensures continued financial security for the grantor.

If the primary objective is the efficient transfer of wealth with minimal tax implications, a DAPT may be most suitable. A SLAT, by contrast, is particularly advantageous for individuals

seeking to provide financial security for a spouse while simultaneously achieving estate tax savings. DAPTs are often used by clients with a higher risk of lawsuits, such as doctors, business owners, or athletes. They are a great way to protect their wealth while also reducing potential estate tax concerns.

Be Cautious of Offshore Asset Protection Trusts

Although not recommended, another popular source of protecting assets is an offshore asset protection trust. These trusts, while potentially beneficial for asset protection, come with several risks, including high costs, legal complexity, and potential IRS scrutiny. These trusts also involve relinquishing direct control over assets and can be subject to political and economic instability in the foreign jurisdiction. Additionally, U.S. courts can still exert jurisdiction over assets located within the U.S., and offshore trusts may not be effective against certain types of claims, such as IRS penalties or certain governmental agency actions.

Which Trust is Right for You?

If your assets are nearing the estate tax exemption, one or a combination of the above-named trusts would benefit your family. Note that even if estate taxes are not a concern, a revocable family trust is always recommended to avoid probate and protect heirs. To learn more or to schedule a free consultation, contact me at dan@baronlawcleveland.com or 216-573-3723.

**3401 Enterprise Parkway,
Suite 340
Beachwood, OH 44122**



From the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce



BCC Women's Coffee Hour Topic: Addressing Our Literacy Emergency: Fighting Poor Reading Results with Imagination and Motivation

Thursday, June 11 • 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Beachwood Library
Members: No charge
Nonmembers: \$10

Joan Spoerl, M.A.T., director of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at The Literacy Cooperative, will address the growing literacy emergency locally and nationwide. Recent research and reports highlight that we are in the midst of a literacy emergency both locally and nationwide. Two out of three children in Ohio are not ready for kindergarten – numbers that increase to eight out of 10 in the city of

Cleveland. When a child starts behind, they often stay behind and it's hard to catch up.

Nationwide, high school seniors tested at the lowest levels ever in reading in the history of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). There's been a 40% decline in the number of Americans reading for pleasure between 2003 and 2023. College professors report students who balk at the thought of reading an entire book.

In this presentation, you'll learn about an important, evidence-based and cost-effective solution already making a difference among youngsters and families in our community. Join us in embracing hope and imagination to reverse these trends.

Networking at Five Iron Golf

Wednesday, June 24
4:30-6:30 p.m.

20040 Van Aken Blvd.
Members: No Charge
Nonmembers: \$10

BCC Women's Coffee Hour Topic: High-Functioning, Still Struggling: Mental Health for Women Who Lead, Build, and Carry it All

Thursday, July 9 • 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Right Direction Behavioral Health
3659 Green Rd. #220
Members: No charge
Nonmembers: \$10

Deandra Evans, licensed professional clinical counselor with supervision designation, is the founder and CEO of Right Direction Behavioral Health Services, founder and CEO of Right

Direction Community Services, and co-owner of Collaborative Community Services.

Deandra is known for her passion, vision, and unwavering commitment to helping others. Her work is grounded in the belief that everyone deserves access to compassionate, culturally responsive care and the opportunity to thrive. Through her leadership, she continues to build innovative programs, foster meaningful partnerships, and advocate for lasting change within the behavioral health system.

Save the date – details next month!

Chamber Luncheon
Topic: Building a Successful Regional Real Estate Business
Wednesday, Aug. 19
Heck's Cafe

To register for these programs, visit www.beachwood.org.

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Beachwood Historical Society Invitations

Heroes Who Shaped America
Saturday, June 27 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center

Come celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country's independence with an evening honoring the lives of individuals who helped shape our nation.

To make a reservation, call 216.595.3400 and be sure to leave your name and the number of people attending.



Yoga in Gorden Gateway Park
Saturdays, July 11, 18 and 25
10-11 a.m.

Join Julie Konrad in the pavilion for these free programs, which will be held rain or shine. Please bring a mat and/or chair.

Tai Chi in Gorden Gateway Park
Sundays, July 12, 19, and 26
10-11 a.m.

Join Jen Stepien in the pavilion for these free programs, which will be held rain or shine.



Beachwood Arts Council

Ohio Collage Society Member Exhibit
Saturday, May 30 – Sunday, July 12

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

Weekends: Call 216.292.1970 for available hours

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 30, 5-7 p.m.

Ohio Collage Society, an organization founded by Gretchen Bierbaum, seeks to educate the public about collage and to exhibit the work of collage artists in Ohio. The group's work demonstrates

the diversity in both concept and form that exemplifies contemporary approaches to the medium.

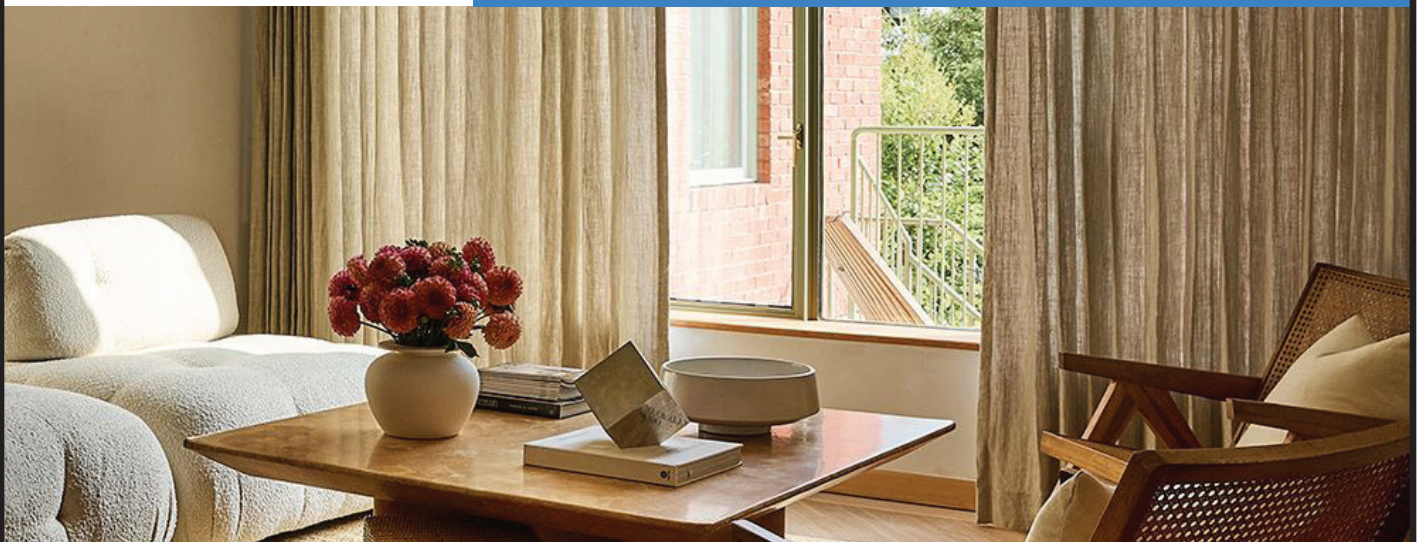


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Another Year ...

By Jennifer Stern

Birthdays are markers of time passing: a time to reflect on life, values, goals, and to celebrate the opportunity to be here and begin again.

Birthdays are a time to pause and appreciate the miracle of life. They are a time to consider the people we surround ourselves with – an intentional choice, the energy we bring to the rooms we enter (positive, productive, collaborative, compassionate), the way we filter life (gratitude awareness, noticing the glimmers, the love, what *is* working still).

I have written about the practice of a gratitude soundtrack. This year as I am fortunate enough to enjoy and appreciate another birthday (a true blessing), I am even

more attuned to the practice of recognizing what is good. To filter the positives.

I do this recognizing duality. Life isn't always easy. My health isn't always good. My body doesn't look or feel as it once did. My brain has even less recall and clarity! Sometimes I feel sadly nostalgic for what was, and who was here beside me. Life is real and messy for all of us.

The awareness of my personal confirmation bias is helpful. Your mind is always looking to prove what you believe, your personal narrative. Your mind

will reinforce your personal narrative. Positive or negative, it finds evidence to match the reality you are telling yourself. If you filter the negative, your mind will look to prove the negative. So I try to be mindful, aware of the positives, so that my mind will try to prove how fortunate I am, how beautiful the world can be. I look for beauty in nature, kindness in others, the purpose in the work that I do, the relationships that I am lucky enough to nurture. I surround myself with strong, engaged, unique, funny, smart women who support

me unconditionally in good times and bad. As my Mom used to say, you take on the energy (positive or negative) of the people you surround yourself with.

So, here's to another year of life! I will not take this time for granted. It is gifted time.

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

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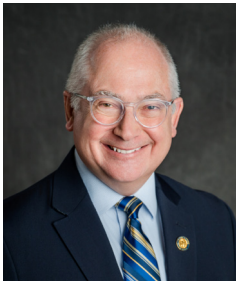


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The Injustice of the Callais Decision

By State Senator Kent Smith

On April 29, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in *Louisiana v. Callais*. History will remember it as one of the court's worst civil rights decisions in American history, on par with the *Dred Scott* decision of 1857 and *Plessy v. Ferguson* of 1896.

In *Callais*, the Roberts-led Supreme Court weakened key provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that had protected non-white citizens and helped promote multiracial representation in state legislatures.

Let me say it clearly: This decision is a betrayal of the American people because it will limit citizen voices in the legislative process.

When fair representation is dismantled, the communities that are harmed the most are the ones that lose lawmakers. Part of what is central to democracy is that it is a system of competing interests,

which is to say that people need representatives who fight for their districts. If certain citizen groups have their voices reduced, then problems go unsolved – and unsolved problems, when not addressed, can move from solvable to overwhelming.

The Roberts court's decision to act now, ahead of the 2026 midterm elections, is another plot in the Republican effort to maintain power regardless of election outcomes.

The Roberts court attempted to understate their true intentions, but Justice Elena Kagan, who wrote the blistering dissent, was having none of it.

Callais was a long time coming. As Kagan writes, "For over a decade, this court has had its sights set on the Voting Rights Act.

"The majority claims only to be updating our Section 2 laws, but in fact, those updates eviscerate the law."

Again, from Kagan, "Today's decision renders Section 2 all but a dead letter."

What is most important to understand is *Callais* marks a change in strategy for the Roberts court. They learned with the *Dobbs* decision to not "overturn" popular law with decades of precedent – like *Roe*.

So they didn't technically overturn the Voting Rights

Act, they just made it completely toothless.

But our response must be similar to when we lost *Roe*.

We must not idly sit back and take it. Inaction is not an option. States need to enact their own voting rights legislation so that the *Callais* decision will, in time, be on the shelf next to *Dred Scott* and *Plessy*, and America's reality will match its ideals.

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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From Beachwood to the Met: Megan Piccione High Jewelry Makes a Dazzling Debut

In 2024, when Megan Piccione made the list of Jewelers of America's "20 Under 40 in Jewelry Retail," she was recognized for her leadership, innovation, and commitment to elevating the jewelry industry. Just two years later, the Beachwood High School graduate and third-generation jeweler reached an even brighter stage: the Met Gala red carpet.

The 2026 Met Gala, held May 4, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, celebrated the theme "Costume Art." One of the evening's standout moments came when model, activist, and benefit committee member Lauren Wasser appeared on the red carpet wearing a custom collection created exclusively by Megan Piccione High Jewelry. Designed and fabricated by Megan and her father, master jeweler Dave Piccione, the pieces marked the official debut of the Beachwood-based atelier on one of fashion's most globally recognized stages.

For Megan, the moment still feels almost impossible to absorb. "I'm in complete disbelief," she said. "I'm so overwhelmed with joy, pride, and gratitude."

The opportunity began with an email from a Los Angeles stylist asking whether Megan had jewelry available for a special event in May. At first, she did not know the client. A phone call followed, and Megan learned that her pieces would be submitted for possible Met Gala approval.

"I thought the stylists choose jewelry for their clients," Megan said. "That's not how it works. Everything has to be approved by *Vogue* and Anna Wintour, the global editorial director of *Vogue* and chief content officer for Condé Nast."

Megan poured her creativity into a look book of renderings and concepts, each designed to capture Lauren's strength, style, and presence. Once the jewelry was approved, the pace intensified and in a remarkably short time, she and her father designed three new show-specific pieces.

"It was an out-of-reality moment," Megan said. "To know that what my dad and I created was going to be on the red carpet of the world's biggest stage – we were both so honored."

Megan knew what Lauren would be wearing and worked closely with the stylist to create a powerful, cohesive look. Lauren, a double amputee following toxic shock syndrome and an outspoken advocate for awareness, is known for her fearless style and signature gold-shimmer prosthetic legs. For Megan, Lauren's presence carried strength and meaning.

"She is a powerhouse of a woman," Megan said. "To come out looking like that, with her attitude and grace – she is a total boss."

The suite included significant diamonds sourced specifically for Lauren, including a nearly 13-carat marquise diamond and another dramatic eight-carat diamond piece (*pictured*). Megan described the marquise as particularly special because of its unusual cut and faceting.

When Lauren stepped onto the red carpet, Megan and her husband, Giancarlo Butto, were in the lobby of the Plaza Hotel watching others descend the staircase. Then her phone lit up with the notification that Lauren had arrived.

"The first photo was really amazing," she said. "The look came together flawlessly. She looked incredible."

Megan's path to this very special moment began long before this gala. After graduating BHS in 2013, she studied at Gemological Institute of America, planning to carry on her family's legacy. Her grandfather and father built a



Photos courtesy of Megan Piccione High Jewelry. Above: Getty Images/Theo Wargo. Right: Getty Images/Dimitrios Kambouris.

reputation in the jewelry business rooted in honesty, quality, and luxury – standards that Megan continues to uphold today.

At the heart of the brand is the belief that true luxury is personal. "It is authored, not sourced," she said. "It's one thing to buy a piece that's already made or to find something online. We create something that is not mass produced. It's one of one, created for the individual soul who will wear it and love it."

For Megan, the Met Gala achievement is as much a family story as a fashion milestone. Her

Model and activist Lauren Wasser wears custom pieces by Megan Piccione High Jewelry on the 2026 Met Gala red carpet, marking the Beachwood-based atelier's debut on one of fashion's most celebrated international stages.

father, Dave, is her creative partner and greatest mentor, while her husband, Giancarlo, and her mother, Harriet, remain steady sources of support behind the brand's growing success.

After the event, Megan recalled Lauren saying, "Your dad is a legend." To Megan, that meant everything.

"I'm honored and humbled to be an independent jeweler among the most renowned in the world."



Megan Piccione High Jewelry is truly a family affair. Pictured from left are Megan's husband, Giancarlo Butto; her father and master jeweler, Dave Piccione; Megan Piccione; and her mother, Harriet Piccione, inside the Beachwood showroom.

Photo courtesy of Megan Piccione High Jewelry.

"He's so talented and humble." Megan paused, then added, "I'm so grateful and proud that we get to do this together as a father-daughter duo. Working with him is a dream come true and none of this could be done without him."

Megan is keenly aware of what it meant to appear on the same stage as some of the world's most celebrated luxury houses. "Most designers were from large houses," she said. "I'm honored and humbled to have been there as an independent jeweler among the most renowned in the world."

While the Met Gala brought Megan Piccione High Jewelry to an international stage, Megan remains deeply rooted in Beachwood. Her parents still live in the house where she grew up, her business is located on Enterprise Parkway, and she is reminded daily of the teachers, friends, neighbors, and community members who encouraged her along the way.

For a Beachwood designer whose business began

with creativity, family, and determination, the Met Gala was more than a red-carpet moment. It was a shining reminder that world-class artistry can begin right here at home.

Her message to young artists and designers is simple: Take the risk. "Put yourself out there," she said. "You don't know when someone will finally say yes. Keep your head down, work hard, and don't compare yourself to others."

As for what comes next, Megan is still taking it all in. "Right now, I'm so grateful," she said. "I don't take this for granted. I'm a girl who likes to draw and create, and I get to do it every day."

Megan Piccione High Jewelry is located at 3201 Enterprise Pkwy. and is open by appointment only and some of the pieces created for Lauren are still available. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit meganpiccione.com.

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The Mayor's Message Welcoming Summer in Beachwood

Dear Beachwood Residents & Businesses,

After a long, snowy winter and an especially wet, cool spring, it is wonderful to finally enjoy warmer weather in Beachwood. June always brings a renewed sense of energy to our community, and this year is no exception. Families are heading outdoors, parks are full of activity, and neighbors are reconnecting after months spent indoors.

One of the clearest signs that summer is finally on its way is the opening of the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center (BFAC). BFAC is once again buzzing with families, friends, and residents enjoying one of Beachwood's most popular gathering places. Whether you are swimming, relaxing by the pool, or spending time with loved ones, the aquatic center remains a special part of summer in our city, and we are thrilled to welcome everyone back for another great season.

Summer also means the return of our camps and seasonal programming. This year, in response to the later start of the upcoming school year, we have extended camp sessions to better support families and ease the transition into fall schedules. I want to recognize our Community Services Department for its thoughtful and creative approach in meeting the needs of residents and guests. Their commitment to providing high-quality programming and meaningful experiences continues to make Beachwood an exceptional place to live and raise a family.

"Events like this (Juneteenth) remind us of the strength that comes from coming together and celebrating the diversity that enriches our city."

Looking ahead, I encourage everyone to attend our annual Juneteenth Community Celebration on Friday, June 19. In just a few short years, this event has become one of Beachwood's most meaningful and well-attended signature celebrations. Juneteenth is a day of joy, reflection, education, and unity, and I am proud of the

way our community has embraced this important occasion.

Events like this remind us of the strength that comes from coming together and celebrating the diversity that enriches our city. I

would also like to thank the Beachwood Schools African American Affinity Group for their continued collaboration and partnership in helping make this celebration a signature event each year. It's important to recognize our community sponsors for this event — Crestmont Automotive as the presenting sponsor, along with supporting sponsors Hunter Wellness Center and Life Bridge Therapy. The City of Beachwood values the partnership and investment our local businesses make in supporting events like this, and we are grateful for their contributions to these community celebrations.

As summer activity increases across the city, I ask residents to be patient and cautious on our roadways. Our annual road program is underway, along with several important infrastructure improvement projects throughout Beachwood. These investments are essential to maintaining the quality and safety of our community. Please be mindful of our Public Works employees and contracted crews who are working hard during the busy construction season.

Wishing you and your family a safe, enjoyable, and memorable start to summer in Beachwood.

Sincerely,

Mayor Justin Berns
MayorBerns@beachwoodohio.com



Beachwood City Council



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



Danielle Shoykhet
Council President
216.212.9212



Jillian DeLong
Council V.P.
216.509.3514



Alec Isaacson
216.291.2797



Alex Jacobs
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Pete Smith
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Beachwood Connect: Understanding How Projects Move Forward

Ever wonder how a road project, or any major city initiative, moves from an idea to construction in the community?



Through the new Beachwood Connect webpage, residents can now get a closer look at how local government works, including the process behind projects like the annual road program. From planning and budgeting to City Council approvals and contractor

selection, each step plays an important role in ensuring projects are thoughtfully planned, financially responsible, and responsive to community needs.

Beachwood Connect was created to make local government more accessible and understandable by providing clear information on how decisions are made, how legislation moves through City Council, and how residents can participate throughout the process.

Visit the Beachwood Connect webpage to read the full article on the annual road program and explore additional resources to help residents stay informed and engaged in the community's future.

Legislative Update

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 these areas.

April 20 City Council Meeting:

Infrastructure Improvements

Council members approved the GPD group to design the Connector Road Project between Harvard and Mercantile Roads. This road will provide access to the city's recently acquired 42.92 acres in Chagrin Highlands.

Economic Development

City Council voted to approve the rezoning of 24619 Chagrin Blvd. for a new business, Bark & Barrel dog daycare/bar/restaurant. The matter now heads back to the Planning Commission for approval of a final site plan, which council would also have to approve.

May 4 City Council Meeting:

Infrastructure Improvements

Council members approved an upgrade to the city's Wi-Fi system. New routers will be installed in municipal buildings and facilities, providing reliable, free Wi-Fi for employees, residents, and guests.

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 Firefighter Promotions

During the May 4 City Council meeting, Beachwood Fire Department firefighters David Peterson and Ben Welsh were recognized for their promotions and formally sworn into their new roles by Mayor Justin Berns following remarks from Fire Chief Steve Holtzman.

David Peterson was promoted to captain after 17 years with the department. Since joining Beachwood Fire in 2009, Peterson has served as a SWAT paramedic, member of the department's Honor Guard, and investigator with the Hillcrest Fire Investigative Unit. He holds multiple fire service certifications, completed Fire Officer I-IV training, and earned an associate degree in Fire Science.

Ben Welsh was promoted to lieutenant after 12 years with the department. Welsh has served on the SWAT team since 2022 and was recently named assistant commander. He is also a member of the Beachwood Honor Guard, mentors new firefighters, and was recognized as Beachwood's 2024 Firefighter of the Year.

The City of Beachwood congratulates Capt. Peterson and Lt. Welsh on their well-earned promotions and thanks them for their continued dedication to the community.



Capt. Peterson with his family alongside Mayor Berns and Chief Holtzman.



Lt. Welsh with his family standing next to Mayor Berns and Chief Holtzman.

UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

City Council:
June 15 at 7:00 p.m.
July 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning:
June 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Architectural Board of Review:
June 1 at 4:30 p.m.
June 15 at 4:30 p.m.

Work - Live - Learn - Thrive

Beachwood Police Department Earns Statewide Accreditation

Beachwood Police was recently recognized as one of the latest Ohio law enforcement agencies to achieve accreditation through the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (OCLEAP), a statewide initiative established by Gov. DeWine in 2024. The voluntary program recognizes agencies that meet or exceed nearly three dozen professional standards covering areas such as professional conduct, bias-free policing, crisis intervention, and community engagement.

OCLEAP is the only state-administered law enforcement accreditation program in the nation offered at no cost to participating agencies. To date, just 24 agencies statewide have achieved full accreditation, reinforcing the Beachwood Police Department's commitment to professionalism, accountability, and excellence in public service. The department earned national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in March.



Beachwood Police Accreditation Manager Ken Zbiegiew (left) pictured with Chief Grispino (right)

Chief Grispino Receives Recognition for Excellence in Police Leadership



Chief Grispino accepting the 2026 Michael J. Kelly Award for Excellence and Innovation in Policing.

Beachwood Police Chief Dan Grispino has been named the recipient of the 2026 Michael J. Kelly Award for Excellence and Innovation in Policing from the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP). The award recognizes an active OACP police chief who demonstrates exceptional leadership through innovation, creativity, and a commitment to advancing the Association's vision, mission, goals, and values. Chief Grispino was honored for his pursuit of excellence in policing and his dedication to professionalism and progressive law enforcement practices that strengthen both the Beachwood community and the broader public safety profession.

Second Annual Cookout with Cops

The Beachwood Police Department hosted its second annual "Cookout with Cops" event on May 13, drawing about 450 attendees to the Beachwood Playground for an afternoon of food, fun, and community connection.

About a dozen Beachwood police officers were in attendance, grilling hot dogs and offering kosher-friendly options while chatting with families and residents. Children took full advantage of the playground and played yard games with officers. The cookout also featured an interactive display of police motorcycles, bicycles, and e-bikes for kids to explore. Sponsored by T3 Performance and Hunter Wellness Center, the cookout provided food and camaraderie, creating stronger community connections.



New School Resource Officer

Please join us in welcoming Beachwood Police Department's newest School Resource Officer, Larry Harbert.

A native of Garfield Heights and graduate of Heritage Christian School, Officer Harbert brings decades of law enforcement and community service experience, including 20 years with the Clearwater Police Department and service with both the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and the Ohio Casino Control Commission.



Mayor Justin Berns (left) swearing in School Resource Officer Larry Harbert.

Summer Camp Enhances Parent Communication with AI-Powered Information Line

Beachwood Community Services has embraced artificial intelligence (AI) through a unique partnership with DragonMatics, a Beachwood-based AI solutions company owned by resident Alejandro Camargo.



While remaining a people-first, service-focused community, the City of Beachwood continues exploring innovative tools that improve efficiency and responsiveness for residents. One of the newest enhancements is a 24/7 summer camp information line designed to help families quickly access routine camp information at any time of day.

“We initially met Alejandro through our Office of Economic Development over the winter,” said Derek Schroeder, Community Services Director. “That later led to a conversation about the call volume

we receive for summer camp when directors and staff are out in the field with their attention focused on campers and daily activities.”

The conversation resulted in a new AI-powered voice agent that can assist with commonly asked questions regarding camp schedules, registration, procedures, and general information. The system also allows camp staff more time to focus on creating a safe, engaging experience for campers throughout the busy summer months.

“A large portion of our calls involve routine information that families need quickly,” explained Shannon Diamond, Program Manager for Beachwood Summer Camp. “The voice agent can provide those answers immediately, even outside office hours. More detailed or sensitive questions are still directed to our camp leadership team for personal follow-up.”

Safety and security remained top priorities throughout implementation. Sensitive matters such as pickup authorization changes, medication instructions, or camper-specific requests are never automated and continue to follow existing procedures with direct human involvement.

Community Services leadership worked closely with DragonMatics to ensure the system was trained responsibly with appropriate safeguards.

Alejandro, who immigrated to Beachwood from Colombia, has applied his technology expertise to a wide variety of businesses and government organizations. In addition to AI voice agents, DragonMatics offers automation solutions including chatbots, lead capture systems, review management tools, and more.

“My children have actually attended Beachwood Summer Camp and absolutely love it,” said Alejandro. “Delivering a helpful tool for the community that I now call home is something I take great pride in.”

HOLIDAY RUBBISH COLLECTION:

Due to Juneteenth, Beachwood Public Works will be closed on **Friday, June 19**. Please note Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday collections will remain on their regular schedule that week.

Successful Spring Shred Day

Thank you to the 382 Beachwood residents who securely discarded 13,790 pounds (6.9 tons) of documents during this year's Spring Shred Day, promoting both privacy and environmental responsibility.

This event is made possible through a Recycling Awareness Grant from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. If you missed it, another Shred Day will take place this fall on Sept. 18.



Recycle Right

The Public Works Department has noticed an increase in non-recyclable items being placed in recycling cans, with some residents using them as rubbish receptacles. Placing rubbish in recycling bins contaminates loads, can divert entire trucks to landfill, and may also result in higher fees under the city's contract with the recycling facility.



The city may begin auditing recycling cans and issuing notices to households that are not in compliance. Repeated misuse may result in the removal of recycling cans.



We encourage residents to take a moment to scan the QR code and review what is recyclable. When in doubt, throw it out! Questions? Call Public Works at 216.292.1922.



Fertilizer Safety

When fertilizing, please make sure fertilizer stays on the lawn and is cleaned from sidewalks, driveways and streets. Chemicals also pose a health threat to pets. Failure to remove granules from previously mentioned locations is a violation of Ohio Pesticide Law. Please be sure to advise your landscaper to comply while fertilizing.

June Recreation Guide

CITY OF Beachwood **CRESTMONT AUTOMOTIVE** **BEACHWOOD African American Unity Group**

Beachwood's Fourth Annual Celebration
Juneteenth
 Stronger Together

JUNE 19 • 4-7 PM
BEACHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM
 25100 Fairmount Blvd.

Supporting Sponsors:
 Hunter Wellness Center • Life Bridge Therapy
 BeachwoodRec.com

FREE LOCAL Craft Vendors

FAMILY FEST Food Trucks CULTURE ROLLER SKATING Activities & Games Movie

STATEMENT **CITY OF BEACHWOOD family aquatic center**

Pool
PARTY NIGHTS

Soak in Summer!
 SWIM • SNACK • STAY LATE

JUNE 24 Sunset Fiesta
8-10 PM Family-Friendly!

JULY 30 Smiles & Splashes

AUG. 12 Beach Bash

| Members | Residents | Non-Resident Guests |
|------------|------------|---------------------|
| \$3 | \$5 | \$8 |

REGISTER: BEACHWOODREC.COM
 Non-residents are only permitted as guests of a member/resident.

Sign Up

BEACHWOOD ART GALLERY: Ohio Collage Society | May 30 - July 12 | Reception on May 30, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
 Diversity in both concept and form that exemplifies contemporary approaches in collage by OCS members.

Beachwood Honors Howard Oliver



After nearly two decades of dedicated service, the City of Beachwood celebrated the retirement of Howard Oliver, Community Center Supervisor, on April 30.

“Howard has been the heart of the Community Center, creating a welcoming space not just through his work, but through the genuine connections he built with every resident,” shared Community Services Director Derek Schroeder. “His warmth, wisdom, and ever-present smile

made everyone feel seen and valued. His impact goes far beyond the facility; he leaves behind a true sense of community that won’t be forgotten.”

The city thanks Howard for his years of service and dedication to the Beachwood community and warmly welcomes Jason Rolf as the new Community Center Supervisor. Jason officially assumed the role on May 4 after more than 13 years with the Beachwood Public Works Department.

TEEN Night at the Courts

PICKLEBALL | VOLLEYBALL | YARD GAMES | GAGA BALL | DJ | SNACKS

June 16 6:00-8:00 PM
 Free for ages 12-17! **PRE-REGISTER ONLINE:** BeachwoodRec.com

Instructor Spotlight: David Cole



Since 2011, David Cole has helped lead and grow Beachwood's tennis program, coaching athletes at every level including Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls, JV Girls, and Middle School Girls tennis.

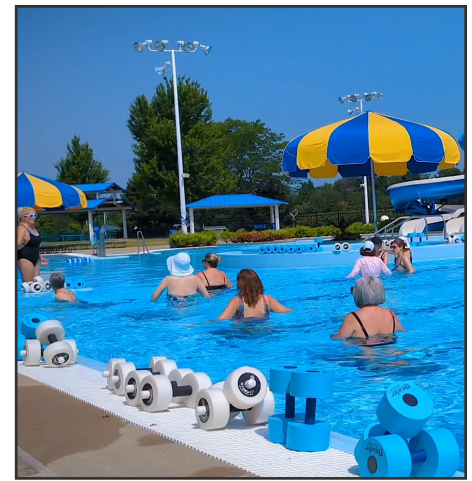
During his time with Beachwood, the program has celebrated tremendous success, including team appearances in the OTCA State Final Four and multiple singles players and doubles teams qualifying for the state tournament. One of Cole's favorite memories came in 2013 when the Varsity Boys team

finished 19-1, defeated Hawken to win the Northeast Ohio section of the OTCA Team Tournament, and advanced to the state final four.

Beyond the wins and accomplishments, Cole says the most rewarding part of coaching is working with students and watching their growth and improvement both on and off the court.

For Beachwood Community Services, David Cole leads youth tennis lessons, adult intro to tennis, and adult cardio tennis throughout the summer months. In addition to coaching at Beachwood, Cole is also a part-time instructor at the Mayfield Village Racquet Club and continues to play competitive USTA tennis, bringing his passion and experience to every practice and lesson.

Sign up for one of his upcoming summer sessions at BeachwoodRec.com.



Aqua Aerobics

Aqua aerobics returns to the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center (BFAC) this summer! Due to the high demand, an additional class has been added and registration has been adjusted.

Participants may register for each class seven days prior to the class date at 8:00 a.m. online at BeachwoodRec.com, in-person, or by calling 216-292-1970. BFAC members are free, residents are \$5 per class, and non-residents are \$10 per class.

- **Aqua Dance & Tone**
Instructor: Susan Wiegand
Tuesdays, June 9-Aug. 18
8:30-9:15 a.m.
- **Aqua Aerobics Cardio Stretch**
Instructor: Paula Flauto
Wednesdays, June 10-Aug. 19
11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
(No class June 24)

Beachwood Beats
Summer's Concert Series

BEACHWOOD FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER
TUESDAY NIGHTS • 6:30 PM

Free admission. Bring your own chair. Moved to the Community Center during inclement weather.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| JUNE 9 | DEVN7 BAND Rock, Blues, Funk & Soul |
| JUNE 16 | 4 KINGS & THE QUEEN Motown, Soul & Classic R&B |
| JUNE 23 | CHAGRIN RIVER BAND The Best of Classic Rock |
| JUNE 30 | BLUE LUNCH BAND Soul, Blues, Jazz & Swing |

Beachwood Seniors

- **Bingo Bonanza**
Monday, June 8, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Community Center
Fun and friendly afternoon bingo with prizes! Sponsored by Prosper at Wickliffe. Residents are \$6, non-residents \$7.
- **Ice Cream Social with City Leaders**
Wednesday, July 22, 1:00-2:00 p.m., Community Center
Join us for a sweet treat and connect with city leaders in a welcoming setting. Residents are \$2, non-residents are \$4.

Are you a 50-year Beachwood resident?

The City of Beachwood is once again recognizing our latest group of 50-year residents at our Senior Picnic on Aug. 31. Call 216.292.1970 to be recognized at the event.

June Meet & Eat

The Stomping Jacksons

Thursday, June 18, Noon, Community Center
Residents \$14, Non-Residents \$17, Program Only \$6

The Stomping Jacksons bring the lively spirit of New Orleans street music to the stage with infectious rhythms and bold brass. Their high-energy performance captures the feel of the French Quarter, inviting everyone to clap along and join the celebration.

Meal choices include meat lasagna or vegetable lasagna. All entrées are served with a side salad, roll, beverage, and dessert. A gluten-free option is available.

Sponsored by Cornerstone Caregiving and Solon Pointe.

Sign up at BeachwoodRec.com or call 216-292-1970 by June 12.

WHERE BUSINESS IS BOOMING!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Beachwood Business Compass Podcast

The latest episode of the City of Beachwood's Beachwood Business Compass podcast spotlights valuable resources available to help local businesses grow and succeed.

Small businesses are a strong component of Beachwood's economy, and long-term success depends on having access to the right tools, partnerships, and support systems. In this episode of Beachwood Business Compass, Chad Hamman, Vice President of Membership and Product Development for the Greater Cleveland Partnership, discusses the new COSE Small Business Resource Hub and how it is helping entrepreneurs across Greater Cleveland grow and succeed.

Listen on Apple Podcasts or Spotify.

Photo Left: Catherine Bieterman, Economic Development Director (left), with Chad Hamman (right)



Regional Partnerships Through Collaboration

Cuyahoga Community College recently hosted a Community Partners Breakfast bringing together education, business, and government leaders to discuss collaboration and regional growth opportunities across Northeast Ohio. Representing Beachwood were Economic Development Director Cathy Bieterman and Beachwood Chamber of Commerce Executive Director David Lapierre, who joined discussions with Tri-C President Dr. Michael Baston and Eastern Campus President Dr. Todd Kitchen on April 29.

The event highlighted the college's partnership initiatives and explored opportunities to support workforce development, education, and economic growth through presentations, discussion, and networking.

Beachwood Company Recognized for Leadership in Manufacturing

Helix Linear Technologies, a Beachwood-based advanced manufacturer, has been recognized as a 2026 Evolution of Manufacturing Award honoree for its leadership in innovation, automation, and smart manufacturing practices. Presented by Alliance Industrial Solutions, the awards celebrate companies shaping the future of manufacturing across Northeast Ohio through innovation and forward-thinking leadership.

Led by CEO Christopher Nook, Helix Linear Technologies has continued to expand its capabilities through investments in advanced automation, collaborative robots (cobots), and data-driven manufacturing systems. The company specializes in precision ball screws, lead screws, and linear actuators serving demanding industries including aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing.

The company's continued innovation and commitment to purposeful leadership have strengthened its position in critical manufacturing sectors while contributing to the growth of Northeast Ohio's advanced manufacturing economy.



Christopher Nook, CEO, and Susan Nash, CFO, accepting the Evolution of Manufacturing Award.

**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

Beachwood Police Department Wellness Room Gets New Life

On Tuesday, April 28, Beachwood 100 unveiled the newly remodeled Beachwood Police Department wellness room – a dedicated space designed to support the health, resilience, and well-being of the officers and staff who serve our community every day.

The updated room offers department members a place to pause, reset, and recharge during the demands of their work. For those who respond to emergencies, protect our neighborhoods, and carry the weight of difficult situations, a quiet and intentional space for wellness is an important investment in the people behind the badge.

Beachwood 100, which has supported Beachwood's safety forces for more than 50 years, helped clean out and significantly update the room as part of its ongoing commitment to the city's police and fire personnel.

"For more than 50 years, Beachwood 100 has been proud to support those who serve our community every day," said Ivor Kiwi, president of Beachwood 100. "Our organization gives residents and businesses the opportunity to give back to the police officers and firefighters who are always there for us."

Beachwood 100 provides financial assistance to safety force members in times of need, gifts an annual scholarship to a child of someone who serves the community, and supports meaningful projects, such as the wellness room.

Ivor said the project was a natural fit when Police Chief Dan Grispino brought the idea forward.

"Our officers face stress and challenges every day," he said.

"When the chief came to us with this idea, we immediately saw how important it was. This room gives officers the opportunity, when appropriate, to step away, unwind, and rest during a shift."

Ivor thanked everyone who helped bring the room to life, including the Beachwood 100 board, Police Department, Service Department, city staff,



From left: Cindy Keller*, Warren Sklar*, Michelle Ryb*, Ivor Kiwi,* Police Chief Dan Grispino, Officer Maxwell Zupay, Alec Isaacson**, Susie Loparo*, Jillian DeLong**, Mayor Justin Berns, Alex Jacobs **, Bill Wexner*, and Gail Wexner*.

* Beachwood 100 board members.

** City Council members.

Photos by Scott Morrison, Discovery Photo.

and community donors. He noted that when the group first saw the space, it had the feel of "a college dorm room from the 1970s." Through teamwork, painting, repairs, new furniture, and thoughtful updates, the room was transformed into a welcoming and restorative environment.

Ivor also thanked Michelle Ryb, owner of Buy Rite Office Products, for donating a table and chairs.

Chief Grispino reiterated Ivor's appreciation. "When I started in this role, improving officers' wellness quickly became a priority and this renovated room will better support their mental and emotional health," he said.



"Statistically, more officers die by suicide than in the line of duty. When our officers are well, they are better able to serve the community – so supporting wellness is a win-win."

Mayor Justin Berns also thanked Beachwood 100 for its continued commitment to the city's safety forces.

"Beachwood 100 is always there for our police officers and firefighters," he said. "Whenever there is an opportunity to help, they step forward. We are grateful for all they do, and this project is another meaningful reminder of how much their support matters."

This project reflects a growing understanding that wellness

matters – not only in moments of crisis, but every day. By creating space for care, reflection, and renewal, Beachwood continues to show appreciation for those who dedicate themselves to caring for others.

"When our officers are well, they are better able to serve the community – so supporting wellness is a win-win."

~ Beachwood Police Chief Dan Grispino

BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

Developing Intellectual Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience

Celebrating 20 Years: Linda LoGalbo Set to Retire

After 20 years of service to Beachwood Schools, Director of Curriculum & Instruction Linda LoGalbo is retiring on July 31. In her role, LoGalbo has worked side by side with educators to refine and strengthen curriculum across all grade levels. She will leave behind a legacy that was rooted in a commitment to ensuring student success.

"The Beachwood family has been a part of my life for the last 20 years and I will cherish the small moments the most," LoGalbo said. "Our school community is a global, diverse family where all are welcome. I will miss the daily interactions that I have with students, parents, and staff."

Reflecting on her career, LoGalbo points out that she has many memories during her tenure, including leading the middle school to the National School to Watch designation after reconfiguring the school to house grades 6-8; Hilltop earning the National Blue Ribbon Award; and creating student programs such as the Camp Ed-Venture, the Beachwood Medical Academy, and the Seal of Biliteracy.

"I have so many memories from my 20 years with Beachwood Schools," LoGalbo said. "I am proud of the processes that have been put into place. We have an established course of study revision process that leads to the annual board approval of our courses and the textbook adoption process has led to collaboration and consensus among K-5 teachers."

Beyond these professional accomplishments, LoGalbo describes completing her doctoral degree as her greatest personal milestone. This was achieved during an incredibly challenging time.

"In 2018, I began my doctoral program and was diagnosed with breast cancer," she said. "With the support of my colleagues, family, and friends, I was able to complete my treatment and continue my work as an administrator while continuing my doctoral studies. Finishing my dissertation was the most rewarding accomplishment of my career. It symbolized not just academic success, but also my ability to overcome adversity and thrive in the face of challenges."

Throughout her two decades with Beachwood Schools, LoGalbo has helped guide changes in education. Beachwood Middle School was the first one-to-one laptop school in the state of Ohio with devices for all students now the norm. A partnership with Facing History and Ourselves "Schools Where We Belong" program focuses on creating learning environments for all students, while the district's gifted programming has expanded under LoGalbo's guidance through the use of cluster grouping and acceleration in math and science. In addition, intervention programming has expanded in areas of reading and math. These days, LoGalbo and her team are learning more and more about artificial intelligence and how it fits into the classroom.

"One of the most exciting aspects of my job has been

working with teachers to develop and implement a new course of study or curricular resource," she said. "The advent of artificial intelligence is the next frontier of technology, enhancing education. However, our mission remains the same for students: focusing on critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration skills."

As LoGalbo prepares to move into retirement, she is looking forward to spending time with her family and friends. "My husband and I have established a bucket list of travel destinations. I'm also eager to explore some new hobbies, including photography."

What They're Saying About Linda

"For the 20 years we have worked together, Linda has been an inspiration. She's a steadfast, calm, determined, and thoughtful leader. I can always rely on her sensible, ethical, and dedicated approach to her work."

Dr. Robert Hardis, Superintendent

"Since the day I joined Beachwood, Linda has been a welcoming and supportive mentor who has played an important role in my growth as a leader. She has a remarkable ability to empower others, particularly women in leadership, through her example and encouragement. Her impact on this district and its students will be felt for years to come."

Dr. Jennifer Polak, Director of Pupil Services

"My respect and admiration for the leadership Linda has provided throughout the years in Beachwood go beyond words. She has done everything with grace, class, and with a keen focus on what was best for the kids. The programming she's initiated has established a foundation for student learning going forward."

*Kevin Houchins, Director of
Equity & Community Engagement*

"I have had the privilege of working with Linda for the past two years and I will miss her knowledge, expertise, humor, and wisdom. If I ever need anything, I can always count on Linda to point me in the right direction. She will be dearly missed."

Amy Pinney, Principal, Hilltop

"Linda has been an incredible colleague and an even better person to work alongside. Her dedication to and investment in Beachwood Schools is unmatched. I've learned so much from her poise and leadership over the years. I wish her nothing but the very best in a retirement that is truly well-earned."

Matt Brown, Treasurer/CFO

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beachwoodschoools.org

Three Named U.S. Presidential Scholar Candidates



Dotan Dana

Lyndia Zheng

Tony Zheng

Beachwood High School seniors Dotan Dana, Lyndia Zheng, and Tony Zheng have been selected as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. The trio represent three of the 188 high school seniors in the state of Ohio to earn the honor. There are approximately 5,000 candidates throughout the country.

A nomination to this prestigious program is among the highest honors a graduating senior can receive. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character, and involvement in school and community activities.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the president, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.



BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATES



Recent News

- Technology Committee report
- Presentation on Tree Campus Program
- Approved third and final reading of new and revised Board policies

Upcoming Board Actions

- Approve certification of 2026 Beachwood High School graduates
- Report on Standard Based Grading
- Presentation of Five-Year Financial Forecast

Board Meeting Calendar

- Monday, June 8 @ 7 p.m.
- Monday, June 22 @ 7 p.m.



VIEW AGENDAS & MINUTES

www.beachwoodschoools.org/BOE

BMS Model UN Earns Several Awards

The Beachwood Middle School Junior Model United Nations team participated in the Cleveland Council of World Affairs Conference, where they earned top honors by winning their division as a Small School Delegation. Ellie Dong represented Germany in the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and played a key role in sponsoring resolution papers. This is one of the primary goals of the conference as students work to resolve the issues set forth by the CCWA. The team of Maya Bourguignon and Kennedy Watkins represented China in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and demonstrated outstanding leadership while helping several other teams pass their resolutions.

Christina Jun and Sophia Wang represented Canada in the UNEP committee and won the Best Position Paper Award along with the Honorable Mention Delegation Award. Athena Yu and Tanishka Singh earned the Superior Delegation Award in UNEP while representing Sweden, while Julianna Chan represented the United Kingdom in UNEP and received the Gavel Award which represents the Best Overall Delegate.

Advisor J.C. Lenk praised the group's performance, saying, "These young women represented their school, their delegations, and themselves with the utmost professionalism and class. Their futures are very bright."

BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

Developing Intellectual Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience

BHS Math Teachers Honored for Excellence



Kelly Taglieri and Kristen McGinness

Beachwood High School math teachers Kelly Taglieri and Kristen McGinness have been recognized for their excellence in teaching with the Outstanding Math Teacher Awards from the Greater Cleveland Council of Teachers of Mathematics (GCCTM). The award celebrates educators who demonstrate outstanding instructional practices, creativity in the classroom, and a commitment to student success in math. The duo was recognized at the awards banquet on May 7.

Taglieri has 31 years of experience, including 17 years at Beachwood where she has served as a math intervention specialist at the high school. "It's an honor to be selected as a recipient of this award," she said. "I feel that my work with students has made a difference in their performance and that makes me incredibly proud of being an educator."

McGinness is now in her 15th year of teaching and her fourth year at Beachwood High School. "This award means a lot to me because I stopped teaching when I had my oldest daughter and did not think I would return to teaching," she noted. "I found the opportunity to be a part-time math tutor and then a part-time teacher. That made me realize how much I missed teaching and receiving this award confirmed to me that I made the right decision to come back to teaching."

In the classroom, both teachers encourage students to be active and engaged. Taglieri incorporates hands-on learning experiences which provide meaningful opportunities for students to explore concepts. McGinness likes to get her students involved as well, noting that her new course, Quantitative Reasoning, is one of her favorites because it emphasizes students working together to answer real life questions or solve a real life problem.

Beachwood Schools Earns Best Community for Music Education Award

For the 21st consecutive year, the Beachwood City School District has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

Now in its 26th year, the award program recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, students and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education.

Beachwood is one of just 57 districts in Ohio to receive the award this year and one of 1,008 honored throughout the country.

Beachwood's music program includes band, orchestra, choir, and general music instruction beginning in elementary school. Students regularly participate in local, regional, and statewide competitions and honors ensembles throughout the year.

"Beachwood Schools is honored to once again be recognized as a Best Community for Music Education," said Shelley McKenzie, Beachwood General Music and Choir teacher. "Receiving this award reflects the commitment of our students, as well as the continued support we receive from the entire Beachwood community. We are proud to provide students with opportunities to explore their creativity and share their talents through music."



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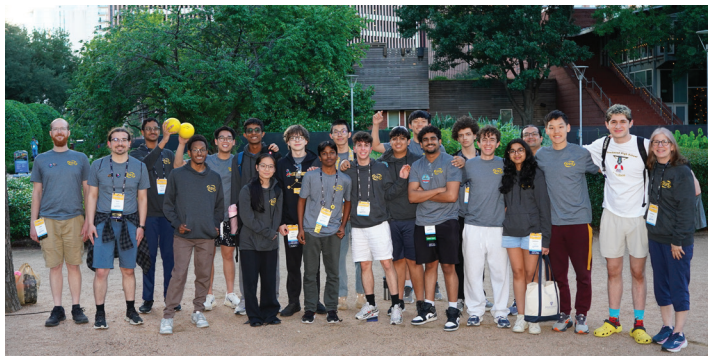
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Robotics Caps Season at Globals

The Beachwood High School Robotics team concluded a memorable season with a strong showing at the World Championships in Houston. Competing against the best teams from all over the world, Beachwood's Team 695 delivered standout performances en route to a fifth place alliance finish in the Newton Division.

For the season, the team finished first in Ohio out of 60 teams, 39th out of 2,944 teams in the United States, and 52nd out of 3,724 teams worldwide.

The team had several strong performances this season, including second place finishes at the Bluff County Regional and the Buckeye Regional. The squad received the Gracious Professionalism Award at the Buckeye Regional, and also had a team member earn the Leadership Award.



Science Olympiad Teams Excel at State Meet



The Beachwood High School and Middle School Science Olympiad teams showcased their talents and strong teamwork at the 2026 Science Olympiad state tournament held at The Ohio State University.

The high school team finished fifth overall in the state, earning 15 medals with top-five finishes across 15 different events. Highlights included first place finishes in Anatomy and Physiology, Disease Detectives, and Experimental Design, along with a runner-up showing in Circuit Lab and Codebusters, and a third place finish in Botany. The team was also fourth in Astronomy, Bungee Drop, and Materials Science, fifth in Engineering CAD, Robot Tour, Rocks and Minerals, Water Quality, and Code Craze, and sixth in Remote Sensing.

Middle school students also made their mark at the state meet, finishing 18th overall. The team won two medals with fifth place performances in Crime Busters and Rocks and Minerals.

Orchestra Students Perform with CWRU Symphony

Eight Beachwood High School students performed with the Case Western Reserve University Symphony Orchestra at the Maltz Performing Arts Center on April 22. Participating students included Leo Wang, Raphael Kahana, Yuewen Li, Olivia Keller, Arynne Chang, Abigail Gilmore, Kiran Sankararaman, and Holden Gilbert. After preparing auditions and rehearsing on the CWRU campus, students gained valuable experience performing advanced orchestral repertoire in a professional setting, including the final movements of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6.



EVENTS CALENDAR



Eid-Al-Adha Celebration

May 31, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Beachwood Middle School, 2860 Richmond Rd.

Last Day of School for Students

June 3

Juneteenth Celebration

June 19, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Beachwood High School, 25100 Fairmount Blvd.



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

City of Beachwood's Arbor Day Celebration

The City of Beachwood, Beachwood Historical Society, and Beachwood Schools recently hosted an Arbor Day tree-planting ceremony near the Beachwood Community Center, welcoming students from Fairmount Early Childhood Center to take part in the celebration.

Joined by Mayor Justin Berns, City Council members, and other city leaders, the preschoolers helped plant three sugar maple

trees, each taking a turn shoveling soil around the newly planted trees. Before the planting, students learned how trees provide oxygen, create homes for animals, offer shade and help keep the environment healthy. Several students also marked the occasion by singing a song about trees.

The event highlighted Beachwood's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship. Thanks to the

dedication of the city's Public Works team in planting and maintaining trees, Beachwood has proudly maintained its Tree City USA distinction for more than 30 years.

Special thanks also go to the Community Services Department for organizing the annual Arbor Day celebration and to the city leaders who attended in support of this meaningful tradition.

Fairmount Early Childhood Center students joined Mayor Justin Berns to celebrate Arbor Day by planting sugar maple trees near the Beachwood Community Center. Photos by Scott Morrison, Discovery Photo.



Behind the Eyes: Beachwood Artist Wally Kaplan Brings Portraits to Akron Gallery

Beachwood resident and portrait artist Wally Kaplan will present her upcoming solo exhibition, *Behind the Eyes: Portraits by Wally Kaplan*, at Gallery 732, inside the Akron Woman's City Club, 732 W. Exchange St., Akron.

The show reflects Wally's deep fascination with portraiture and her ongoing series, *The Human Condition*. Working in charcoal and oil paint, she creates compelling images of people of all ages, genders, and walks of life, inviting viewers to look beyond the surface and consider the emotion, dignity, and story held within each face.

"Our world today is not always a beautiful one, but it is possible to find beauty and dignity in many places and unlikely faces," Wally said.

Her portraits are intentionally open to interpretation. One viewer may see joy; another may recognize

sorrow, strength, defiance, or defeat. For Wally, that emotional response is where the power of portraiture lives.

"What connects us to each other is the human condition that we see reflected in other faces, which allows us to make a personal and emotional connection," she said. "There is always a story behind the eyes and I search to find it."

Behind the Eyes will be on view at Gallery 732 from June 2 through July 28. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays. The gallery is closed Sundays and Mondays.

Wally will be in the gallery as guest artist on Friday, June 26,

from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering visitors the opportunity to meet her and hear more about the portraits and the stories that inspired them.

For more information or to arrange a time to meet Wally at the gallery on another day, contact wally@wallysart.com.

"There is always a story behind the eyes and I search to find it."
~ Wally Kaplan

Two paintings that will be on exhibit: Top: *She's Got An Angle*. Bottom: *What's Comes Next*.





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Family Kindness Festival 2026

Family Kindness Festival 2026, created by Senders Pediatrics and its nonprofit, Senders Pediatrics Health Initiative, attracted more than 3,000 people to Landerhaven for an inspiring day centered on kindness, compassion, and community. Families with kids of all ages gathered to celebrate the power of small acts of kindness through interactive activities, entertainment, and opportunities to give back – making this year’s event a tremendous success and a meaningful reminder about the importance of kindness. To view more photos and a complete event recap, visit <https://tinyurl.com/FKF2006>.



Top row: Dr. Robert Hardis, superintendent of Beachwood Schools, and Dr. Shelly Senders, event host. Ella Zoller and Gigi Duraes share a smile with stilt walker Blake Bailey.

Middle row: Sachin Malhotra sells his drawings, with sales proceeds benefiting Akron Children’s; volunteers Allie Rindsberg and Sawyer Borland; Jessica Friedman and her son, Harrison, enjoy a sweet snack of multi-colored cotton candy.

Right: Wendy Berezovsky and her daughter, Chaya Dayla, founders of Sweet Dreams for Kids, which donates new pajamas to kids in the hospital.

Photos by Mariana Edelman Photography and Design.

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An article about Barry Henkin, written by Arlene Fine, was published in the February issue of *Beachwood Buzz*. In the story, Barry – long known as the “Mayor of Menorah Park” – shared his wish to meet Beachwood Mayor Justin Berns. In March, that wish became reality. Barry, who is also a 2013 inductee into the Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Hall of Fame and a lifelong fan of Reba McEntire’s music, was thrilled to finally meet the mayor and discuss how each of them, in his own way, helps enhance the lives of Beachwood residents.

Yarn Over Beachwood

Participants of Yarn Over Beachwood knit, crochet, and loom items for several places and organizations 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 June 5, Aug. 7, and Sept. 4. For more information or to donate yarn, contact Iris November at lbtryclub@gmail.com or 216.375.9111.

Edgewater Beach Cleanup

Sunday, June 7

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Edgewater Beach House
7600 Cleveland Memorial
Shoreway

Register at jewishcleveland.org.

Join the Jewish Federation of Cleveland for the Edgewater Beach Cleanup – help make a difference by keeping Lake Erie beautiful! Federation’s Jewish Volunteer Network is proud to partner with Drink Local Drink Tap and the Alliance for the Great Lakes for a hands-on beach cleanup that protects one of our region’s



most vital natural resources. Meet us at the Edgewater Beach House as we focus our efforts on cleaning Edgewater Beach and the K-9 Coastline.

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Summer Event Favorites Return to Legacy Village

Art in the Village

Saturday, June 6 • 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 7 • 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

An eclectic mix of over 100 top artists will participate in the juried outdoor art and craft showcase which features fine jewelry, exquisite works of art, and hand-crafted apparel and décor. Art in the Village also includes a full craft market with handmade organic soaps, live plants, delicious treats, affordable and practical artisan created works, and more. The weekend includes live music from Cats on Holiday, Justo Saborit and Havana Nights, Steve Radcliffe, and Back9 Par4. For more information, visit artfestival.com.

Legacy Live

Legacy Live, a free concert series, returns on Saturday, June 13, and continues every Saturday through Sept. 5, from 5-8 p.m. Enjoy a mix of live music, from pop and Motown to rock and R&B. For a complete schedule, visit legacy-village.com/play.

New: Friday Night "Light"

Friday Night "Light" will feature soloists, duos, and acoustic acts from June 12 – Sept. 4, 5:30-7:30 p.m. For a complete schedule, visit legacy-village.com/play.

Little Legacy

Talent Show: Tuesday, June 9

Water Party Fun: Tuesday, July 7

Back-to-School Bash:

Saturday, Aug. 1

Presented by Hawken School and *Northeast Ohio Parent Magazine*, these free events that start at 11 a.m. will feature fun activities for kids, giveaways, snacks, and special surprises. Ideal for parents, caregivers, and kids. Learn more and register at legacy-village.com/play.

Complementing Little Legacy is a new playground experience located between Crate & Barrel and Arhaus on Carriage Lane.

The North Union Farmers Market

The North Union Farmers Market returns to Legacy Village each

Sunday from June 14 – Oct. 11, 9 a.m. to noon. Located in the parking lot next to The Capital Grille, local farmers will showcase their fresh grown produce, dairy, and meat products, honey and maple syrup, breads, pastries, cheeses, jellies, flowers, and more.

Village Trivia

Test your knowledge during Village Trivia, which starts at 6:30 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: June 10, 17, 24; July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; August 5, 12, 19, 26. Grab your friends and get comfy on The Lawn or on a restaurant patio and get ready to win some awesome prizes. Legacy Village's Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) will be available throughout the evening.

New: Fitness in the Village

Enjoy this free fitness series every Thursday on The Lawn from June 11 – Sept. 24, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Classes will be held by Flow Yoga, barre3, or Groove

Ryde's Bodyweight Bootcamp. The series kicks off with flow yoga, with the full schedule of classes and dates available at legacy-village.com/play.

Meet the Machines

Legacy Village partners with The City of Lyndhurst to present Meet the Machines on Sunday, Aug. 16, 12-3 p.m. This fun event will offer a unique opportunity for children to explore construction, emergency, and service vehicles in a fun, family-friendly environment with games, safety demos, music and vendors. Meet the Machines is free and open to the public. For more details on the event, visit legacy-village.com/play/meet-the-machines/.

Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)

Enjoy outdoor adult beverages while strolling or shopping from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. every day. For details, visit legacy-village.com/dora.

Beachwood Students Recognized in Ohio PTA Reflections Art Competition

For more than 50 years, the Ohio PTA has sponsored a program now known as Reflections, inspiring millions of students to create original artwork in response to a student-selected theme.

In its inaugural year, the Beachwood Community Special Education PTA (SEPTA) had two artist submissions, both of which were recognized at the state-level Ohio PTA Reflections art competition, out of more than 600 submissions from throughout the state. The 2025-2026 theme was "I Belong."

Congratulations to Medha Lalit Iyer and Adva Dana for being recognized in this competition.

Medha, a sixth grader at Beachwood Middle School, received the Outstanding Achievement Award for her

original song, *Flying North in D Major*, in the Music Composition category.

Adva, a ninth grader at Beachwood High School, received the third Honorable Mention for her origami creation in the Visual Arts Accessible Arts division.

Visit the SEPTA Reflections page at <https://beachwoodsepta.givebacks.com/w/reflections> to view their work and read their artist statements.

The 2026-2027 theme is "What My Culture Means to Me." SEPTA will begin accepting submissions in the fall. For

more information and to stay informed of competition details and deadlines, visit the SEPTA website: <https://beachwoodsepta.givebacks.com>.



Above: Adva Dana.
Below: Medha Lalit Iyer.



Students Experience Global Flavors in Culinary Arts Class

Students in the Excel TECC Culinary Arts program enjoyed a flavorful and educational experience, thanks to a special visit from Board of Education member Rini Ghosh. Bringing the rich traditions of Indian cuisine into the kitchen, Rini led an engaging, hands-on session that introduced students to ingredients, techniques, and cultural perspectives.

Throughout the visit, students explored the depth and complexity of Indian cooking, learning how spices can transform simple ingredients into vibrant, layered dishes. The menu featured a delicious chicken curry; spiced potatoes seasoned with cumin, black cumin, and five spice; and green beans prepared with coconut. Each dish offered a unique combination of flavors.



Holi Celebration

The Beachwood Schools Indian American Affinity Group hosted a colorful Holi celebration on May 3 at Beachwood High School. The family-friendly event brought the community together to celebrate the Festival of Colors, a tradition that symbolizes the triumph of good over evil and the spirit of unity. Participants enjoyed an afternoon filled with color play, activities, and traditional sweets.



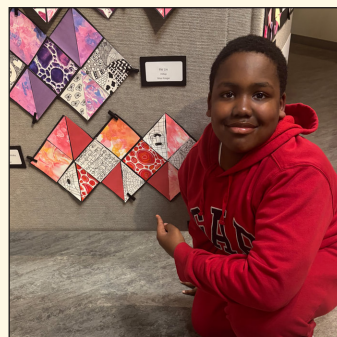
Creativity on Display at District Art Show

The annual Beachwood Schools K-12 Art Show, sponsored by the Beachwood Arts Council, was on display throughout the month of May at the Beachwood Community Center. Opening night on April 30 brought together families and community members to celebrate the creativity and talent of Beachwood students.

Upon entering the exhibition, guests were greeted

by colorful works from students at every grade level, including 3D pieces, drawings, paintings, collages, portfolios from AP classes, and more.

The show was organized by the district's art teachers – Chunny Hahn, Sarah Krieger, Rachel Hartwig, and Heather Grano. Their dedication and planning throughout the school year help to make this event an engaging experience for all who attend.



Photos by Beachwood Schools and Beachwood Arts Council.

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Beachwood Library Programs

The Role of Music in WWII with Debbie Darling
Friday, June 5 • 10-11 a.m.
Join us as Debbie explores the purpose and impact of popular music during the WWII era. Register at <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/15167140>.

Tuesday Book Chat
Tuesday, June 9 • 7-8 p.m.
Join us for a discussion of *Cursed Daughters*, by Oyinkan Braithwaite. Registration not necessary.

Airlines 101
Wednesday, June 10 • 2-3 p.m.
Learn about the ins and outs of airline loyalty programs, pricing, delays, and cancellation policies, and how to prepare for common travel frustrations. Register at <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/15981187>.

Third Wednesday Book Discussion
Wednesday, June 17 • 2-3 p.m.

Join us for a discussion of *Theo of Golden*, by Allen Levi. Register at <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/16020306>.

Father's Day Concert
Sunday, June 21 • 2-3 p.m.
Enjoy entertainment by the Moss Stanley Trio, featuring vocalist Jessica Horvath. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Register at <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/16445999>.

How to Multiply and Divide Perennials
Tuesday, June 30 • 7-8 p.m.
Learn how to multiply and divide perennials to gain free plants from a Master Gardener of Cuyahoga County. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Register at <https://attend.cuyahogalibrary.org/event/16074622>.

Summer Reading Challenge
This summer's reading challenge, *Unearth a Story*, starts June 1. Stop by the Beachwood Library to sign up and win cool prizes.

Summer Fun for Everyone
Mondays and Tuesdays, June 8 – July 28
2-3:30 p.m. • Grades 1-5
Each day will feature fun STEAM activities. No registration required.

Read to a Certified Therapy Dog
Wednesdays, June 10 – July 15
6 p.m. • Grades 2-5
Registration required. Presented by Pet Pals Program of University Hospitals.

Family Music & Movement Storytime
Mondays through July • 10-10:30 a.m.
All ages with caregiver

Baby & Toddler Storytime
Wednesdays through July • 10-10:30 a.m.
Birth – 35 months with caregiver

Baby & Toddler Storytime
Thursdays through July • 11-11:30 a.m.
Birth – 35 months with caregiver



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