

Beachwood Buzz

October 2026 Every Resident. Every Business. Every Month. MAGAZINE

CREATING A BUZZ FOR 30 YEARS

30

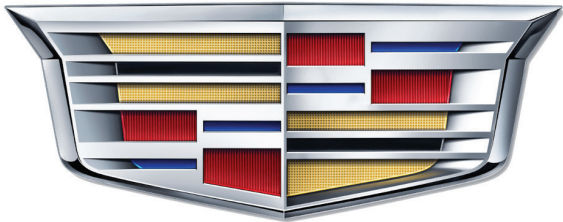
CELEBRATING THREE
DECADES OF
BEACHWOOD'S
PEOPLE, PROGRESS,
AND STORIES

Also inside:

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Letter from THE EDITOR

By Debby Zelman Rapoport

Thirty years. When I look back to 1996, when my children, Brian and Julie, were 9 and 6 years old, I feel sentimental about the years that have passed. When Andy, my co-creator, presented the idea of starting a local magazine, the word “sure” rolled off my tongue – a word of possibility that has left my lips several times before my brain had time to process what I had agreed to do.

As with anything, there have been ups and downs – believers and doubters. Back when I started, a friend from college told me there was no way this would last without a business plan – something I have never created, even to this day. My dad, who knew I get bored easily, doubted my commitment to making it last. Then, my mom, an optimist with an established career as an employment counselor, challenged me to make a few more phone calls each week to solicit advertising and further build the business.

What started as a project to occupy some time and earn a few extra dollars grew into a commitment to our community – to learn about its people and businesses and to tell their stories.

Here we are, 30 years later, and I’m so grateful for the continued

support, the people I’ve met along the way, and the stories I’ve been privileged to share.

Although I’ve published recaps at other milestones, this one feels different. It’s more heartfelt.

My sister, Darcy Alter, lost her battle with cancer 11 years ago next month. I still vividly remember sitting on the beach with her in the Bahamas, in July 2015, just a few months before she passed. I asked if she was ready to go back to the room to get ready for dinner and she told me to go ahead. She wanted just a few more minutes by herself to take in the beauty of the beach, as she knew this would be her last opportunity to do so. I remember her repeatedly telling me that the most important thing to her was making memories with her family – memories that they would carry throughout their lives.

Since then, I’ve felt grounded in knowing that every day is a blessing. None of us knows what tomorrow may bring, so let’s live our best lives and fulfill our dreams today.

I am extremely grateful to have reached this milestone. I’ve mentioned in past articles – and I mention again – that the longevity of this magazine is the result of a community effort: our city, schools, chamber, advertisers, businesses, residents, and everyone who supports me behind the scenes to bring this magazine to life each month.

Beachwood is a small community with big stories. I never would have believed that, 30 years after its inception, there would still be more stories to tell. I’ve been privileged to meet so many change makers, risk-takers, and

creatives who are making a difference every day.

I hope that, along the way, I’ve inspired you in one way or another – through the stories I’ve shared or columns I’ve written.

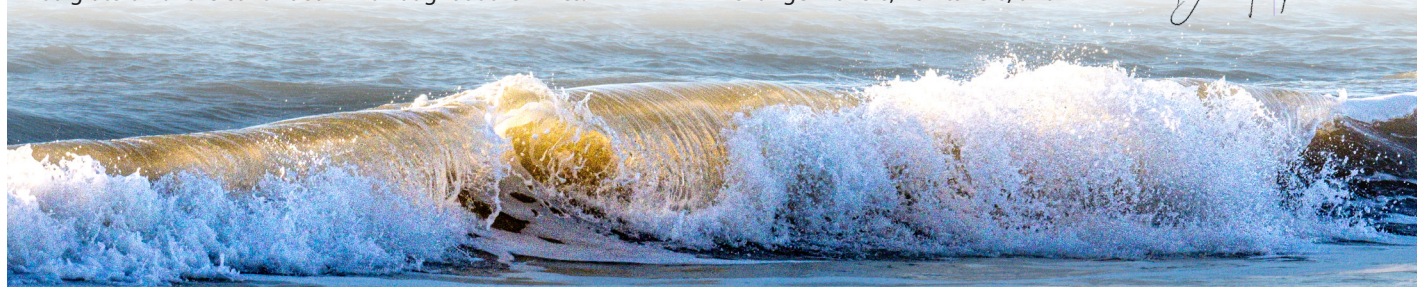
I’m humbled and grateful for the messages I’ve received on this 30-year milestone, some of which I share on these pages.

A tagline we’ve used all along is, “Everyone has a story to tell. Tell yours in *Beachwood Buzz*.” I’m grateful for each of you. I encourage you to follow your dreams, reach out, and share your story. Again, we don’t know what tomorrow may bring.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to seeing what comes next.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Debby ♥



Community Messages on Our 30th Anniversary

I was first introduced to Debby through Brian Sokol, a fellow photographer in the Beachwood Photography Group. Debby heard that I had composed music for marathons and called to see if I would be interested in doing a story – which evolved into the cover story in January 2026.

Her article changed my life and our first meeting turned into a great friendship. Debby is an incredibly talented writer and could easily be a novelist. However, to regularly publish the *Buzz*, she has shown her prowess as a skilled reporter, asking key questions and

then organizing her thoughts into a concise story. She somehow was able to put everything together, and present my life and accomplishments (so far), in just a few pages.

The feedback I’ve received about my article has been terrific, and I have reconnected with friends from more than 50 years ago. I am forever grateful for all she has done for me. Congratulations on 30 years of life-changing articles.

~ Margaret Konecky

Continued on page 6.

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Beachwood Buzz

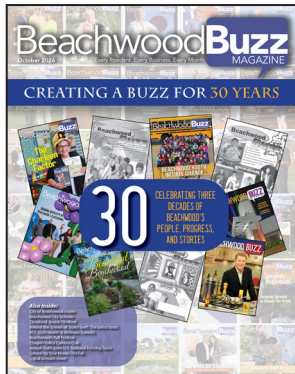
Every Resident. Every Business. Every Month.

Buzz
MAGAZINE

Cover Story:

Every Resident. Every Business. Every Month.

CREATING A BUZZ FOR 30 YEARS



This month marks 30 years since the creation of *Beachwood Buzz* – three decades of celebrating the people, milestones, and stories that have shaped our community. This remarkable anniversary was made possible by the dedication of our team; the steadfast support of the City of Beachwood, Beachwood Board of Education, Beachwood Chamber of Commerce, and our advertisers; the many contributions of local businesses, organizations, and residents; and you – our readers. Be sure to view Beachwood's select 30-year timeline on the following pages.

Cover Story written by Debby Zelman Rapoport
Photos by Scott Morrison, Discovery Photo

Who We Are

Debby Zelman Rapoport
Editor/Publisher

Adam Jacob
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Scott Morrison
Photography Director

Elaine Cicora
Proofreader

Stephen Valentine
Art Director

Kent Smith
Jennifer Stern
Contributing Writers

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

Beachwood Buzz is distributed via the U.S. Post Office to every resident and every business, every month. If you live outside our distribution area, subscriptions are available by sending your name, address and a check for \$36 (12 issues) to *Beachwood Buzz* P.O. Box 22194 Beachwood, Ohio 44122

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.

Editorial Information

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Community Messages on Our 30th Anniversary

When I was growing up, I remember always being so excited when *Beachwood Buzz* arrived at our house – I would pore through the pages to see names that I recognized. Even now, when I visit my parents' house and see the magazine on our dining room table, I make a beeline for it and do the exact same thing.

Local news is such a vital resource for every community, and at a time when so much local coverage is shrinking, I'm grateful that *Beachwood Buzz* is still going strong.

~ Emily Yahr (2004 BHS grad – see story on page 18.)

You have been the heart monitor for our dynamic city. Through your magazine pages, residents and visitors continue to experience our folks, the schools, and businesses that make our community so special. As president of Beachwood Historical Society, I personally thank you for highlighting, gathering memories, and weaving the stories of our Hometown Heroes and the Veterans; for sharing the beautiful photographs of our Garden Tours; highlighting our Pickleball Tournament winners; and most recently, sharing soliloquies from the *Heroes Who Shaped America* performance.

Beachwood Buzz serves as a vital gateway connecting us with the threads of history and knowledge – it is a catalyst for communication. Debby and her team reflect love, passion, and purpose as they continue to weave together stories that create the tapestry we call Beachwood.

~ Rosemary Nemeth (President, Beachwood Historical Society)

When my kids started Beachwood Schools and I became active in PTA *Beachwood Buzz* was a helpful tool for me to see what was happening in the schools and my city. Although it was a much smaller magazine back then, it helped me feel connected. I loved that it highlighted the inception of the PTO Garage Sale, and helped get the word out so everyone who wanted to could become involved. Now, 30 years after its inception, I still get excited to see *Beachwood Buzz* in my mailbox. I love reading Debby's "Letter from The Editor," and am grateful that we have this magazine, which helps me stay connected to Beachwood.



– Jan Kirschenbaum (Beachwood resident, volunteer)

Our family was so grateful that *Beachwood Buzz* featured the bone-marrow-transplant story about Marc Bakst (BHS Class of '71) donating to his brother, Alan Bakst (BHS Class of '69), when Alan developed leukemia. This summer we celebrated Alan's 75th birthday and his eighth year in remission. We believe that publicity can offer hope to other families. Thank you and congratulations on 30 years of *Beachwood Buzz*!

~ Marcia K Bakst (Beachwood resident)



Beachwood Buzz has been a part of my life for almost as long as I can remember. The magazine started when I was just 6 years old, and now, more than a decade into working here, I've spent roughly a third of my life as part of the *Buzz* family.

That's pretty special to me. I grew up with the *Buzz*, and in a way, I've grown up alongside it. It's more than just a magazine or a job, it's something that has been a constant in my life, and I'm incredibly proud to be a small part of its 30-year story.

~ Adam Jacob (*Beachwood Buzz* director of sales)



The *Buzz* has been supportive of all my efforts in this very busy community. Debby has found space to promote the Yarn Over Beachwood knitting and crocheting group that I founded around 20 years ago – formerly called *women4women-knitting4peace*. She knew how needed our projects were in other communities, both local and international. She also showcased my philanthropy, and celebrated the books I've written for children and their families. Best of all, she has shared her many talents in painting and photography shows, and by speaking to groups in our community. Thank you, Debby, for your warmth of spirit and your passion in producing *Beachwood Buzz* for all of us to enjoy and rely on in our community.

~ Iris November (Philanthropist, author, founder)

Thirty years ago, when I was PTA president, you approached me and told me about a community magazine you were starting. You asked if the PTA would like to have a monthly column in it.

I had so many questions. How could it be free? How would you find enough advertisers to support it? How would you gather all of the information you needed every month?

I didn't know you very well at the time, and, quite honestly, I thought you would be lucky if this magazine lasted six months!

That was my mistake – I simply didn't know you well enough! If I had known you then the way I have come to know you over the past 30 years, I would have realized that Debby Rapoport gets done whatever she sets out to do – with professionalism, kindness, fairness, caring, inclusivity, and generosity.

Of course, this new magazine was going to succeed!

Thank you, Debby, for bringing our community closer together. Thank you for enlightening residents with news, information, and wonderful stories. Thank you for helping make Beachwood the incredible city that it is.

And most of all, thank you for being you! Congratulations on 30 years of an extraordinary contribution to our community!

~ Paula Zavell Rollins (President, Beachwood Arts Council)

CREATING A BUZZ FOR 30 YEARS

CELEBRATING THREE DECADES OF BEACHWOOD'S PEOPLE, PROGRESS, AND STORIES

This month marks 30 years since the creation of *Beachwood Buzz* – three decades of celebrating the people, milestones, and stories that have shaped our community. This remarkable anniversary was made possible by the dedication of our team; the steadfast support of the City of Beachwood, Beachwood Board of Education, Beachwood Chamber of Commerce, and our advertisers; the many contributions of local businesses, organizations, and residents; and you – our readers. Together, we continue to preserve and share the story of Beachwood.

I am deeply grateful for the relationships formed and lessons learned throughout this journey. Month after month, I have the privilege of meeting remarkable people, witnessing meaningful change, and discovering the many ways that individuals

strengthen our community. Each issue has reinforced my belief that every person has a story worth telling and that sharing those stories helps us understand, appreciate, and connect with one another. I am profoundly thankful for the trust, support, and encouragement that have made it possible to publish this magazine every month for 30 years.

Much has changed since our first issue appeared in 1996, yet our mission remains the same: a magazine about Beachwood, for Beachwood, by Beachwood. As we celebrate this milestone, we invite you to revisit defining moments that have helped make Beachwood one of the best communities in which to live, work, and play. Drawn primarily from past issues of *Beachwood Buzz*, the following timeline captures just part of our city's extraordinary story.

1997

- The city increased its residential income-tax credit to 100%, reducing municipal income taxes for residents who worked outside Beachwood.
- Planning continued for new Beachwood Board of Education administrative and early-childhood facilities on Fairmount Boulevard.
- Beachwood Schools Foundation expanded its support of student scholarships and educational enrichment.

1998

- The city developed a 15- to 20-year master plan.
- The city implemented its Senior Transportation Program.
- Fairmount Elementary School and the new Beachwood Board of Education building opened on Fairmount Boulevard.
- The city hired a certified arborist.
- Harvey Friedman Leadership Scholarship was established for graduating Beachwood High School seniors.

1999

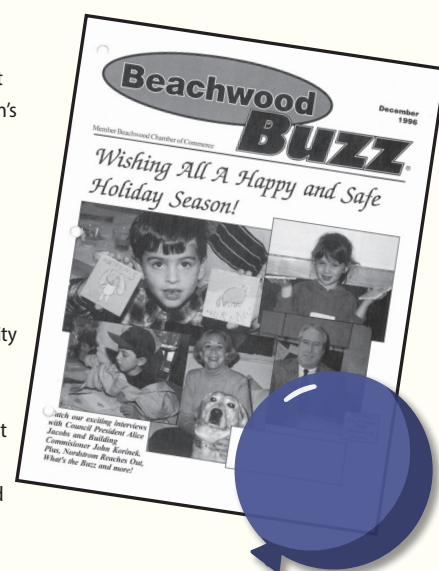
- Beachwood installed Ohio's first Reverse 911 emergency-notification system – now known as Code Red.
- The city entered into an agreement with the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce to focus on economic development.
- *Beachwood Buzz* began publishing "City Council Update" and "You and Your Schools."
- Honkin' Haulin' Hands on Trucks was introduced.
- Beachwood Historical Society was established.
- Beachwood Arts Council presented "Tribute to the Browns."

2001

- Eight tournament-style tennis courts were built.
- Beachwood Arts Council held its final exhibition in the Beachwood Center for the Arts building.
- Beachwood Fire Station #1 was completed on Richmond Road.
- A preschool play system was added to the Fairmount Boulevard playground.
- Dakota "Cody" Weiner Memorial Scholarship was established to honor kindness, perseverance, and service.
- Pam and Dan Johnston Scholarship was created to recognize a student who perseveres through daily challenges.

2000

- Beachwood Police Department developed E-Copp, the children's online protection program.
- Beachwood City Park West was developed.
- Nordstrom opened at Beachwood Place.
- The city spearheaded and implemented a multi-community bicycle route.
- Beachwood Post Office was designated the Larry Small Post Office Building.
- A new playground was installed on Fairmount Boulevard.





2002

- Mobile data terminals were installed in Beachwood police cruisers and at the dispatch center.
- The city launched its Summer Music Concert series.
- Planning advanced for a new Beachwood Middle School.

2003

- Beachwood Family Aquatic Center was completed.
- Steel recovered from the World Trade Center was placed on display at Fire Station #1 – and is currently displayed at the Public Safety Center/Fire Station #2.
- The new Beachwood Middle School opened, with expanded opportunities for science, technology, the arts, and collaborative learning.

2004

- Beachwood City Park West was completed.
- Beachwood Business Development Center opened.
- Paul Williams retired as superintendent of Beachwood Schools, and Richard Markwardt was named his successor.
- Dave and Janice Bloom Scholarship was established to recognize commitment to Beachwood athletics and sportsmanship.

2005

- Mayor Merle Gorden was named one of Northeast Ohio's "Power 100" by *Inside Business*.
- *Cleveland Magazine* ranked Beachwood the region's best place to live.
- Beachwood Municipal Complex opened.
- Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage opened.
- Voters approved a 5.9-mill school operating levy.

2006

- Beachwood City Park East was completed.
- University Hospitals announced plans for Ahuja Medical Center.
- Beachwood became the first city in Cuyahoga County to implement automated rubbish collection.
- Beachwood Community Center opened with an exhibition by artist Peter Max.
- Beachwood Library underwent a major renovation.
- Beachwood Place announced expansion plans.
- The city introduced its 50-Year Resident Salute.
- Robert Hardis joined Beachwood Schools as principal of Beachwood High School.

2007

- Beachwood launched its community shredding program.
- Beachwood Police and Fire Departments both achieved accreditation.
- The city partnered with the Cuyahoga County Public Library to bring Wi-Fi to Beachwood City Park and the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center.
- Beachwood Chamber of Commerce introduced Taste of Beachwood.
- Cleveland Clinic purchased the former MBNA property.
- The city and Village in the Heights created the Senior Trash Assistance Program, which is now operated by the city.
- Beachwood Schools further invested in advanced coursework, technology, music, and the arts.

2008

- Beachwood Library launched its Music at the Library series.
- Eaton announced plans to establish its world headquarters in Beachwood.
- The city enacted a rental-occupancy ordinance to help protect homes and neighborhoods.
- Beachwood Historical Society installed a gallery of historic photographs inside City Hall.
- Beachwood Chamber of Commerce and the city received an Innovation Zone Award for their economic-development partnership.
- Beachwood High School's marketing class introduced the Green Dream eco-friendly business showcase.
- Beachwood Schools earned Moody's highest possible Aaa bond rating, which the district has maintained ever since.

2009

- Beachwood was ranked sixth in a national study of the country's best places to retire.
- The city, Beachwood Arts Council, and DDR presented "Britto in Beachwood" with pop artist Romero Britto.
- The city brought its economic-development operations in-house.
- Beachwood placed first in Cuyahoga County for its recycling efforts.
- *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Beachwood High School among the best high schools in the country.

2010

- Jewish Federation of Cleveland opened its headquarters in Beachwood.
- Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District named Beachwood its "Recycling King."
- Planning moved forward for a major renovation and expansion of Beachwood High School.
- Vera Arlen Scholarship was established to recognize leadership, humanity and generosity.

2011

- Board of Education broke ground on the \$35.6 million Beachwood High School improvement project.
- Beachwood Historical Society moved its artifacts to a new archive at the Beachwood Service Department, now known as the Public Works Department.
- Beachwood Arts Council presented its first DiversityFest, featuring art, dance, music, and food representing several cultures.
- Beachwood Arts Council presented its Holiday Arts & Crafts Show.
- Donna Bickoff Cohen Scholarship and Gevelber Family Scholarship were established.

2012

- *Beachwood Buzz* transitioned from black and white to full color.
- The city restricted cellphone use while driving.
- Beachwood Historical Society and the city sponsored its first Veterans Day ceremony at Beachwood Cemetery.
- Beachwood Library underwent a complete renovation.
- Construction and renovation continued at Beachwood High School while classes remained in session.
- Joshua Mintz and Steven Rosen joined the Board of Education.



2013

- Eaton opened its world headquarters in Beachwood.
- Beachwood High School celebrated completion of its \$35.6 million renovation and expansion.
- CodeRED emergency-alert system was introduced.
- Entrovation succeeded Green Dream as Beachwood High School's entrepreneurial showcase.
- The city launched its Job Creation Grant Program.
- More than 2,500 businesses were operating in Beachwood.
- Beachwood Historical Society and the city conducted a ground-penetrating radar survey in Beachwood Cemetery.
- Beachwood Historical Society received its first grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.
- Beachwood High School-University Hospitals Medical Academy was created.
- Beachwood Arts Council established the Si and Shirley Wachsberger Art Scholarship.

2014

- The city launched its mobile app.
- Beachwood High School held its 10th Gallery of Success induction, bringing the number of inductees to 121.
- Beachwood developed its "2014 Vision and Beyond" plan.
- Beachwood was recognized as a Tree City USA community for the 18th consecutive year.
- Beachwood Historical Society located the city's original charter in Columbus.
- A three-dimensional historical display was installed inside City Hall.

- Richard Markwardt announced his retirement as superintendent, and the Board of Education selected Robert Hardis as his successor.
- Plans began for Beachwood's centennial celebration.
- The city and Beachwood High School Junior Achievement students collaborated on "100 Leaves," a public-art project honoring Beachwood's history and achievements.
- Beachwood Arts Council introduced a series of community arts-and-crafts workshops.

2015

- Beachwood celebrated the 100th anniversary of its incorporation as a village.
- Artist Peter Max returned to Beachwood and created a commemorative cover for the October issue of *Beachwood Buzz* (upper left corner).
- Between 2007 and 2015, more than \$900 million in new capital was invested in Beachwood, creating nearly 3,400 jobs.
- Hilltop Elementary School was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Robert Hardis became superintendent of Beachwood Schools.
- *Newsweek* again ranked Beachwood High School among the top 1% of high schools in the United States.
- Beachwood Arts Council introduced its free Sunday Sounds concert series.
- Artwork by Beachwood residents was selected for a set of 16 fundraising art cards.
- Beachwood Historical Society held its first Historical Bicycle Tour, which later became the Home and Garden Tour.

2016

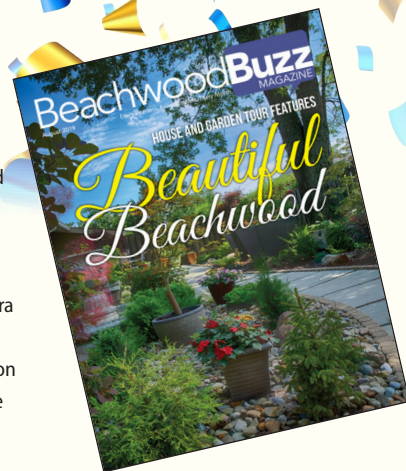
- Lights were installed at the Beachwood High School football stadium.
- Beachwood High School unveiled its renovated auditorium with a performance by the Cleveland Orchestra and BHS students.
- A Beachwood Middle School Destination Imagination team placed second at the Global Finals.
- Beachwood High School girls' 4x100-meter relay team won a state championship.
- Beachwood Historical Society and Boy Scout Troop 620 established the Butterfly Garden in Beachwood City Park West (now called Gorden Gateway).

2017

- Beachwood Schools explored consolidating its elementary grades at the Fairmount campus.
- Beachwood Historical Society and the city host first Home and Garden Tour, along with yoga and tai chi programs in July.
- Community discussion continued about the district's facilities plan.

2018

- Martin Horwitz became mayor after defeating Merle Gorden, who had served as mayor since 1995.
- Beachwood Public Safety Center opened.
- The city established its first Community Reinvestment Area, creating property-tax incentives for qualifying projects.
- Beachwood introduced a city-sponsored block-party program.
- Lynn Johnson was hired as the city's full-time internal communications coordinator.
- Beachwood Arts Council renamed its regional student exhibition the Ileen Kelner Juried High School Art Show.
- Voters considered a school bond issue for a consolidated PreK-5 building and athletic-facility improvements.
- Beachwood Historical Society and the city sponsored first Pickleball Tournament.



2019

- Beachwood's dog park, Barkwood, opened.
- Beachwood Medical Center opened.
- The Board of Education created the position of director of equity and community engagement.
- Kevin Houchins was selected to lead the district's equity and community-engagement initiatives.
- Megan Walsh was appointed to the Board of Education following Steven Rosen's resignation.



2020

- Kelly Stillman was named Beachwood police chief.
- Beachwood Library installed StoryWalk™ in Beachwood City Park East.
- The city created community gardens.
- Beachwood became one of the first Ohio cities to require masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The city introduced its first Honkin' Haulin' Parade.
- Barkwood and SYNlawn Northeast Ohio received the Synthetic Turf Council's Commercial Landscape Project of the Year Award.
- A Food Truck Park opened on Chagrin Boulevard.
- 24/7 Wall St. ranked Beachwood No. 32 on its list of America's 50 Best Cities to Live.
- Beachwood Arts Council presented its first virtual exhibition.
- Beachwood Schools shifted to remote instruction in response to COVID-19.
- The district continued to focus its work on student achievement, intercultural awareness, and mental health.
- Beachwood Historical Society, Porsche Dealership, and the city sponsored car rally on Chagrin Boulevard.
- Barkwood donation fund was established.
- Public Safety Center (Fire Station #2) hosted Cuyahoga County Board of Health COVID-19 vaccination clinics.
- Beachwood High School students presented Hope Blooms Ohio, a public-art and fundraising initiative featuring five monumental inflatable flowers.
- Beachwood Historical Society and the city created Hometown Heroes program.
- L. Stewart Hastings Jr. became Beachwood's law director.
- Beachwood expanded its Community Reinvestment Area to include all commercial property.
- Beachwood Police Department established a chaplain program.
- Beachwood Schools returned to full-time, in-person instruction.
- Board of Education approved universal masking and other COVID-19 precautions.
- The district reported approximately 1,470 students and 25 languages spoken in Beachwood homes.
- Beachwood Arts Council presented a permanent collage by artist Shari Wolf to the Beachwood Community Center.

2021

- Derek Schroeder became director of Beachwood Community Services following the retirements of Karen Carmen, Pete Conces, and Esther Rutman.
- Beachwood Delivers was created to provide residents with free delivery from Beachwood restaurants during the pandemic.



2022

- Justin Berns became mayor of Beachwood on Jan. 1.
- Beachwood was again ranked the region's No. 1 suburb by *Cleveland Magazine*.
- The city introduced CLE Market, its first recurring eastside pop-up market for local businesses.
- Beachwood opened a new outdoor fitness park.
- The city, schools, Beachwood Place, and Beachwood Chamber of Commerce collaborated on the Beachwood CAN food drive for Harvest for Hunger.
- Beachwood Schools developed a master plan, with input from hundreds of community members, to replace Bryden and Hilltop elementary schools.
- Megan Walsh became Board of Education president, with Jillian DeLong as vice president.
- Josephine Chan, Kim Allamby and Wendy Leatherberry joined the Board.

Our mission, then and now:
Beachwood Buzz is a magazine
about Beachwood, for Beachwood,
by Beachwood. We always
welcome input with open arms!



2023

- Beachwood issued its first comprehensive State of the City report.
- MasterBrand opened its national headquarters in Beachwood.
- City Council approved construction of a new community playground near the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center.
- The city and Beachwood Schools established an innovative property-tax partnership for the elementary facilities project.
- Voters approved a 3.95-mill bond issue authorizing \$65 million for new Bryden and Hilltop schools and improvements to Fairmount Early Childhood Center.
- Moody's reaffirmed Beachwood Schools' Aaa bond rating, making it one of only three Ohio school districts with that distinction.
- Beachwood Schools earned five stars in every component of the Ohio School Report Card, tying for sixth in the state.
- Treasurer Michele Mills retired after 35 years of service, and Matthew Brown succeeded her.
- Jillian DeLong resigned from the Board of Education after being elected to Beachwood City Council.
- Beachwood Arts Council installed its first Free Little Art Gallery for people to take home a piece of artwork and/or donate artwork for others to take.

2024

- The Beachwood Community Playground opened on May 31, welcoming more than 500 visitors to its grand-opening celebration.
- The city acquired the former Fairmount Temple property.
- Beachwood launched a residential composting program in partnership with Rust Belt Riders.
- Daniel Grispingo was appointed Beachwood police chief following the retirement of Katherine McLaughlin.
- The city added a full-time public relations manager.
- A new Porsche Beachwood facility opened following an approximately \$30 million investment.
- Beachwood Schools broke ground on new Bryden and Hilltop elementary schools.
- The district received the Auditor of State Award with Distinction for its clean financial audit.
- Beachwood Schools earned the highest possible five-star rating on the 2024 Ohio School Report Card.
- Board of Education renewed Superintendent Robert Hardis' contract for five years.
- Ranjini Ghosh joined the Board of Education.
- Beachwood Arts Council celebrated its 60th Anniversary.

2025

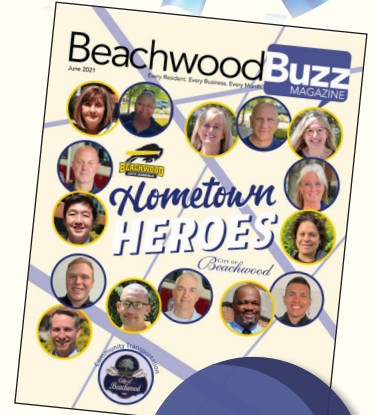
- The city purchased nearly 43 acres in Chagrin Highlands.
- Beachwood entered into a preliminary agreement to begin negotiations for the redevelopment of the former Fairmount Temple property.
- Millennium Control Systems opened its global headquarters in Beachwood.
- The city launched the Beachwood Business Compass podcast.
- Beachwood introduced a solar-streetlight pilot program.
- Police Department added its first all-electric patrol vehicle.
- Peter Smith was appointed to fill a vacancy on City Council.
- Construction advanced on the new Bryden and Hilltop schools.
- The new Bryden School was formally dedicated with a December ribbon-cutting.
- Beachwood Schools received the Best Communities for Music Education designation for the 20th consecutive year.

- Students in the Excel TECC Marketing/Junior Achievement program raised a record \$228,000 through Hope Heroes.
- Board of Education honored 33 Beachwood High School students who earned Ohio's Seal of Biliteracy.
- Beachwood Historical Society worked with U.S. government's Veterans Affairs Department to research and replace two Revolutionary War soldiers gravestones in Beachwood Cemetery to honor soldiers of 1776.

2026

- The new Hilltop School was formally dedicated with a March ribbon-cutting and students moved into the new building following spring break.
- Beachwood High School earned Silver recognition on the College Board's AP School Honor Roll.
- The Board of Education selected Rebekah Sharpe as the next principal of Beachwood High School.

- Mayor Justin Berns presented the State of the City address in a new combined program with the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce's Mayor's Business Reception.
- Beachwood Beats expanded the city's summer entertainment offerings with an eight-week concert series.
- The city continued planning for the future of the former Fairmount Temple property and other major development sites.
- Beachwood Historical Society and the city created Heroes Who Shaped America program to celebrate individuals who shaped our country.
- *Beachwood Buzz* celebrated 30 years of sharing stories about the people, institutions, and milestones that have shaped our community.



SERVING BEACHWOOD: 1996–2026

As we walk down memory lane, we recognize the residents who served on Beachwood City Council and the Beachwood Board of Education during the 30 years represented in this timeline. An asterisk denotes a current member as of September 2026.

Beachwood Mayors and City Council Members, 1996–Present

MAYORS

- Merle Gorden
- Martin Horwitz
- Justin Berns

CITY COUNCIL

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| • Marty Arsham | • Alec Isaacson* | • James Pasch |
| • Barbara Bellin Janovitz | • Alex Jacobs* | • Danielle Shoykhet* |
| • Justin Berns | • Alice Jacobs | • Pete Smith* |
| • Mike Burkons | • Melvin Jacobs | • Ali Stern* |
| • Jillian DeLong* | • Kenneth Kleinman | • Eric Synenberg |
| • Saul Eisen | • Brian Linick | • June Taylor* |
| • Fred Goodman | • Mark Mintz | • Mark Wachter |
| • Martin Horwitz | • Joshua Mintz | • Si Wachsberger |

Beachwood Board of Education Members, 1996–Present

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| • Sylvia Aarons | • Jamie Elwell | • Mark Mintz | • Steven Rosen |
| • Kim Allamby* | • Rini Ghosh* | • Joshua Mintz | • Jennifer Tramer |
| • Maria Bennett | • Martin Horwitz | • David Ostro | • Megan Walsh* |
| • Dr. Josephine Chan* | • Wendy Leatherberry* | • Dr. Scott Peters | • Dr. Brian Weiss |
| • Jillian DeLong | • Mitchel Luxenburg | • Dr. Alan Rosenthal | • Michael Zawatsky |
| • Saul Eisen | • Valerie Markowitz | • Beth Rosenbaum | |

Balance Solutions

Physical Therapy



Parkinson's
Disease

Think BIG. Speak LOUD.

Helping People with Parkinson's Move and Communicate with Confidence

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one convenient Beachwood location**

**Program is covered by
most medical insurances!**

**An intensive, amplitude
focused therapy for Parkinson's
and other disorders.**



**Faster Walking
Louder Talking
Improve Balance
Reduce Fall Risk
Improve Posture
Improve Activities of
Daily Living**

Getting Results with

LSVT BIG® & LSVT LOUD™

Certified Clinicians!

LOCAL PARKINSON'S CARE IN ONE LOCATION

LSVT BIG®: Balance Solutions Physical Therapy | LSVT LOUD®: Nicole Gerami, LLC

Parkinson's disease can gradually change the way a person moves, speaks, and participates in everyday life. Steps may become smaller, movements slower, posture more stooped, and everyday activities such as getting out of a chair, turning in bed, or walking through a busy store may require more effort. At the same time, a person's voice may become softer or less clear, making conversations with family, friends, and others increasingly frustrating. These changes can be subtle at first, and the person with Parkinson's may not always recognize how much their movement or voice has changed.

Two specialized treatment programs—LSVT BIG® and LSVT LOUD®—were developed specifically to address these common challenges. Although BIG focuses on movement and LOUD focuses on communication, both programs use intensive, repetitive practice to help people with Parkinson's recalibrate how they move or speak. In simple terms, the goal is to help the brain recognize that movements or voice levels that may initially feel "too big" or "too loud" are often actually closer to normal.

Nicole Gerami LLC
Speech and Language Services

**23175 Commerce Park
Beachwood - Ohio**

**(216) 292-7370
NicoleGerami.com**

Think BIG. Speak LOUD.

Helping People with Parkinson's Move and Communicate with Confidence.



LSVT BIG® is a physical or occupational therapy-based program that trains people to use larger, more purposeful movements. Treatment can address walking, balance, posture, reaching, transfers, getting in and out of bed, dressing, and other activities that are important to the individual. Practicing bigger movements can help counter the small, slow movements commonly associated with Parkinson's. Research on LSVT BIG® has reported improvements in areas such as walking speed, mobility, balance, and motor function for many participants. Just as importantly, treatment is designed around real-life goals so that improvements in the clinic carry over into the home and community.

LSVT LOUD® is a speech therapy program designed to improve vocal loudness and communication.

consistency. The goal is not simply to "shout." Instead, patients learn to produce a voice that is easier for others to hear and understand during everyday conversations. Treatment may also improve confidence when speaking in groups, talking on the telephone, ordering at a restaurant, or communicating with loved ones.

For many people, movement and communication are closely connected to independence. Being able to walk confidently across a room is important, but so is being able to clearly tell someone what you need when you get there. That is why having access to both programs can be especially valuable for individuals with Parkinson's and their families.



For more specific program information, please contact LSVT
Global: 1-888-438-5788 |
info@LSVTGlobal.com |
www.LSVTGlobal.com

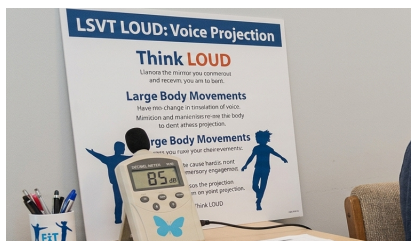
In Beachwood, patients can conveniently access both services in the same building.

- Balance Solutions Physical Therapy provides LSVT BIG® with clinicians who can address mobility, balance, strength, gait, and functional movement.
- Nicole Gerami, LLC, provides LSVT LOUD® speech therapy to address voice and communication.

Having these complementary services in one location can make it easier for patients and families to build a coordinated approach to managing the movement and communication challenges associated with Parkinson's disease.

Parkinson's is progressive, but that does not mean people should wait until symptoms become severe before seeking help. Early intervention can help establish effective movement and communication strategies, while people who have been living with Parkinson's for years may also benefit from specialized treatment.

If you or someone you love is noticing smaller steps, slower movement, balance problems, a softer voice, or increasing difficulty being understood, an evaluation may be an important next step.



Parkinson's can reduce voice volume and make speech sound soft, breathy, monotone, or difficult to understand.

Through structured exercises and functional speaking tasks, LSVT LOUD helps patients use a healthier, stronger voice with less effort and greater

To schedule an evaluation with an LSVT BIG® Therapist call (440) 449-3400

To schedule an evaluation with an LSVT LOUD® Therapist call (216) 292-7370

The goal is simple: Help people with Parkinson's keep moving, communicating, and participating in the activities and relationships that matter most.

With LSVT BIG® and LSVT LOUD® available together in Beachwood, specialized Parkinson's care is close to home.

Best Lawyers ONES TO WATCH

DAN BARON

2026



Top Five Celebrity Estate Planning Mistakes

We recently lost one of my favorite artists, Dolly Parton. Although *Jolene* has always been my favorite Dolly song, I found myself reflecting on *Coat of Many Colors* while listening to a live band perform it the other night. It occurred to me that every family has its own coat of many colors, woven from the people, stories, traditions, and memories that make it unique. A thoughtful estate plan helps protect the people you love and preserve the story your family has created.

It is too early to know what arrangements Dolly made for her estate, and those details may remain private, which is often a sign of effective planning. Unfortunately, other well-known entertainers have not been as fortunate. You might assume that the rich and famous have access to the very best legal advice, particularly when planning their estates. Yet even some of the world's most successful celebrities have left behind poorly drafted documents, outdated plans, or no estate plan at

all. Their mistakes have resulted in expensive litigation, unnecessary taxes, family conflict, and court proceedings that continued for years after their deaths.

In this article, we will examine some of those mistakes, explain how the same issues can affect any family, and discuss the steps you can take to avoid them.

1.) Michael Jackson: Failing to Connect Assets to Trust

Michael Jackson planned ahead and knew he would need to protect assets in a trust in advance of his passing. Unfortunately, Jackson's mistake was that he failed to officially "fund the trust" before he died. Since the funds were not where they needed to be at the time of his death, they were unable to be distributed; and his estate, worth \$500 million when he died, had to go through probate court. When you are planning your estate, an important final step is to link your financial accounts to your trust to ensure it is funded. This can be accomplished simply by naming the trust as the beneficiary of the account. In our estate planning process, we guide you from start to finish, including working with your financial planner to associate

your accounts with your trust, ensuring a smooth transition of funds to your beneficiaries.

2.) Whitney Houston: Choosing the Wrong Trust

In the case of Whitney Houston, she astutely started planning her estate early in life, creating a will at age 30. After her daughter, Bobbi Kristina, was born, she knew she needed to update her will to include Bobbi as a beneficiary of her estate, so she elected to add a testamentary trust provision. Unfortunately, a testamentary trust was not the best option because it requires settlement in probate court after death and thus leaves all documents, such as her will, open to the public. Instead, Whitney could have created a revocable family trust, avoiding probate, while also allowing her flexibility to make updates as life events occurred. The family trust would have also provided asset protection for her daughter and unborn children.

3.) James Gandolfini: Disregarding Estate Taxes

Sopranos star, James Gandolfini, created his will just six months before dying unexpectedly of a heart attack - a great reminder that the best time to start planning your estate is now. Similar to Whitney Houston, Gandolfini's use of a will, instead of a living trust, meant his final wishes can be viewed by anyone across the internet. His greater mistake, though, was to leave only 20% of his assets to his wife, leaving the other 80% going to his kids and other associates subject to a massive combined federal and state tax rate of 55% (in his case, approximately \$30 million). Instead, he could have left 100% of his assets to his wife tax-free due to marital

deduction laws and she in turn could have established trusts naming their children and family friends as beneficiaries, or they could have created a joint revocable family trust in both of their names. It is important for you and your spouse to discuss your estate plans with each other and your attorney, whether you would like your assets passed on together or separately. A good lawyer can help you strategically establish and execute your estate plan to take care of your family and avoid leaving them with a major tax bill after you are gone.

4.) Etta James: Failing to Name Powers of Attorney

A common theme in estate planning advice is to get your plan started earlier than you think you will need to. As for Grammy-winning recording artist Etta James, she did establish an estate plan naming her son, Donte James, as her sole power of attorney for medical and financial matters. However, her husband, Artis Mills, disagreed with some of Donte's decisions and argued that his power of attorney status was invalid because Etta was already afflicted with Alzheimer's at the time of his appointment. It is important to establish your financial and healthcare powers of attorney long before you think you will need them. These are two separate designations and the roles can be assigned to two different people or the same person - you can also name one or more successors to ensure that even if your first choice is unable or unwilling to serve in this capacity you have a back-up plan in place.

5.) Marlon Brando: Making Verbal Promises

It is said that before his passing, Brando made a verbal promise to his long-time housekeeper that he would give her his home, but this was not reflected in his court-validated will. Without a written provision established in his estate plan, the housekeeper was legally entitled to nothing. It is important to remember that verbal commitments are not enough for the court of law, and if there is any part of your estate that you do in fact wish to grant to family, friends, or otherwise, it needs to be established in writing as part of your will and/or trust. This is why it is consequential to update your estate documents regularly for any life changes, including new marriages or divorce, the birth or adoption of new children or grandchildren, changes in your health, income, or state of residence, as well as any promises made to friends and family for physical or monetary assets.

No matter how big or small your estate is, it is important to properly lay out your wishes in an established estate plan. For more information or to schedule a complimentary consultation, contact us at 216-573-3723 or dan@baronlawcleveland.com.

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



Cleveland Jewish FilmFest Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Festival opens Thursday, Oct. 8, featuring 39 films from 13 countries over 11 days

The Mandel Jewish Community Center proudly presents its 20th Annual Cleveland Jewish FilmFest, running Oct. 8-18, 2026. This year's festival includes 39 films from 13 countries, with a diverse lineup of documentaries, feature films, comedies, and short films.

Tickets are currently on sale at www.mandeljcc.org/filmfest. Films will be screened at venues throughout Greater Cleveland, including the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cedar Lee Theatre, Cinematheque at the Cleveland Institute of Art, and the Mandel JCC. Five films will be available to stream. Each streaming film will have a 48-hour viewing window once viewing begins.

Opening night at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History will feature the new film *Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls: Another Side of Woody Guthrie*. The film will be introduced by a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame staff. The evening includes an invite-only Insider Party, the film screening, and a dessert reception to celebrate the festival's milestone 20th anniversary.

"We are thrilled to be celebrating our 20th festival with an exciting slate of films. We are especially enthusiastic about an opportunity to ensure the future of the Cleveland Jewish FilmFest through a generous challenge match from Sally and Larry Sears, who will match every dollar raised up to \$500,000. This will be the basis of an endowment to support the FilmFest for many years to come," said Deborah Bobrow, manager of Arts and Culture at the Mandel JCC.

Special Guests and Events

Filmmaker Abby Ginzburg will participate in a Q&A following her film, *Labors of Love: The Life and Legacy of Henrietta Szold*, a documentary about a visionary 20th-century American Jewish leader who founded Hadassah in 1912 and established a modern healthcare system treating Arabs and Jews equally.

Beachwood native Jacob Pincus will share his new film *I Don't Know What I'm Doing Here* about an American college student who journeys through Romania, searching for the village her family once called home.

Hanoch Piven, an Israeli collage artist, will attend the shorts program on Tuesday, Oct. 13, which will include a film about Piven and his art. A post-film discussion of the film *Sheitel: Beauty in the Hidden* will take place on Monday, Oct. 12.

Festival Highlights

- Thursday, Oct. 8
Opening Night, at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls: Another Side of Woody Guthrie
- Friday, Oct. 16
Free screenings of two classic films at the Mandel JCC: *Crossing Delancey* and *Three Mothers*, a festival favorite from the first Cleveland Jewish FilmFest in 2007.
- Sunday, Nov. 8
Jack and Minda Jaffe Audience Award encore screening (film to be announced)

Festival Sponsors

Major sponsors include Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, Harry K. and Emma R. Fox Charitable Foundation, Ohio Arts Council, John P. Murphy Foundation, Leonard Krieger Fund of the Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland Israel Arts Connection, Sally and Larry Sears, Jennifer and Grant Dinner, Renee Lazar Rothmann and Dr. Ilene Greenblatt, Noreen Koppelman-Goldstein and Barry Goloboff, Janet Stotter, Heather Ross, and media sponsor *Cleveland Jewish News*. The 2026 FilmFest is chaired by Sue Wish-Baratz, Janet Stotter, and Elizabeth Sunshine.

About the Mandel JCC

The Mandel Jewish Community Center of Cleveland is a nonprofit that builds, connects, and strengthens the Jewish and Greater Cleveland communities through exceptional lifelong programs and services. The Mandel JCC offers fitness, wellness, early childhood education, camps, adult programs, and cultural arts. Located on 43 acres in Beachwood with a 132,000-square-foot facility, the Mandel JCC has served the community for 78 years. Membership is open to all.

For more information and the full schedule, visit www.mandeljcc.org/filmfest, contact Deborah Bobrow at 216.593.6278, or scan the QR code.



The Opening night film will be *Dust Bowls and Jewish Souls: Another Side of Woody Guthrie*.



Love, Statistically Speaking will be screened on Thursday, Oct. 15, 4-6 p.m., at Cedar Lee Theatre.



We Met at Grossinger's will be screened on Sunday, Oct. 11, 1-2:30 p.m., at Cedar Lee Theatre.

To Debby Rapoport
and *Beachwood Buzz*,
Congratulations on
30 years of serving the
Beachwood community!

State Representative Eric Synenberg



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BHS Grad Sings Taylor Swift's Praises in New Biography

By June Scharf

Emily Yahr, a 2004 BHS graduate, was precociously and preternaturally aware of two things early in her life – she wanted to pursue journalism as her career, and she knew Taylor Swift was something special after hearing her first single, *Tim McGraw*, in 2006. Guided by these understandings, Emily has since carved out a very successful career as a pop culture reporter for *The Washington Post*, and she authored *Taylor Swift: The Debut Years*, published this month by St. Martin's Press.

One could say she launched her career at Hilltop Elementary School by writing for the *Hill Kidz Gazette*, ultimately advancing to Beachwood High School's student newspaper, *The Beachcomber*, for which she was the sports editor (and this reporter was her advisor).

"*The Beachcomber* was a blast, and it helped prepare me for journalism school at the University of Maryland," Emily said in a recent phone conversation. What also captured her attention in high school and college was *Entertainment Weekly* magazine and the writing of reporter Josh Wolk, in particular, who recapped reality shows.

"It was some of the funniest writing I had ever experienced. It also was the first time I read something that reflected someone thinking about TV in a deeper way. (He demonstrated) there was a more elevated way to write about pop culture."

She was smitten. In fact, she remembers cutting out lines from the magazine – funny observations – and taping them to her wall.

This inclination offered a preview of her future. She later found rich source material covering pop culture and the entertainment industry for *The Washington Post*. But her portal into *The Post* was initially through the sports department where she worked as a news assistant during college and "loved seeing the inside of the newsroom," she notes.

When she graduated college in 2008, a position opened in

The Post's Style section as an editorial aide helping both the TV critic and the TV columnist who covered the topic from a business angle. She was hired.

Emily recalls how she pitched stories any chance she could to many of the editors. She also took assignments when writers weren't available. "I was desperate to have a byline of my own."

One could say she launched her career at Hilltop Elementary School by writing for the *Hill Kidz Gazette*, ultimately advancing to Beachwood High School's student newspaper, *The Beachcomber*, for which she was the sports editor.

In 2014, she was promoted to pop culture reporter. She started by recapping reality shows which required a volume of time that prevented much of a work/life balance because she was so determined to write as much as possible. That involved many late nights, often to cover a range of TV shows. "It's not a 9-to-5 job," she points out.

Now she reports on a niche interest, reality competition shows (summaries and analysis), along with movies, music and celebrity culture, specifically celebrity relationships. But she reveals that "you never know, on any given day, what you're going to end up covering." For

example, when Dolly Parton died, that was where she shifted her time and attention.

As a hard copy native, Emily witnessed the transition to *The Post* having an online presence. She states that when she first arrived at the newspaper, there were two separate buildings for newsroom staff and those serving WashingtonPost.com worked in Arlington, Virginia. She later witnessed the merging of everything in the headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Emily mentioned that her editors have been very supportive of her, and pop music critic Chris Richards assigned her country music reviews since he knew she loves the genre. This marked the beginning of her chance to lean into the material, planting seeds for her eventual book.

That book, *Taylor Swift: The Debut Years*, traces how Taylor began as a teenager with big dreams, leading up to being a 14-time Grammy Award winner. Emily interviewed more than 100 sources for the project. It covers Taylor's first 10 years in Nashville where readers are transported to locations like Music Row and the Bluebird Café. Taylor was not interviewed, but that was not for lack of trying.

The impetus to write the book stems from the merging of Emily's favorite topics to cover: country music and Taylor.

"I was so intrigued by this very young singer who didn't sound like anything else on country radio and who wrote all of her own songs. I followed her for a long time – I



Emily Yahr, 2004 Beachwood High School graduate and *The Washington Post* pop culture reporter.

think she's one of our most fascinating celebrities." Emily also notes that country singer/songwriters typically follow a strict path, but "Taylor forged her own way."

Emily's interest in country music extends back to her early teen years. "It's unlike any other genre. It's its own world and everything operates within a few blocks in Nashville. It's a very competitive industry, so it creates a lot of really interesting dynamics that I love covering."

With Taylor's popularity growing exponentially over the past few years, Emily believed that this new flood of fans might know little about Taylor's backstory. Plus, she had never seen a comprehensive book about Taylor's origin story. "So I thought, I can write it."

Emily's many sources included songwriters, producers, music video directors, other journalists, music label executives and fans. An interesting discovery was that

"The reporting (for *Taylor Swift: The Debut Years*) was the most fun part because people had so many great stories that I had never heard and that had never been reported."

some of those in the country music industry admitted that they wanted to work in Nashville because Taylor inspired them.

"The reporting was the most fun part because people had so many great stories that I had never heard and that had never been reported."

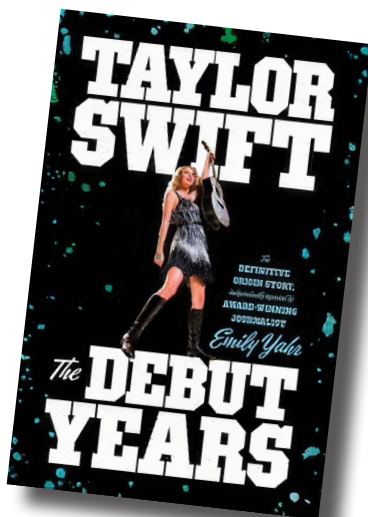
Among her favorite sources were songwriters whose publishers set them up to co-write with the then 13- or 14-year-old girl and their surprise by how she arrived with so many of her own ideas.

Additionally, "many people said over and over again that they had never seen a teenage songwriter with so much confidence. They were taken aback by the clarity of her vision."

The music video director Trey Fanjoy, who worked with Taylor early on, told Emily that she noticed how assertive Taylor was, too. "She knew exactly what she wanted and didn't want her videos to look like," Trey claimed.

Emily demonstrates with her research how Taylor has remarkably never stopped creating over the past two decades. Therefore, Emily says, she is very curious about what "TS13," as fans call her upcoming album, is going to sound like.

Most recently, Emily had a foray into the Swift universe by covering Taylor's wedding as part of her *Post* beat, but the only heat generated that day



was from the weather which was nearly 100 degrees. Most of her sources were tourists and onlookers who wondered what the commotion was all about. Her biggest takeaway was, "It was so hot!"

Emily says her overall favorite celebrity interaction was with, naturally, Taylor, and she discusses that contact at the beginning of the book, but this is a teaser – she doesn't want to give away the story because "it's so good."

Emily will discuss *Taylor Swift: The Debut Years*, on Thursday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m., at the Beachwood Library. She will be in conversation with Annie Zaleski, a local nationally published music journalist and author who wrote the track-by-track guide *Taylor Swift: The Stories Behind the Songs*.

Beachwood Library Program

Thursday, Oct. 15 • 7 p.m.

Join Emily as she discusses her new book, *Taylor Swift: The Debut Years*.

Education is one of our strongest tools against antisemitism.



After October 7, local teacher Devorah* felt increasingly isolated as antisemitic incidents and difficult conversations became part of her daily reality. Through the Jewish Federation of Cleveland's Jewish Teachers Summit, she found a supportive community, practical resources, and renewed confidence to navigate these challenges.

At the same time, the Federation's Education Leaders Summit equipped school administrators and education professionals with the knowledge and strategies to recognize and address antisemitism, foster understanding, and build more inclusive learning environments.

Together, these programs are empowering educators across Northeast Ohio to respond to hate with confidence, compassion, and resilience—helping ensure every student feels safe and supported.

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Beachwood Arts Council



Chagrin Documentary Film Festival

BAC is pleased to be a community partner with CDF for *Artistic Expressions*, a showcase of four short films, all of which exemplify art in a variety of ways. The shorts include *Body of Work*, *Shades of Violet*, *Printing What's Possible: The Chuck Hull Story*, and *Making Awareness*.

Artistic Expressions will be screened on Oct. 7, 9, and 10 at varied Chagrin Falls' venues, with streaming available Oct. 12-18. For locations and times, visit www.cdf2026.eventive.org/welcome. Use code BAC26 for \$2 off each ticket.



Northern Ohio Textile Artists Show

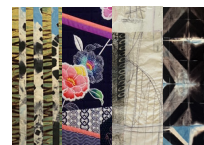
Saturday, Oct. 17 – Saturday, Nov. 14

Beachwood Community Center

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

Weekends: Call 216.292.1970 for available hours

Opening Reception: Saturday, Oct. 17, 5-7 p.m.



NOTA provides an accepting community for a wide range of textile disciplines that inspire members to share their interest in fiber arts with the

broader community by offering lectures, workshops, and exhibitions. The exhibit includes works by more than 30 artists.

Moises Borges Concert • Sunday, Oct. 25 • 2-3 p.m.

Beachwood Community Center • Free and open to the community

Moises, a gifted guitarist and vocalist born in Bahia, Brazil, experiments with rhythms such as bolero, baião, xote, afoxé, frevo, forró, samba, and bossa nova. His soothing voice and charm make for a wonderful afternoon of entertainment for all lovers of Brazilian Jazz. He is also a vivid, funny storyteller who interprets



his original songs and soulfully delivers classics by Jobim, Gilberto, Bosco, and many others. Far away from his native Brazil, the music of his homeland is very much alive when he is on stage.

Refreshments will follow the concert, which is sponsored by grants from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and Ohio Arts Council.

Darl Center for the Arts Tour

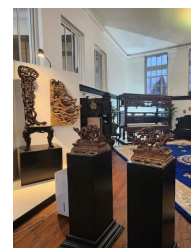
Saturday, Nov. 14 • 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

5437 Broadway Ave., in Cleveland's Slavic Village

The Darl Center for the Arts, founded in Cleveland in October 2022, is a captivating trove of more than 400 paintings, sculptures, curios, antiques, artifacts, and other mementos collected by the center's owner, Darl Schaaf, during his years of travel. The collection is housed in the old Carnegie Library, which was built in 1904 and is one of the

few 10-sided buildings in the United States.

Please join us for a tour of this historic building, led by Darl, and view the center's amazing collection. BAC members, \$10; non-members, \$15. Call 216.595.3400 by Friday, Nov. 6, for reservations.



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Importance of Nov. 3

By Jennifer Stern

It has never been more important than now to vote in the midterm elections. It is necessary to learn about the issues and candidates beyond paid party soundbites and sensationalized commercials. The divisive polarization of our current political system has left many feeling frustrated and untethered. It is important to vote for candidates and issues that reflect the core values of our democracy. After all, we are creating the world in which our children, grandchildren, all future generations, will be living – one vote at a time.

Your vote reflects the issues that matter most to you and your family, based on your daily needs. It is important to vote for

politicians who are committed to solving problems, protecting our environment (clean air, water, safe foods), strengthening our schools, healthcare accessibility, and most of all our economy in ways that truly effect our daily lives.

State and local elections directly impact the quality of your daily life. Voting in the midterm elections is critical. Your vote holds elected officials accountable to act responsibly, ethically, fairly.

Checking to see if you are registered to vote literally takes less than a minute.

Vote411.org and Vote.org are safe and legitimate websites that provide voter information by state. These sites are factual and unbiased. They support you, the voter, and not a political party or candidate.

Both sites will check your voter registration. If you are not a registered voter, you can safely

register to vote on these sites. It takes less than two minutes. These sites will show you what's on your local ballot and help you locate your polling location. You can also request an absentee ballot if you are unable to vote in person.

Oct. 5 is the last day to register to vote or to update your voter registration in Ohio.

Election Day is Nov. 3. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Early voting starts on Oct. 6. Early voting ends in Ohio at 5 p.m., on the Sunday before Election Day.

Absentee ballots must be received by the Board of Elections by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day.

If you are voting in person in Ohio, you must present an unexpired Ohio driver's license or state ID that includes your name and photo, an unexpired U.S. passport; or a military ID,

As an absentee voter, you must provide your driver's license

number or Ohio state ID card number, the last four digits of your Social Security number, and a photocopy of a current and valid U.S. passport, Ohio driver's license or state ID, or military ID that contains your name and photo.

Our rights are on the ballot. Call 866.OUR.VOTE if you experience any barriers to voting.

Cuyahoga County Board of Elections

1803 Superior Ave.
Mon. – Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
216.443.8683 • 216-443-6633
Electioninfo@cuyahogacounty.gov

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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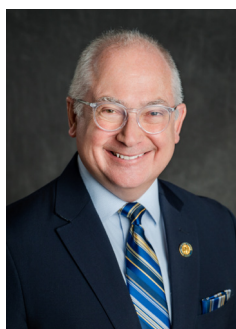


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Dolly Parton Lives On in Ohio

By State Senator Kent Smith

I was a school board member when I first heard about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and I couldn't believe it was true. The idea that this actress and musician would mail out an age-appropriate book, every month, for free to any child until their fifth birthday, was brilliant, generous and impactful.

With that understanding, I was happy to join Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine, in Warrensville Heights, in January 2020, when she announced the statewide expansion of the program.

Ohio is currently the No. 1 state in the nation for child participation in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library with more than 28 million books mailed. Seventy percent of Ohio kids are enrolled in the Imagination Library. Sign up is free and easy. To learn more and enroll, please visit www.OhioImaginationLibrary.org.

In January 2025, five years after Ohio announced the

expansion of the Imagination Library, Ohio became the second state to offer a specialty Dolly Parton's Imagination Library license plate. Dolly's home state, Tennessee, was the first state to offer the license plate.

With each purchase of a Dolly Parton license plate, \$25 will go toward Ohio's Imagination Library, specifically benefiting the county where the plate was purchased. Each plate will help to financially support the cost of mailing one child's books for an entire year. The Dolly Parton's Imagination Library license plate is available to purchase online at OPLATES.com or in person at any Ohio deputy registrar license agency.

Since her passing in late August, we have seen renewed interest in both the Imagination Library and her license plate. So, it seems like Dolly will live on in Ohio as we see more Dolly Parton books in mailboxes and more Dolly Parton license plates on the road.

More about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio mails children one free book each month until their 5th birthday.

Any child between birth and age 5 in Ohio can sign up for this free book gifting program.

Research shows that a child's brain is 80% developed before turning 3.

The Imagination Library's high-quality, age-appropriate books help children develop critical early literacy skills before starting kindergarten. To learn more and enroll, visit www.OhioImaginationLibrary.org.



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.

Congratulations to Beachwood Buzz on 30 Years of Connecting Our Community!

For three decades, the Beachwood Buzz has been telling the stories, celebrating the people, and highlighting the businesses that make Beachwood such a wonderful place to live, work and grow.

The Beachwood Chamber of Commerce is proud to join the community in celebrating this incredible milestone.

Congratulations on 30 years of excellence—and here's to many more!

The Beachwood Chamber of Commerce



BCC 2026 Health & Wellness Summit

The Beachwood Chamber of Commerce invites businesses, residents, and community members to attend its Health & Wellness Summit on Wednesday, Oct. 21, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Beachwood Community Center.

The event is free and open to the public and will bring together leading healthcare organizations, wellness professionals, caregivers, and community resources for a morning focused on education, connection, and healthier living.

Doors open at 8 a.m., when attendees can begin visiting exhibitors, networking, and taking advantage of valuable resources and information. At the same time, the American Red Cross Blood Drive will begin, giving attendees an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the community by donating blood.

The morning's program will officially get underway at 8:15 a.m. with keynote speaker

David W. Stepnick, MD, FACS, executive vice president and chief physician executive and clinical officer at MetroHealth. Dr. Stepnick will share insights on the importance of health, wellness, and the evolving role healthcare organizations play in supporting the communities they serve.

Beginning at 10:45 a.m., the summit will feature engaging panel discussions addressing important health and wellness issues affecting our community. Representatives from major healthcare systems and local organizations will share their expertise and discuss topics including community healthcare, mental health, caregiving, and wellness resources.

Attendees will also have access to free on-site health screenings, including blood pressure, pulse oximetry, balance screenings, and thermal scans.

Featured organizations include Cleveland Clinic, Akron Children's,

University Hospitals, MetroHealth, Apex Skin, Cleveland East Vascular Care, Hunter Wellness Center, Right Direction Behavioral Health, Carepoint Infusion, Homewatch CareGivers, Kultivate Women's Health, Archwell Health, King David Nursing, Right At Home Senior Care, Amivie, City of Beachwood, and Nurtured Family Medicine, among others.

Whether you are a business owner, healthcare professional, employee, caregiver, resident or simply interested in improving your health and well-being, the Beachwood Chamber's Health & Wellness Summit offers something for everyone.

Invest in your health. Empower your workplace. Strengthen your community. Join us October 21!



CITY OF
Beachwood



Dr. David Stepnick, executive vice president, chief physician executive and clinical officer at MetroHealth, will deliver the keynote address.

Health & Wellness Summit
Wednesday, Oct. 21
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Beachwood Community Center



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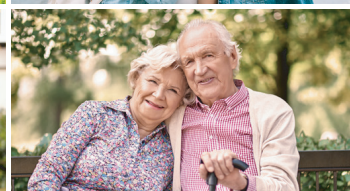
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SSO Free Concert

Suburban Symphony Orchestra Presents Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony

The Suburban Symphony Orchestra will continue its 2026-2027 season with *Tchaikovsky Symphony 4: Life Triumphs, Life Flows*, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, in the Beachwood High School Auditorium. Admission is free.

The concert explores the human capacity to overcome adversity through three powerful works of the Romantic era: Bedřich Smetana's *The Moldau*, Franz Liszt's *Les Préludes*, and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4.

From the flowing waters depicted in *The Moldau* to the struggle against fate at the heart of Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, the program reflects the orchestra's 2026-2027 season theme, *Life Finds a Way: Music of Nature, Hope, and Resilience*.

Cleveland native Lorenzo Lopez will serve as guest conductor. He works frequently with CityMusic Cleveland Chamber Orchestra and has appeared with the Cleveland Ballet, Orchestre Métropolitain, the Chamber Orchestra of New York, and the Romanian Chamber Orchestra.

SSO's mission is to connect with the community through free performances of symphonic repertoire. For additional information, visit suburbansymphony.org.



Kol Israel Kristallnacht Talk

Kol Israel Foundation (KIF) will continue its longstanding tradition of commemorating the anniversary of Kristallnacht by presenting *Remembering the Past, Protecting the Future: A Community Conversation*, with OHGMEC's Holly Hollingsworth, on Monday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m., at B'nai Jeshurun, 27501 Fairmount Blvd.

Holly serves as the executive director of the Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission. She will participate in a parlor-style conversation with Lindsay Friedman, KIF education director. The talk will cover how Kristallnacht connects to today's antisemitism, a status report on antisemitism in Ohio, and statewide efforts to combat antisemitism through Holocaust education. She will also discuss OHGMEC's origins and role.

Testimony will be provided by Beachwood resident Eric Kisch, who will discuss how his mother

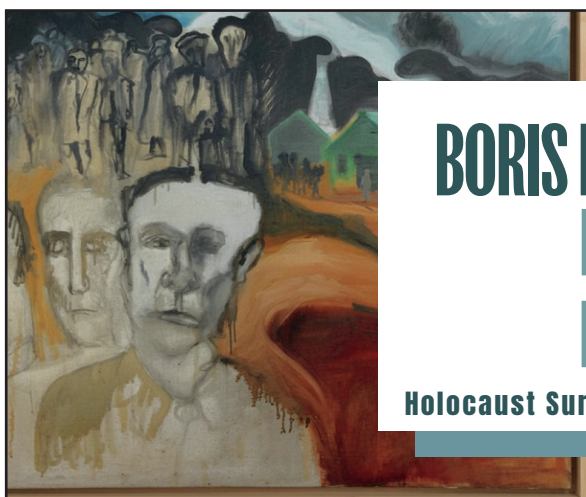
coped with the events of Kristallnacht.

Kristallnacht also known as the Night of Broken Glass, was a series of violent antisemitic attacks across Germany on Nov. 9-10, 1938. The attacks led to the smashing of windows at more than 7,500 Jewish-owned businesses, the desecration of more than 1,200 synagogues, and the murders of at least 90 people.

The program is free, but donations are appreciated. Visit kifcle.org for more information.



From top:
Holly Hollingsworth, Lindsay Friedman, and Eric Kisch.



BORIS LURIE

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Holocaust Survivor • Witness • Artist



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dgross@mmjh.org
216-593-0570

OCT. 18, 2026 - JAN. 27, 2027

Join the Maltz Museum to experience *Boris Lurie: Nothing To Do But To Try*, offering a rare look at the Holocaust survivor and artist's early "War Series" and previously unseen personal artifacts, highlighting his powerful exploration of trauma, memory, and freedom.

This exhibition is made possible with support from our sponsors and community partners. View the full list at maltzmuseum.org/boris-lurie.

Organized by The Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust with the Boris Lurie Art Foundation.



MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE
A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST



BORIS LURIE
ART FOUNDATION

Beachwood Filmmaker Brings Personal Holocaust Story to Cleveland Jewish FilmFest

Jacob Pincus, a 2021 Beachwood High School graduate, returns to the Cleveland Jewish FilmFest, where his short film, *Make Me a Sanctuary*, was presented in 2021. This year, he brings his first feature-length documentary, *I Don't Know What I'm Doing Here*, a contemporary exploration of family history, inherited trauma and Jewish identity.

The film follows Madeline "Mima" Kohn, a recent college graduate whose four grandparents were Holocaust survivors. Guided by unmarked photographs and an oral-history recording, Mima travels to Săcel, the rural Romanian village where her grandmother Esther was born. Accompanying her are Jacob and an 18-year-old Romanian translator who Mima found through Facebook.

Together, they cross fields, scale walls, and speak with local residents, searching for traces of Esther's life before the Holocaust. Their physical journey gradually becomes something more personal: an attempt to understand what can be recovered when family memories are incomplete and many of the people who could answer their questions are gone.

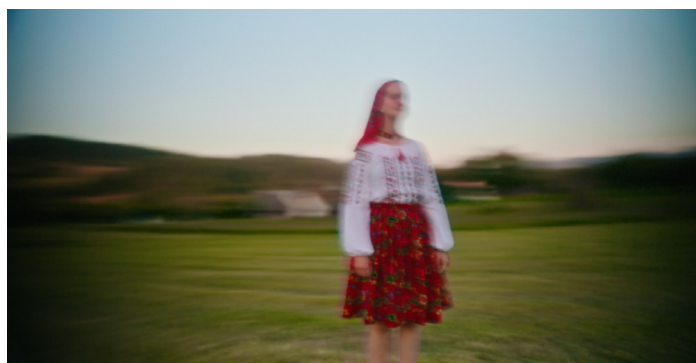
Jacob uses handheld footage, first-person narration, and collage-like glimpses of the trip to give the documentary the immediacy of an online video diary. The approach is intended to make Holocaust-related storytelling accessible to younger audiences without diminishing the history at its

center. Although the film moves between uncertainty, frustration, and grief, it also makes room for humor, friendship, and joy.

Its selection for the Cleveland Jewish FilmFest is especially meaningful for Jacob. Before moving to Los Angeles, he began making films in his family's Beachwood basement, nicknamed the "Ja-Cove." That space later inspired the name of his production company, Cove Films.

For Jacob, the Cleveland presentation brings a deeply personal film back to the community where his own artistic and Jewish identities first developed. Through Mima's search, the documentary asks how grandchildren of survivors can carry family history forward – and how confronting what has been lost can become an affirmation of life.

Now in its 20th year, the Mandel JCC Cleveland Jewish FilmFest brings international Jewish and Israeli cinema to audiences throughout Northeast Ohio. The 2026 festival runs Oct. 8-18. **Full information is listed at www.mandeljcc.org/FilmFest.**



Above: Director Jacob Pincus, Madeline "Mima" Kohn, and translator Ayana Stefanescu on the backroads of Săcel, Romania.

Below: Madeline "Mima" Kohn wearing a traditional Maramureș outfit in Breb, Romania.

Photos by Jacob Pincus, courtesy of Cove Films.

Mandel JCC
Cleveland Jewish FilmFest
I Don't Know What I'm Doing Here
Wednesday, Oct. 14 • 4-5:30 p.m.
Cedar Lee Theatre

Trunk or Treat at Tri-C®

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) invites families to enjoy a sweet and spooky evening at its annual Trunk or Treat celebration on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Eastern Campus, located at 4250 Richmond Rd.

The free, all-ages event will bring Tri-C® and its community partners together for an evening

of seasonal fun. Guests can also enjoy a Touch-a-Truck experience featuring law enforcement and emergency vehicles.

The event will take place in Lot H1 near the Harvard Road entrance. For more information, contact Meagan Gibson at 216.987.2384 or meagan.gibson@tri-c.edu.



10-7-23 Commemoration

Wednesday, Oct. 7 • 6 p.m.
Mandel JCC Stonehill Auditorium • 26001 S. Woodland Rd.

Please join the Jewish Federation of Cleveland as we gather to commemorate three years since Oct. 7, 2023.

Through prayer, music, and reflection, we will remember those who were murdered and those who were taken hostage on Oct. 7. We will honor their

memories, stand in solidarity with their families, and come together in support of the people of Israel and Jewish communities around the world.

This short service will include readings, songs, and moments of remembrance.

Due to the sensitive nature of the

Standing Together: An Evening with Van Jones and Jonah Platt

Thursday, Nov. 5 • 7 p.m.
B'nai Jeshurun Congregation • 27501 Fairmount Blvd.

Join the Jewish Federation of Cleveland for an inspiring conversation featuring acclaimed commentator, entrepreneur, and changemaker Van Jones alongside actor, producer, writer, and podcast host Jonah Platt.

Van Jones is a CNN host, Emmy Award-winning producer, bestselling author, and

renowned social entrepreneur. He has spent his career bringing people together across differences to advance meaningful change in areas including clean energy, criminal justice reform, and civic engagement.

Jonah Platt is a leading voice on Jewish identity, culture, and current events. Known for his work on Broadway's *Wicked* and the



program, please be mindful if bringing young children to this event.

Pre-registration is mandatory. No walk-ins. Register at www.jewishcleveland.org.



Oscar-nominated film *Being the Ricardos*, he also hosts the podcast *Being Jewish with Jonah Platt*.

Don't miss this powerful evening of conversation, connection, and community. Register at jewishcleveland.org.

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The Mayor's Message

Creating Possibilities Through Collaboration

Dear Beachwood Residents and Businesses,

Some of the most meaningful opportunities to strengthen our community begin with a simple question: What can we accomplish by working together?

Proactive collaboration allows us to combine expertise, share resources, and approach challenges from a broader perspective. Two important initiatives currently underway demonstrate how strong partnerships can expand services and create new possibilities for Beachwood residents.

City Council recently approved Beachwood's participation in First CALL — Crisis Assistance and Local Linkage — a regional program that helps first responders address calls involving mental health or behavioral health needs.

Through First CALL, our police officers, firefighter/paramedics and dispatchers will have greater access to licensed mental health professionals and trained peer support workers. These specialists can assist during crisis calls, provide follow-up support, and connect residents and families with appropriate treatment and community resources. The program also assigns a licensed mental health professional to support dispatchers and first responders.

First CALL began as a pilot program in Shaker Heights in 2022 before expanding to Cleveland Heights, Richmond Heights, South Euclid and University Heights. With Beachwood, Solon, Orange and Pepper Pike now joining, the initiative will serve nine communities.

By participating in this regional partnership, Beachwood is strengthening our safety service resources. Most importantly, it gives our first responders another tool to ensure residents receive appropriate support when they need it.

Collaboration is also central to the proposal for a new Beachwood Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library. The library system is leading this effort in scope and funding, with participation from the Beachwood City School District, the City of Beachwood, and Cuyahoga County.

Because the proposed location is near existing municipal and recreational facilities, the city has an important opportunity to help evaluate how these entities can work together.

Considering the broader area as a whole aims to improve access to city amenities, enhance recreational opportunities, and create a more connected community space. While the proposal remains conceptual, we are working with our partners to carefully explore what may be possible.

Finally, this issue gives us an opportunity to recognize another collaboration that has strengthened Beachwood for three decades. Congratulations to Debby Rapoport on 30 years of leading *Beachwood Buzz*. Through her dedication and long-standing partnership with the city, Debby has helped create a truly unique culture of connection. The publication informs residents, celebrates our community, and gives local organizations and businesses a shared voice.

Each of these examples shows that collaboration is more than an idea. It is a practical way to serve residents more effectively, use community resources thoughtfully, and build a stronger Beachwood together.

Sincerely,



Mayor Justin Berns

MayorBerns@beachwoodohio.com



**Cuyahoga County
Public Library**



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
216.903.9911



Pete Smith
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Legislative Update

September 8, 2026

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.

Sept. 8 City Council Meeting

Public Safety: City Council approved Beachwood's participation in First CALL, a regional program that connects police officers and firefighter/paramedics with licensed mental health professionals and peer support workers during mental health-related calls. Beachwood's initial cost for the first year is approximately \$41,000.

City Council approved updates to Chapter 402 of the Beachwood Codified Ordinances to promote the safe use of electric scooters and electric bicycles. The updated regulations require riders under age 18 to wear protective helmets and prohibit operating an electric bicycle with its motor engaged on sidewalks, public ways, paths, or trails unless the Codified Ordinances specifically authorize it, among other regulations.

Sustainability: Council members voted to increase funding for the City's Food Recycling Program with Rust Belt Riders to an amount not to exceed \$34,500. Growing participation and collection volume prompted the addition of another collection container, with monthly program costs expected to reach approximately \$3,100 over the next five months.

Infrastructure Improvements: City Council approved funding for the design of improvements to the Richmond Road/Chagrin Boulevard/I-271 corridor. This includes preliminary engineering, environmental services, and detailed design to widen the I-271 bridge and expand the Richmond-Chagrin intersection to improve traffic flow and safety. After applying up to \$1.6 million in federal funding committed by the Ohio Department of Transportation, the city's cost will be \$271,432.



Sun, Oct. 18, 10-11 a.m.
Nervous Dog (2101 Richmond Rd.)

Jillian DeLong,
City Council V.P.

Pete Smith,
City Council Member

STAY ENGAGED IN YOUR COMMUNITY:



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

Beachwood Connect: Understanding City Finances



How does the City of Beachwood fund the services, programs, and infrastructure residents rely on each day — and how are decisions made about where those resources are invested?

The October installment of the Beachwood

Connect campaign explores finance and public resources. It explains where city revenue comes from, how spending priorities are established, the steps involved in developing the annual budget, and City Council's role in reviewing and adopting it.

Learn more about the thoughtful planning and oversight that support Beachwood's financial stability and essential public services. The full article is available now on the city's Beachwood Connect webpage at BeachwoodOhio.com/connect or scan the QR code.



UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

City Council:
Oct. 5 at 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning & Zoning:
Oct. 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Architectural Board of Review:
Oct. 5 at 4:30 p.m.
Oct. 19 at 4:30 p.m.

Work - Live - Learn - Thrive

Beachwood Welcomes New Leaders and Public Servants

The City of Beachwood recently celebrated three swearing-in ceremonies recognizing individuals committed to serving the community.

Traci Gallagher was sworn in as Beachwood's Building Commissioner. Gallagher began her career in 1993 through a five-year apprenticeship program with Plumbers Local 55 and later became a journeyman plumber. She joined the City of Beachwood in 2016 as a building, plumbing, and medical gas inspector, earned her Building Official certification in 2017, and was promoted to Assistant Building Commissioner in 2023.

The Beachwood Police Department also welcomed Officer Valeriia Litvina. Originally from Russia, Litvina immigrated to the United States at age 22 and earned her U.S. citizenship through military service. She serves as an Aerospace Medical Technician with the 178th Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard and holds a bachelor's degree in business management and service. She is fluent in Russian and understands Ukrainian.

Mayor Justin Berns administered the Oath of Office to Joshua Gerken, the newest member of the Beachwood Records Commission, which establishes rules governing the retention and disposal of city records.



Mayor Berns with Building Commissioner Traci Gallagher.



Officer Litvina with Mayor Berns and Chief Grispino.



Joshua Gerken being sworn in by Mayor Berns.

FALL LOOSE-LEAF COLLECTION:

Loose-leaf pickup has begun and will continue through mid-December. Remember to rake leaves into piles on the tree lawn, free from other debris. Vehicles parked on the street may impede pickup.



Beachwood's 50-year residents attended the Senior Picnic on Aug. 31.

Senior Picnic Celebrates Beachwood's 50-Year Residents

More than 65 seniors gathered at the Beachwood Family Aquatic Center for the city's second annual Senior Picnic and 50-Year Resident Celebration. The afternoon featured food, music, games, giveaways and plenty of opportunities to connect with friends and neighbors.

A highlight of the event was to recognize Beachwood's newest 50-year residents. On behalf of Mayor Justin Berns and City Council, each honoree received a certificate and commemorative blanket in appreciation of their contributions to the community.

This year's honorees were Constancia Castro, Oscar Castro, Lynda Cohen, Helen Gewirtz, Paul Gewirtz, Cheryl Gutmacher, Norman Gutmacher, Alice Jacobs, Karen Kreinberg, Clara McCann, Paula Rollins, Martin Schneider, Tamara Schneider, Terry Silver, Eulogio Sioson, Marciana Sioson, Fred Teren and Betty Weber.

The city congratulates these longtime residents and thanks them for helping shape Beachwood into the community it is today.

The city also thanks the event's picnic partners: Cornerstone Caregiving, Find Senior Care Near Me, Prosper Life Care, Emunah Hospice, Silver Birch and DentaCard.



Judy Friedman tries her hand at ring toss prior to the second annual picnic.



Mayor Berns with Alice Jacobs, complete with a throwback hat!



Signature Event Sponsor: Cornerstone Caregiving | Event Photography: Discovery Photo

Beachwood Firefighters Turn a Rescue Call into a New Ride

Beachwood firefighters recently responded to help a young resident, Henry, whose leg became trapped between the pedal crank arm and frame after he fell from his bicycle. After several attempts to free him, the crew carefully used rescue spreaders to move the crank arm away from the frame. Thankfully, Henry was not injured, but his bicycle was damaged beyond repair.

Not wanting the accident to keep Henry from enjoying a beautiful day, the Station 1 A-shift crew reached out to REI at Pinecrest and located the same bicycle — with just one remaining in stock, fittingly in fire-engine red. The firefighters purchased the bike and personally delivered it to Henry only hours after the accident.

What began as a frightening morning ended with Henry back on two wheels — thanks to the Beachwood firefighters who saw an opportunity to help beyond the emergency call.



Beachwood Fire Department works to free Henry's leg.



Firefighter Gullett, Lt. Welsh, and Firefighter Ockenden delivering Henry's new bike.

Beachwood Joins Regional First CALL Initiative



Beachwood has joined First CALL — Crisis Assistance and Local Linkage — a regional program that helps first responders address calls involving mental health or behavioral health needs.

First CALL connects police officers, firefighter/paramedics, and dispatchers with licensed mental health professionals and trained peer support workers. These professionals can assist during crisis calls, provide follow-up support

and connect residents and families with appropriate treatment and community resources.

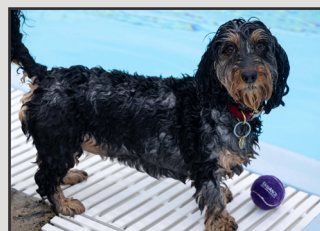
The program began as a Shaker Heights pilot in 2022 and later expanded to Cleveland Heights, Richmond Heights, South Euclid and University Heights. Beachwood, Solon, Orange and Pepper Pike are now joining the initiative, expanding First CALL to nine participating communities.

For Beachwood, First CALL provides police and fire personnel with additional expertise and resources when responding to complex situations. The program does not replace traditional emergency services; it strengthens them by adding specialized mental health support to help first responders provide a more effective and comprehensive response.

Dog Paddle Makes an End-of-Summer Splash

Beachwood Family Aquatic Center welcomed the dog days of summer once again on Thursday, Sept. 10, with the city's final "Pool Pawty" of the 2026 season!

More than 80 playful pups wagged, splashed, and paddled their way through the evening, celebrating the end of the BFAC season in true tail-wagging style. From energetic jump-ins to leisurely float-arounds, dogs of all sizes enjoyed one last dip.



Doggone good photography by Discovery Photo.

Binny's Recycling Tip: Break It Down!

Cardboard boxes are great for recycling, but Binny needs a little help before they go into your cart. Open the flaps and flatten each box completely.

Uncollapsed boxes take up valuable space, can blow into the street and may jam equipment at the recycling facility. Flattening them helps collection crews work efficiently and keeps our city cleaner.

Before recycling cardboard:

- Open all flaps and flatten every box
- Stack and bundle flattened boxes together
- Keep cardboard dry and secure



Don't box Binny in. Flatten your cardboard and help keep Beachwood recycling running smoothly!

October Recreation Guide

BOARDING PASS
Bison Blue Sky Airways ✈️

AMERICA 250 YEARS
INDEPENDENCE

BEACHWOOD'S Fall Festival

== A JOURNEY ACROSS AMERICA ==
PRESENTED BY CRESTMONT AUTOMOTIVE • FIREWORKS BY VELOCITY CLINICAL RESEARCH

ARRIVAL - 9TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL
SUN, OCT. 11
12:00-5:00 PM

DESTINATION - FREE ADMISSION
BEACHWOOD CITY HALL

INFLATABLES
RIDES

ENTERTAINMENT
GAMES

FOOD TRUCKS
FAMILY FUN

CITY OF Beachwood
CRESTMONT AUTOMOTIVE

Velocity CLINICAL RESEARCH

WILD REPUBLIC

Concert & Fireworks
FREE & FAMILY-FRIENDLY
SAT, OCT. 10, 8 PM
BEACHWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
FEATURING THE SPAZMATICS

VIEW ITINERARY: BEACHWOODREC.COM



Free rides and inflatables for all ages!



Activities for the whole family!



Live entertainment on stage!



Free Saturday night concert and fireworks!

Sat, October 10, 8 pm

BEACHWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

FREE ADMISSION • FAMILY-FRIENDLY • FIREWORKS FINALE
Light refreshments for purchase. Bring your own chairs and blankets.



Thank you to our sponsors for fueling our journey across America!

Prizes by Wild Republic. Support by T3 Performance Beachwood, Akron Children's, FCSLA Life, and Beachwood Place.

Instructor Spotlight: Sensei Raphael Lancry



With more than 30 years of experience across multiple martial arts disciplines, Sensei Raphael Lancry brings an exceptional blend of expertise, passion, and mentorship to every youth karate class he teaches. Specializing in karate and deeply trained in the Okinawan Shorin-ryu Karatedo system, Sensei Lancry offers a curriculum designed to support students at every level — beginner, intermediate, and advanced.

His comprehensive training approach introduces students to core elements of traditional karate, including kata (forms), practical self-defense, striking, blocking, and safe falling applications.

Beyond physical technique, Sensei Lancry's instruction emphasizes the values that martial arts are known for. Students develop discipline, respect, honor, and positive thinking while improving physical fitness and coordination. Classes are crafted to build confidence, leadership skills, communication, balance, etiquette, and personal growth — benefits that extend well beyond the dojo.

The next Youth Karate session, open to ages 4-17, at the Beachwood Community Center begins Nov. 5. Classes are on Monday and Thursday evenings from 5:45-6:45 p.m.

Registration can be found online at BeachwoodRec.com or call Community Services at 216.292.1970.

**Senior
HARVEST
FEST**

**Thursday, October 22
2:00 - 3:30 pm**

BEACHWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

CELEBRATE AUTUMN'S CHARM
Cider • Pie Tasting • Crafts • Demos

REGISTER: BEACHWOODREC.COM
Residents \$20, Non-Residents \$24

CITY OF Beachwood | Cornerstone CAREGIVING | Support by: Foundations Health Solutions

BEACHWOOD YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUES

GRADES 3-6 ★ **Leagues offered for both boys and girls beginning in December.**
Open to residents and non-residents at BeachwoodRec.com!

Beachwood Seniors

- **Rouvali Conducts Strauss, Cleveland Orchestra Trip**
Friday, Nov. 20, 9:00 a.m., Depart from the Community Center

Enjoy Strauss's dramatic *Ein Heldenleben*, followed by lunch on your own at Cleveland Museum of Art. Transportation included. Open to residents (\$44) and non-residents (\$51) at BeachwoodRec.com or 216.292.1970.

- **Senior Prom Through the Decades**

Thursday, Dec. 17, 12:00-2:30 p.m., Community Center

A lively afternoon of fashion, music, dancing, and nostalgia from the '50s to today. Your choice of braised beef or stuffed shells for lunch. The event will be brought to life by students from Beachwood High School. Registration is open to residents (\$14) and non-residents (\$17) at BeachwoodRec.com.

October Meet & Eat

Radio on the Lake Theatre - Sorry, Not Sorry
Thursday, Oct. 15, Noon, Community Center

Residents \$14, Non-Residents \$17, Program Only \$6

Sorry, Wrong Number debuted in 1943 and quickly became one of radio's most iconic dramas. Agnes Moorehead originated and repeatedly reprised the role of the bedridden woman who overhears a murder plot. Now, you have the opportunity to experience it live with a radio play reproduction by Radio on the Lake Theatre, a unique throwback experience for all attendees.

Meal choices include meatloaf or falafel. All entrees served with corn, side salad, beverage and dessert. Gluten free option available.

Sign up at BeachwoodRec.com by Oct. 9. Sponsored by Cornerstone Caregiving.

WHERE BUSINESS IS BOOMING!

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Celebrating 30 Years of Connecting Beachwood's Community



Debby Rapoport
Credit: Discovery Photo

Congratulations to Debby Rapoport on 30 years of publishing the *Beachwood Buzz*. Through her dedication and long-standing partnership with the city, Debby has created a unique resource that connects, informs and champions Beachwood's business community.

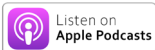
For three decades, *Beachwood Buzz* has given local businesses and organizations a trusted platform to share their stories, reach new audiences and build lasting relationships. Debby's work has helped businesses establish roots, grow and evolve alongside the community while highlighting the people and partnerships that drive Beachwood's economic vitality.

The City of Beachwood values its enduring relationship with Debby and appreciates her commitment to giving our business community a shared voice. We congratulate her on this milestone and thank her for helping strengthen Beachwood for 30 years.

Business Compass Highlights Growth and Innovation at UH Ahuja



The latest episode of the Beachwood Business Compass podcast explores the expanding healthcare services and community partnerships available through University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center.



Guests Bill Benoit, Chief Operating Officer, and Christopher Superior, Managing Director of Operations and Clinical Services, discuss the medical center's \$236 million Phase 2 expansion, which added approximately 300,000 square feet and brought about 500 new jobs to the area.

The conversation highlights the Drusinsky Sports Medicine Institute, the expanded emergency department and operating rooms, breast health services, and the Potash Women & Newborn Center. The guests also discuss the innovative Cutler Center for Men, which brings several specialties together to make healthcare more convenient and accessible.

Listeners will also learn how UH Ahuja supports local schools, athletic programs, businesses, and residents through community health screenings, workplace health fairs, educational programs, and special events.

Listen to the full episode to discover how UH Ahuja continues to expand access to high-quality care while investing in Beachwood and the region.

Discover Health and Wellness Resources

Beachwood businesses and residents are invited to connect with the community's extensive network of healthcare providers and wellness resources at the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce's Health and Wellness Summit.

The free event will feature expert panel discussions on mental health and first responders, emerging healthcare practices, and how regional health systems respond to community needs. Attendees can also explore approximately 30 vendor exhibits, receive health screenings, network with local professionals, and participate in an American Red Cross blood drive.

Employers can learn how local healthcare organizations can support workforce wellness, while residents can discover resources for primary and specialty care.

The Health and Wellness Summit will take place Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Beachwood Community Center. For more information about this event, listen to a recent episode of the Beachwood Business Compass podcast, titled *Connecting Business, Health and Community* or visit beachwood.org.

Beachwood Chamber & Community
HEALTH & WELLNESS SUMMIT

FREE EVENT

Beachwood Chamber of Commerce
CITY OF Beachwood

**WED, OCT. 21
8 AM-1 PM
COMMUNITY CENTER**

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
Pre-registration is preferred
online at redcrossblood.org

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 Travelers Enjoy Niagara-on-the-Lake

For 44 travelers and their Beachwood guides, Shannon Diamond and Jayme Jirousek, a recent trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake offered much more than beautiful scenery, memorable meals, and first-rate theater. It marked the welcome return of overnight group travel – and the beginning of a new tradition. Shannon is the city's program manager for events and camps, and Jayme is the senior adult manager.

The sold-out excursion, held in August, was Beachwood's first overnight group trip since 2019.

"We had a great time. Our group made some new friends and learned a little something about each place we visited," said Shannon. "I hope to see them all return in 2027."

The three-day itinerary blended architecture, history, culture, dining, and leisure, giving travelers plenty to experience together while also allowing time to explore on their own.

The trip began with a stop in Buffalo, New York, for a guided tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House. Built between 1903 and 1905 for Buffalo businessman Darwin D. Martin and his family, the residential complex is considered one of the greatest achievements of Wright's career.

After lunch at Buffalo's Canalside, the group continued across the border to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where travelers checked into the Pillar and Post hotel for a two-night stay. Set within a restored 19th-century building in the heart of historic Old Town, the hotel combines the character of the surrounding community with contemporary accommodations, gardens, dining and a spa.

The first evening concluded with dinner at the Prince of Wales, another of Niagara-on-the-Lake's distinctive historic properties.

The second day placed the spotlight on one of the town's best-known cultural institutions: the Shaw Festival. Travelers began with a backstage tour that offered a glimpse of the work involved in bringing a major theatrical production to life.

After time to explore the boutiques, antique shops,

restaurants and tree-lined streets of downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake, the group returned to the Festival Theatre for a matinee performance of *Funny Girl*. The classic musical follows the rise of entertainer Fanny Brice and features such familiar songs as "People," "I'm the Greatest Star," and "Don't Rain on My Parade."

Dinner at Trius Winery gave the travelers another taste of the Niagara Peninsula, a region internationally known for its vineyards and ice wine. The group then returned to the theater for an evening performance of *Amadeus*, Peter Shaffer's celebrated drama about composers Antonio Salieri and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

On the final morning, the group departed Niagara-on-the-Lake and returned to the Buffalo waterfront, where they boarded the Grand Lady for a two-hour buffet luncheon cruise featuring panoramic views of Buffalo Harbor. The relaxing cruise provided a fitting conclusion to three activity-filled days before returning to Beachwood.

Along the way, travelers had opportunities to discover the history behind their destinations.

"It was a wonderful, well-



Top: Participants enjoyed a tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright Martin House. Middle, from left: Bob and Doll Bloom at Niagara Falls, and Julio and Aurelia Pelsmajer at the gardens at Pillar and Post. Bottom, from left: Laura Salkin and Barbara Firstenberg on the Grand Lady. Iris Greene and Betsy Markey at the gardens at Pillar and Post.

planned trip. We enjoyed two plays without having to drive, along with excellent meals, sightseeing and company," shared Julie Moss. "We hadn't visited Niagara-on-the-Lake in more than 20 years, and it was great fun to return."

"The city did an exceptional job organizing every detail, down to the last meal," added Jerry Moss, Julie's husband.

"The hotel, dining, programs, and sightseeing were all first-rate, and the entire trip was thoughtfully planned."

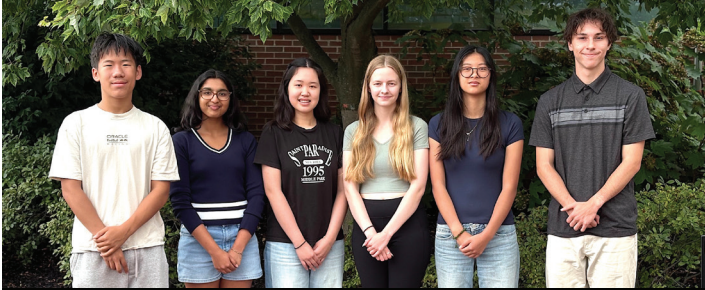
"This was our first overnight trip since 2019, so we're looking to use this momentum as a springboard to continue offering one or two trips annually," Jayme said.

Details for upcoming travel adventures will be announced early next year.

BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

Developing Intellectual Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience

Seven Seniors Named National Merit Semifinalists



(L-R): Joseph Mo, Nimisha Kasliwal, So Eun Kang, Kathryn Roush, Amber Zhang, Artiom Tkachenko. Not pictured: Yasha Cohen

Beachwood High School continues to set a high bar for academic excellence with seven students from the Class of 2027 earning recognition as National Merit Semifinalists in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship program. The Semifinalists - *Yasha Cohen, So Eun Kang, Nimisha Kasliwal, Joseph Mo, Kathryn Roush, Artiom Tkachenko, and Amber Zhang* - will now advance to the next stage of the competition with a chance to become National Merit Finalists. Students advancing to the Finalist stage are eligible to compete for scholarships totaling nearly \$30 million, which will be awarded in the spring.

"We are proud of our students who have earned recognition as National Merit Semifinalists," said Beachwood High School principal Rebekah Sharpe. "This accomplishment reflects their dedication, perseverance, and commitment. We are also grateful to the teachers, families, and community members who have supported them along the way."

EVENTS CALENDAR



Neurodiversity Family Network Event

Oct. 18, 2:00 p.m.

Beachwood Board of Education, 24601 Fairmount Blvd.

BHS Orchestra Halloween Spooktacular

Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Beachwood High School, 25100 Fairmount Blvd.

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m.

Beachwood High School, 25100 Fairmount Blvd.



**VIEW THE
FULL CALENDAR**

www.beachwoodschoools.org/calendar

First Days of School

The 2026-2027 school year is off to a fantastic start in Beachwood. Students across the district returned to school with excitement as they reconnected with friends, met their teachers, and settled into new routines. We are grateful to everyone who helped make the opening of the school year such a success and look forward to all that this year will bring.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

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beachwoodschoools.org

Aaron Brown Named Assistant Principal for Hilltop & BMS



Beachwood Schools is pleased to announce the appointment of Aaron Brown as the new assistant principal serving both Hilltop School and Beachwood Middle School. Brown brings more than a decade of experience in education, including time as a Dean of Students and intervention specialist.

"I am excited to join Beachwood Schools which shares my strong belief in providing students with an excellent education to prepare them not only for academic success, but to become successful members of the community," Brown said. "I look forward to working with our students, staff, and parents and contributing to the continued success of the district."

Brown arrives after serving as Dean of Students at Shiloh Middle School in the Parma City School District since 2023. He also served as the Dean of Students at Pleasant Valley Elementary School - also in Parma Schools - for two years (2023-2025). Prior to moving into an administrative role, Brown spent 10 years as an intervention specialist, working at Euclid High School from 2019-2023 and at Grand Valley Local Schools from 2013-2019.

"Aaron's experiences working across elementary and middle school buildings make him an excellent fit for our district," Superintendent Robert Hardis said. "His student-centered approach, desire to learn and grow, ability to partner effectively with staff and families, and expertise in the varied ways students learn are important strengths that will benefit our students, staff, and district as a whole."

New Staff

Beachwood Schools is excited to welcome a group of new staff members who have joined the district for the 2026-2027 school year. This group brings a variety of experiences, perspectives, and expertise to our schools and is already making a positive impact on our students and school community. From the classroom to school offices and throughout our buildings, these new team members are helping support the success of our students and staff. We are proud to welcome them to the Beachwood community and look forward to all they will contribute throughout the school year.



Throughout the year, Beachwood Schools will feature new staff members through staff spotlights. These features will provide an opportunity for families and the community to get to know the people who make a difference in the lives of our students each day. Look for staff spotlights on the district website, in our eNewsletters, and across Beachwood Schools' social media channels. We look forward to sharing their stories, experiences, and the many ways they contribute to our schools.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

ANNA LATONA
3rd Grade Teacher, Hilltop School

Anna Latona is beginning her first year as a 3rd grade ELA teacher at Hilltop School and has enjoyed her first few days in the building.

This year, she is looking forward to working with a diverse group of students building new relationships, making amazing memories, and creating a classroom where students can learn, grow, and have fun.

"My favorite thing so far are my amazing colleagues at Hilltop," Latona said. "Everyone has been so kind and welcoming and I feel very supported in my role."

Outside of work, Latona loves to do yoga, go on walks, read, hang out with friends, and play with her cat.

"I am so grateful to be part of Beachwood Schools and look forward to making a lasting impact on these students' lives," Latona said.



Beachwood Schools Earns Auditor of State Award with Distinction



Beachwood Schools has once again received the Auditor of State Award with Distinction from Auditor of State Keith Faber's office. The prestigious award places the district among the top 4% of 6,000 government entities recognized for a clean 2024-2025 audit.

To qualify for this distinction, entities must meet rigorous criteria, including:

- Timely submission of financial reports with the Auditor of State's office by the statutory due date and preparation of an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).
- An audit report free of findings for recovery, material citations, material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or questioned costs.
- Having no other financial or other concerns in the entity.

BEACHWOOD CITY SCHOOLS

Developing Intellectual Entrepreneurs with a Social Conscience

Alexander and Beasley Receive Crystal Apples



Beachwood High School Technology teacher Craig Alexander and Hilltop School Special Education Assistant Greg Beasley were presented with Crystal Apples at the annual Staff Convocation on Aug. 20 after receiving nominations by their colleagues for their exceptional commitment to the district and students.

BHS Principal Rebekah Sharpe, Assistant Principal Aubrei Watson, and Director of Curriculum & Instruction Paul Chase presented Alexander with his award and recognized him as the “heartbeat” of the building. Alexander was celebrated for his work behind the scenes with student leadership, coordinating events such as Homecoming, Prom, and Commencement, continuing building traditions.

“Craig is the person behind student leadership who doesn’t just advise a club on paper, but shows up, listens, and helps students turn their ideas into something real,” Watson said. “He is the person who, when something in this building needs doing, he is there, even after everyone is gone.”

Beasley was presented his award by Director of Pupil Services & Human Resources Jennifer Polak and Hilltop School principal Amy Pinney. They noted that Beasley is someone who truly represents the very best of Beachwood Schools, bringing energy and positivity to work every day.

“Some of his colleagues describe Greg as someone who is always there for the students and team, ready to make them smile, and finds a solution in every situation,” Pinney said, while Polak added, “Greg is someone whose hard work, compassion, and commitment to students makes a difference in this district every single day.”

Beachwood Schools Presents Cinderella as Fall Musical

The Beachwood Bison Theatre will present *Cinderella, Broadway Edition* this fall, featuring the music of renowned songwriting duo Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. The production puts a modern flair on the classic fairy tale to entertain audiences of all ages.

The musical follows Cinderella as she dreams of a life beyond the confines of her difficult circumstances, discovering along the way that kindness, courage and believing in yourself can lead to unexpected possibilities. From the iconic songs to the magical transformation and unforgettable characters, *Cinderella* offers something for everyone.

“We are excited to bring this production to the Beachwood community,” director Taylor Mortensen said. “Our cast and crew have been working hard to bring these characters and music to life and we can’t wait to share this story with our audiences.”

Performances of *Cinderella, Broadway Edition* are scheduled for Nov. 20, 21 and 22, and tickets will be available on the district website by scanning the QR code.



ADMINISTRATION

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Paul Chase, Director of Curriculum & Instruction • (216) 464-2216 • prc@beachwoodschoools.org



beachwoodschoools.org

New Fitness Center Supported by Community Partnerships

Beachwood City Schools officially opened its new state-of-the-art fitness center at Beachwood High School with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 18. The facility will provide students with an exceptional space to train and also support rehabilitation and recovery.

The project received support from the Beachwood community. As part of a 10-year, \$120,000 naming rights agreement, Jet's Pizza will support the outfitting of the facility, which will bear the name **Jet's Pizza Bison Fitness Center**. In addition, the facility will be sponsored by the Beachwood Athletic Boosters which contributed \$110,000 toward the project for new equipment. Together, these investments will help create an outstanding training environment for current and future generations of Bison student-athletes.

"We are grateful to Rob Ferns and Jet's Pizza and the Beachwood Athletic Boosters for their tremendous support," said Beachwood Schools Superintendent Robert Hardis. "These partnerships will help enhance the athletic experience for all our students and sports teams."



Track State Champs Honored

Beachwood proudly celebrated its state champion girls track and field team prior to the season-opening football game on Aug. 21 with the unveiling of a championship banner at the entrance to the stadium. Surrounded by teammates, coaches, family, and friends, state champions Meena Abdul Bassar, Kyrsten Ginn, K'Dyn Harris-Tate, and Marley Readance were recognized for their achievement. The banner will now serve as a lasting tribute to their historic season and have a permanent place in the Beachwood community to commemorate their achievements. The quartet combined to score 53 points at the state meet, which included two individual state titles and two relay state titles, en route to the third state title in program and school history.



BOARD OF EDUCATION NEWS



Recent Resolutions

- Recognized students who earned the Seal of Biliteracy
- Approved Aaron Brown as assistant principal of Hilltop and Beachwood Middle School
- Reviewed results of 2025-2026 Climate Survey

Upcoming Board Actions

- Recognize National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Scholars
- Presentation on State Report Card

Board Meeting Calendar

- Monday, Oct. 12 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 26 @ 7:00 p.m.



**VIEW AGENDAS
& MINUTES**

www.beachwoodschoools.org/BOE

Designer Dress Days Returns to Legacy Village Oct. 16-18

Cleveland's popular three-day designer resale event offers incredible fashion finds while supporting Jewish Women in Action Cleveland's (JWA CLE) work throughout the community

Designer Dress Days (DDD), one of Cleveland's most anticipated designer resale events, returns to Legacy Village, Oct. 16-18, for three days of fashion, incredible finds, and shopping for a cause.

Hosted by JWA CLE, founded as National Council of Jewish Women/Cleveland (NCJW/CLE), DDD will take place at Legacy Village in the storefront across from Arhaus.

A longtime favorite among fashion lovers, bargain hunters, and savvy shoppers, DDD features an extraordinary selection of new and gently worn designer and high-end clothing, handbags, shoes, jewelry, furs and accessories –

all at a fraction of their original retail prices. Shoppers can expect everything from timeless wardrobe staples to one-of-a-kind statement pieces and coveted designer labels.

New this year, personal shoppers will be available to help guests navigate the sale, find pieces that fit their style, and uncover some of DDD's best finds.

More than 250 volunteers help bring DDD to life each year, transforming thousands of donated pieces into a high-energy shopping experience with an even greater purpose. Proceeds from the event benefit JWA CLE and help support its work to empower children and youth, strengthen community



engagement, support young people transitioning out of foster care, assist survivors of human trafficking, foster inclusion, inspire a love of reading and literacy, and advance social justice, advocacy, education, and meaningful community programming.

"Designer Dress Days brings together so many things we care about – fashion, sustainability, community, and giving back," said Janice Hirshon, vice president of retail. "There's such an excitement that comes with finding an amazing piece at an incredible price, but what makes DDD especially meaningful is knowing that every purchase helps us make an impact throughout our community."

For decades, DDD has given donated clothing and accessories a second life while generating critical support for the organization's work. The event also provides an opportunity for shoppers to embrace resale and sustainable fashion while discovering high-quality and designer pieces they may not find anywhere else.

JWA CLE is a community of volunteers and staff guided by Jewish values and rooted in the pursuit of dignity for all. The organization educates, advocates, and creates meaningful impact for individuals and families throughout Greater Cleveland.

Wendie Forman and Lisa Cynamon Mayers serve as co-presidents. Janice Hirshon serves as vice president of retail.

For more information, visit jwacleveland.org or follow @jwacleveland and @dddcleve on Facebook and Instagram.



Photos by Mariana Edelman

Presented by Beachwood Historical Society

GHOST TOUR

IN THE HISTORICAL BEACHWOOD CEMETERY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

FAMILY-FRIENDLY TOURS AT 4 PM & 6 PM

Experience history brought to life with ghostly stories and legends of Beachwood's past.

STEP INTO THE PAST ... IF YOU DARE!

At the Corner of Hallourton & Green Roads

REGISTER: BEACHWOODREG.COM

Adults \$10 • Ages 4-17 \$5 • 3 & Under FREE

Event Details:

- Friday, Oct. 16
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Early Access Day;
\$20 admission
- Saturday, Oct. 17
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Free admission
- Sunday, Oct. 18
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Free admission

Welcome to Chagrin Valley Camera Club's 2026-2027 Season

by Debby Zelman Rapoport

The Chagrin Valley Camera Club has launched its 2026-2027 season, and as an active member I recommend it to anyone in Beachwood with an interest in photography.



The nonprofit club has about 70 active members from Beachwood and communities throughout Northeast Ohio. Presentations run on Zoom the first and third Tuesday of the month, September through May, at 7 p.m., so you can attend from home. Members also gather in person at the Beachwood Library for exhibitions and competitions.

Each season, the club welcomes nationally recognized photographers. This year's lineup includes Bobbi Lane, presenting "Venice Carnival" on Oct. 6; Angela Poggioni, presenting "The Gentle Red Giant" on Oct. 20; Lisa Cuchara, presenting "Wabi-Sabi" on Nov. 17; Susan Magnano, presenting

"Illuminating Nightscapes: Mastering the Art of Light Painting" on Dec. 1; and Tomasz Trzebiatowski, editor in chief of *FRAMES Magazine*, who will be interviewed by Chad Barr, club president, in March.

Members exhibit their own work as well. The Nov. 3 member exhibition carries the theme "Imperfect Beauty: Texture, Age, Decay," and the club's annual May Show on May 4 is open to the public.

"We believe this will be our strongest season yet," said Chad. "I spent much of the summer connecting with world-class photographers and arranging presentations that will genuinely raise the bar for our club."



Photograph by Erwin Bruder, Chagrin Valley Camera Club member.

Expensive equipment and advanced experience are not required. Curiosity, an interest in photography, and a desire to learn are enough.

Curious? Come as a guest.

Prospective members are welcome to attend a meeting at no cost and with no obligation. Membership is \$50 for the season. Visit chagrinvalleycameraclub.com.

NOMINATE NOW! NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED



The Gallery of Success, which began in 1985, takes place every three years and currently has 146 honorees.

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

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

Nomination packets are due Friday, Oct. 30, 2026.
The induction ceremony will take place Friday, April 16, 2027.

For information and a nomination form, visit
www.beachwoodschools.org/community-alumni/gallery-of-success

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

Find Your Voice Now Announces Its New Book, *We Hear You*, With Beachwood Library Kickoff Event

For people carrying the pain of an unhealthy or toxic relationship, speaking about the experience can feel impossible. On Wednesday, Oct. 14, Find Your Voice Now will bring a message of understanding, healing, and hope to the Beachwood Library.

The program, beginning at 7 p.m., will introduce the community to Find Your Voice Now and its new book, *We Hear You* – a powerful collection of real stories, poems, and artwork from women who have turned pain into empowerment and silence into strength.

"Nobody needs to suffer alone," co-founder Annie Roth said. "Anyone in an unhealthy or toxic relationship now has a place where they can share and be heard."

Annie and Mary Ellen Bartlett founded Find Your Voice Now after meeting unexpectedly on a cross-country flight. During their conversation, the two women discovered that they had traveled remarkably similar paths through toxic and coercive relationships. Both understood what it was like to face those experiences largely alone and without the kind of peer support they needed.

That encounter grew into the creation of this nonprofit, which is dedicated to ensuring others would not have to walk the same path in isolation.

Founded in 2022, Find Your Voice Now is a free, inclusive, peer-support community created by survivors. It provides nonclinical support, education, and resources for people navigating toxic, coercive, confusing, or abusive relationships in their personal or professional lives.

The organization has grown to approximately 4,000 members around the world, with regularly scheduled meetings that follow a guided discussion on a pre-determined topic. Participants may share their experiences,

listen to others, or simply absorb the reassurance that they are not alone.

Originally created for women, the organization now includes groups for Hispanic women, men, and LGBTQ+, with plans to create groups for teens and veterans.

"Healing often begins by finding a person or community that makes you feel safe enough to speak honestly," Annie said. "The only way to heal is to find support where you feel comfortable sharing your circumstances with someone."

We Hear You was created as a labor of love. Authored by Annie, Mary Ellen, and Renee Cavanagh, the book gathers approximately 30 testimonials from women around the world who found the courage to tell their stories. Their experiences include human trafficking, domestic violence, coercive control, manipulation, and narcissistic abuse in many kinds of relationships.

Poetry is interspersed throughout the collection, along with artwork intended to reflect the emotions expressed in the stories.

The foreword was written by therapist and author Nadine Macaluso, whose former marriage inspired the character played by Margot Robbie in *The Wolf of Wall Street*. Nadine has spoken and written about breaking free from an unhealthy relationship and rebuilding her life.

By bringing together testimony, poetry, and visual art, Find Your Voice Now hopes the book will become both a source of comfort and a practical companion for readers. Someone who recognizes part of their own experience in another woman's story may begin

to understand what is happening to them – and take a first step toward seeking support.

"Healing often begins by finding a person or community that makes you feel safe enough to speak honestly."

– Annie Roth

The book is available on Amazon and Bookshop.org, and copies will be available at the library event.

A recent VIP event was especially meaningful to Annie and Mary Ellen because it raised awareness of Find Your Voice Now and demonstrated the organization's growing impact and momentum – work that also earned Annie recognition from Nexstar's Fox 8 Cleveland as Cleveland's Remarkable Woman of 2026, one of 125 women selected from more than 12,000 nominees nationwide.

A pickleball fundraiser also brought supporters, donors, and local mental and physical health organizations together for a day that included play, raffle prizes, and opportunities to learn about community resources.

The organization is also developing a web-based app powered by Experience Knows (experienceknows.com) – created by Annie's sons, Taylor and Zachary Ginis – to provide a readily accessible peer-support space because people experiencing difficulty should not have to travel the road alone.

Find Your Voice Now does not provide therapy or replace professional medical, legal or mental-health services. Its role is



Mary Ellen Bartlett and Annie Roth, Find Your Voice Now co-founders, will introduce *We Hear You* at the Beachwood Library on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m.

to offer lived-experience-based peer support – a community where people can speak, listen, build relationships and begin identifying the next steps that feel right for them.

"Support is available," Annie said. "You are not alone. You are heard. You matter."

Those in immediate danger should call 911. The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available by calling or texting 988.

Beachwood Library Program
Wednesday, Oct. 14 • 7 p.m.
We Hear You
For more information, visit www.FindYourVoiceNow.org.



Spruce Up Your Home This Fall

Spruce Up Your Home: Why Your Environment Matters

There's something about fall that makes us pause. Temperatures cool, colors change, the air feels crisper, and we suddenly become more aware of the spaces in which we live – how they look, function, and make us feel. It's no coincidence. As the seasons shift, our instincts urge us to create warmth and comfort before winter settles in.

According to the Institute for Integrative Nutrition, that instinct isn't just about creating cozy vibes. Their research shows that true well-being depends on balance in 12 key areas of life, one being home environment.

Your home is more than walls and furniture. It's where daily life unfolds. Science has shown that your environment actively influences your mental and physical health. Clutter and disorganization are linked to higher stress hormones, while light-filled, welcoming spaces can boost mood, focus, and even sleep quality. In other words: How you feel at home matters as much as what you eat or how often you exercise.

This fall, why not give your home the attention it deserves? By making simple, smart changes, you're not just refreshing your space, you're strengthening the foundation for overall health.

Turn Up the Comfort

Nothing beats walking into a warm, welcoming home on a chilly autumn evening.

But comfort doesn't happen by accident, it starts with preparation. Scheduling a fall HVAC tune-up ensures your system is ready for the months ahead. Beyond keeping your family cozy, it improves energy efficiency, lowers monthly bills, and reduces the risk of unexpected breakdowns in the dead of winter.

Protect Your Irrigation System

Before freezing temperatures arrive, winterize your irrigation system to prevent trapped water from cracking pipes, valves, and sprinkler heads. A professional blowout clears remaining water and helps protect your system from costly damage. Taking care of it this fall means fewer surprises – and a smoother start when it's time to water again in spring.

Refresh Your Space

Fall is the perfect time to make your home feel more inviting. A comfortable sofa, a cozy accent chair, or a beautiful new dining set can refresh a room while making it more

functional for everyday living and seasonal gatherings. Look for rich colors, warm wood tones, and soft, durable fabrics that bring comfort and character to your space. Even one thoughtfully chosen piece can give your home a fresh look for the season ahead.

Light and Warmth

As days grow shorter, we naturally crave light. Fresh window coverings can completely transform the look and feel of a room, softening natural light during the day and creating privacy and warmth at night. This season, think cozy fabrics, layered textures, or sleek modern blinds that make a statement. Even one update – a new set of drapes in the living room or shades in the bedroom – can shift the mood of your home instantly.

Fresh Starts

Sometimes sprucing up your environment goes beyond décor or repairs and means starting somewhere new. Fall is actually one of the smartest times to

buy or rent a new home. With fewer people shopping, you'll find less competition and more motivated sellers. For buyers, there are experienced realtors waiting to help. For renters, it's an opportunity to lock in a great deal because fewer people are moving.

Fall is more than a season – it's an opportunity. By refreshing your home now, you're setting the stage for a healthier, more joyful winter. Your home is where health begins. So light that candle, sip your tea, and ask: What small changes could enhance your home environment? Chances are, the benefits from your updates will ripple far beyond your four walls.



On Point: Joseph Guth Earns a Place on the U.S. National Team

On Sept. 15, Joseph Guth received the gift he had been awaiting for seven years: an official invitation to join the United States National Fencing Team in the cadet category, which is open to fencers ages 17 and younger.

Joseph is a 16-year-old foil fencer who trains at Cleveland Fencing Academy in Beachwood.

The top 20 cadet fencers in the United States compete abroad. Joseph's first tournament will take place Oct. 17 and 18 in Samorin, Slovakia. He will represent the United States both individually and as a member of one of its five teams.

Joseph is currently ranked No. 13 in the country.

At the next stage – the junior level, which includes college freshmen and younger competitors – only 12 fencers will be invited. Joseph is working hard to reach that level.

He has competed internationally, winning both the Canadian National Championships and the prestigious Paris Fencing Marathon this past year.

His training program includes weight, balance, coordination,

and speed training three days a week, as well as weapons training and bouts four days a week. In addition, he competes in tournaments in the United States and abroad nearly every other weekend.

Joseph picked up his first weapon at age 6 in Miami. When his parents moved to Cleveland for the area's quality of life and excellent schools, he continued training in Cleveland Heights. Six years ago, his father, Eric, opened the Cleveland Fencing Academy on Commerce Park in Beachwood so Joseph could train competitively. It is the second-largest fencing academy between New York and Los Angeles. Introductory classes are offered through Beachwood Community Services and directly through the academy.

Joseph has worked hard academically and athletically,

becoming a two-time first-team Academic All-American and first-team Athletic All-American with the United States Fencing Association.

"Fencing has taught me many life skills, such as quick thinking and critical analysis," Joseph said. "I'm grateful to have seen so much of the world through fencing, to have met so many interesting people, and to have made so many friends. I'm very proud to share this with our community."

Joseph said the most unique experience he has had in the sport so far was training with the Russian and Turkish national teams in Istanbul this past summer in preparation for the United States Summer National Championships.

"Despite political differences, we all got along really well and did lots of fun things together off the fencing strip," he said.

Ahmad Taqi, his Kuwaiti strength-and-conditioning and strip coach, said, "Joseph is in a special situation, coming from a small-market fencing club. His making the team is especially sweet because nobody expected a kid from Ohio to get this far. He is a champ for allowing us to use him as our guinea pig in training so we can understand how to help our students reach this level. He puts up with a lot, and we know he'll crush it in Slovakia this month!"

"I'm grateful to have seen so much of the world through fencing, to have met so many interesting people, and to have made so many friends."

– Joseph Guth



Joseph Guth wins the gold at the Paris Fencing Marathon, which attracts the best fencers in the world from 17 different countries.



Joseph with one of his coaches, Mihai Predescu, from Romania, after winning the gold at the National Championships in Canada this past May.

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The Old Man and the Music

Four years ago, Bob Wyman's friend, Stuart Fenton, told him about the remarkable music he was discovering on YouTube – performances by gifted singers and musicians from outside the United States whom most Americans had never heard of.

"Open YouTube," Stuart told Bob. "You won't believe what's out there."

He was right.

Bob, a Beachwood resident, is now on a mission. "I want to introduce others to the extraordinary musical talent I have discovered from around the world," he said. "In these unsettled times, beautiful music can be soothing: It can lift our spirits, quiet our minds, and remind us how much joy and goodness still exists. Finding these artists has brought enormous cheer into my life, and I want to share that feeling with as many people as possible."

Under the title *The Old Man and the Music*, Bob's YouTube podcast introduces listeners to talented musicians from around the globe.

Bob's passion for music began at a young age. His father loved the legendary Italian tenor Enrico Caruso, and he grew up listening to Frank Sinatra. He also enjoyed listening to classical music, played the trumpet, tried the drums, and freely admitted that he was a mediocre musician.

"Over the years, I have enjoyed everything from folk and pop to orchestral music," he said. "But YouTube opened an entirely new musical world to me."

One of his first great discoveries was Il Volo, the Italian operatic-pop trio. The group began when

three young singers appeared individually on an Italian television talent show. A producer recognized what their voices might accomplish together, and the new trio was born.

"I have seen Il Volo three times," Bob told me. "Although they are internationally famous, many people in the United States still do not know them. That is exactly why I want to spread the word."

Another favorite is Lucy Thomas, a young British singer with exceptional tone, clarity, and control.

Then there is Helene Fischer, one of Europe's biggest stars. She performs in several languages, and her command of English is so natural that listeners might never guess she is German.

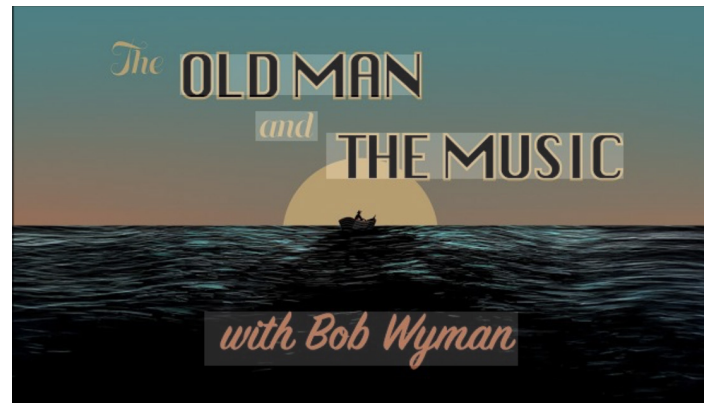
Belgian singer Dana Winner offers another example. Her interpretation of "One Moment in Time," made famous by Whitney Houston, is stunning. She has also recorded memorable versions of songs by ABBA.

Additional discoveries include British pop musician Luke Silva; singer, actress, and performer Emilie Cunliffe; the European Pop Orchestra, led by Maestro Guido Dieteren; and Life in 3D, the Vedder siblings.

"These performers sing pop, classical, folk, musical-theater, and crossover music," Bob said.



Bob Wyman, creator of *The Old Man and The Music*



"Some appear on major stages, while others first attracted attention through television talent competitions or online videos.

"What they share is tremendous ability and the power to move an audience," he added. "Anyone can make these discoveries. You may begin with a familiar song, notice an unfamiliar singer, and suddenly find yourself exploring music from Italy, Belgium, Germany, Britain, or another part of the world. That is how my list keeps growing"

To date, Bob has created four *Old Man and the Music* episodes and hopes to share new selections about twice a month. "I want to create a community of people who love good voices, fine musicianship, and songs that bring joy.

"Every great new performance gives me a total high. The music is out there – my mission is to help listeners experience it and share it."

"If you know a wonderful singer, group, or orchestra that isn't well known, please tell me," he said. "I love doing this because every great new performance gives me a total high. The music is out there – my mission is to let listeners know about it, experience it, and share it."

The Old Man and the Music is on YouTube. To recommend an artist or learn more, contact Bob at bob.wyman@energy-costsavers.com or 216.287.1531.

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 Oct. 2 and Nov. 6. Please help people stay warm this winter! For more information or to donate yarn, contact Iris November at lbrtyclub@gmail.com or 216.375.9111.





Quick Fall Refresh Tips for a Healthier, Happier Home

• Tune Your Heat

Schedule a fall HVAC check to stay cozy and efficient. A professional inspection can prevent costly winter surprises.

• Refresh Your Windows

Swap out old curtains or blinds for new coverings that let in light and add warmth. Even small updates can instantly boost your mood and style.

• Update Your Home

New furniture brings fresh energy into your home, while accent pieces add warmth, color, and personality. A few thoughtful updates can make your space feel more inviting for fall gatherings and everyday living.

• Consider a Fresh Start

Thinking of moving? Fall can be a smart time to buy or rent. Realtors can help you find your new home before the holidays.

• Protect Your System

Protect your irrigation system from freezing temperatures by having it professionally winterized this fall. A little preparation now can prevent costly damage and help ensure a smooth start next spring.

• Declutter and Organize

Clear counters, closets, and living areas. Less clutter equals less stress. Focus first on spaces where you spend the most time.

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Halloween Health, Wellness, and Safety Fair for Senior Adults

Cleveland Senior Network's Health, Wellness, and Safety Fair will bring Halloween fun, helpful information, and community resources to the Beachwood Community Center on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This Halloween fair is designed specifically for senior adults. Guests are encouraged to come in costume and enjoy trick-or-treating, dancing, bingo, activities, giveaways, goodie bags, and prizes. Admission is free and a costume contest will be judged by a panel.

The fair will also feature health screenings and educational presentations on fall prevention, financial planning, wellness, aging in place, and other topics. Vendors, senior-care professionals, and representatives from the fire department will be available

to share information and answer questions.

"This event will be tons of fun," said Shalom Plotkin, founder of the Cleveland Senior Network and co-owner of Right at Home Cleveland East. "It will also be very informative. You will learn something new – I guarantee."

A free lunch will be offered, with priority given to guests who RSVP. Those who register will receive wristbands providing priority access to lunch.

The event will also support the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Attendees are encouraged to bring canned food donations

and will receive extra raffle tickets for contributing. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

Volunteers are being sought to support the event.

To RSVP, volunteer, or ask questions, contact Shalom at shalom@ohioseniorcare.net or 216.752.2222.

Beachwood Health, Wellness & Safety Fair for Senior Adults

Thursday, Oct. 29 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
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Shalom Plotkin with a festive attendee from last year's event.



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Get Your Home Ready for Fall and Winter!

As Northeastern Ohio residents, we enjoy the passing of all four seasons. And, while regular maintenance is always a priority for homeowners, it's particularly important to prepare your home for the upcoming colder weather. Here are two handy checklists to help keep your home weather ready. And, remember, if you are a snowbird, be sure to winterize your home to avoid a frozen pipe disaster. Any trusted plumber can assist you with that. Please call me on my "Sell" phone at 216.338.3233 if you have any questions!

Sharon Friedman
BHHS Professional Realty

Please call me on my "Sell" phone at 216.338.3233
if you have any questions!

Fall Checklist

- ☐ Get heating system serviced
- ☐ Schedule a chimney sweep
- ☐ Seal cracks around windows and doors
- ☐ Winterize sprinkler system
- ☐ Clean gutters and downspouts
- ☐ Over-seed and aerate the lawn
- ☐ Check attic vents
- ☐ Remove shower heads and clean deposits
- ☐ Test smoke detectors
- ☐ Replace HVAC filters

Winter Checklist

- ☐ Check on insulation
- ☐ Pick up a good humidifier
- ☐ Check for drafts around windows and doors
- ☐ Inspect fire extinguishers
- ☐ Clean the range hood and filter
- ☐ Clean garbage disposal
- ☐ Clean dryer duct
- ☐ Lubricate garage door



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Sharon's Recent Beachwood Sales & Listings

JUST SOLD 8/26: 26901 N Woodland list \$750,000
SOLD IN 2 DAYS 8/26: 26016 Fairmount Blvd list \$639,900
SOLD IN 5 DAYS 7/26: 3 Windrush Ln in The Village list \$449,900
JUST SOLD 6/26: 26161 Shaker Boulevard list \$950,000
LISTED/SOLD BY SHARON 5/26: 25235 Penshurst list \$895,000
JUST SOLD 5/26: 4 Chelsea Ct in The Village list \$395,000
JUST SOLD 3/26: 26091 Shaker Boulevard list \$950,000
JUST SOLD 3/26: 2660 Ramsay Road list \$499,000
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
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Sharon Friedman Is The #1 Agent in Beachwood in 2025*
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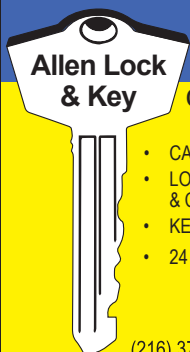
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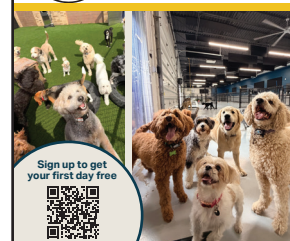
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