



**SHAKER
SQUARE**
COLLABORATIVE

THE CONNECTION

Editor: Andrea C. Turner

THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER OF SHAKER SQUARE COLLABORATIVE

SHAD IS NOW SHAKER SQUARE COLLABORATIVE!

Welcome to the newest iteration of **The Connection**, the e-newsletter of Shaker Square Collaborative, formerly known as Shaker Square Area Development Corp. or SHAD.

The mission of Shaker Square Collaborative (no longer a community development corporation) is to renew Shaker Square as a vibrant civic landmark and gathering place for connection, culture, and community.

The Board of Directors has opted to move forward with a digital e-news format rather than a printed newspaper to continue to meet the needs of our readers, and to reduce costs.

It will be distributed more frequently with this September 2026 issue as its first. The next issues will be published in November 2026, and January, March, May, and July of 2027.

The logo concept was designed around the four pillars of Shaker Square: a commercial district, historic and transit-centric accessibility, returning to our roots, and coordination with community partners on a shared vision.

To learn more, visit the new website:
ShakerSquareCollab.org.



1ST ANNUAL COMMUNITY BEACON AWARDS

The First Annual Community Beacon Award was created by the Shaker Square Collaborative Board of Directors to honor the lasting impact of local citizens that have improved our community.

The 2026 honorees are: **Akin Affrica, Marilyn Burns, Rev. Gary Chmura, Toni Johnson**, and the **Morelands Group**.

Read more on page 3.

IN MEMORIAM RORRY JAMES GARRETT II SEPT. 03, 1986 – SEPT. 13, 2026

Many in the Shaker Square community came to know Rorry through his work opening and managing UnBAR on Larchmere Blvd., Café Indigo in Shaker Square, and 601 Coffee House at Cleveland's City Hall.

Sincere condolences to his mother, Melissa Garrett-Hirsch; his entire family; and all those who knew and loved him. His presence will be deeply missed.

Read more in the E-tribute here:

<https://rorryjamesgarrettii.tribute.com>



CITY CLUB FORUM

On August 27, the City Club of Cleveland hosted an outdoor forum in Shaker Square: *Honoring the Legacy, Revitalizing Together: Future of Shaker Square*. A crowd of nearly 200 gathered to listen, ask questions, and enjoy a free community cookout – presented in partnership with Saint Luke's Foundation.

Did you know? Shaker Square will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2029!



Dan Moulthrop, CEO of the City Club of Cleveland welcomes the crowd and introduces the panelists.

Pictured above from left to right:

Moderator **Zaria Johnson**, Reporter and Producer, Ideastream News; **Briana Perry**, Interim President & CEO of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress; Cleveland City Council President **Blaine A. Griffin** (Councilman of Ward 6); and **Melissa Garrett-Hirsch**, President, Shaker Square Collaborative and UnBAR Cafe.



Watch the forum on YouTube at
<https://bit.ly/CityClubForum>



Akin Affrica is a visionary Cleveland entrepreneur, restaurateur, real estate developer, and community builder whose work has helped shape the city's east side. He has created opportunities through business ownership, neighborhood revitalization, and economic development.

Known as the Mayor of Woodhill Homes by Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, **Marilyn Burns** has served as the Co-Chair of the Woodhill Transformation Steering Committee, on the Institutional Review Board at Case Western Reserve University, and as a guest lecturer for social work in its undergraduate classes. As an artist, she offers art classes for children and families.



Rev. Gary Chmura was born in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood, and was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Cleveland in 1978. He has served in Lorain, Berea, Chagrin Falls and, for the past 38 years, as pastor of Our Lady of Peace and pastor of St. Adalbert/Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in the Fairfax neighborhood. His goal has always been for Our Lady of Peace to be a home among houses – a place where all can find welcome and support.

Toni Johnson has been active in the Greater Buckeye community for over 40 years – serving as a Community Organizer with the Buckeye-Woodland Community Congress, as an advocate with Health Care for Homeless, and helping homeless veterans secure shelter and essential support services at the VA Medical Hospital. In retirement, she volunteers with Healthy Eating Active Living of Greater Buckeye.



The Morelands Group was formed in 2021 with the goal of preserving, protecting, and advocating for the historic residential apartment corridor of the Shaker Square community by engaging tenants, owners, and managers in the vibrant life of this landmark neighborhood.

Pictured here (l to r): **Sarah Wean, Bridgette Smith-Jackson, Tamara Chappell, Anderson Waldon, Susan Rotatori, Kristin Jakarimilena, Meg Weingart, Lincoln Short, Eunice Jones, Jay Westbrook, and James Sosan.**

COMMUNITY EVENTS



The newest and most comprehensive community calendar documenting all of the events and activities in the area.

To add or see upcoming events, go to: agreaterbuckeye.com/calendar

Shaker Middle School was standing room only on Sept. 22 for the Ohio EPA hearing on the NEORSD's plans for Horseshoe Park. Public comment is allowed through Tuesday, Sept. 29. Contact info below in blue box.



Adam Zaryk

Division of Surface Water
330-963-1120
Adam.Zaryk@epa.ohio.gov

Lisa Cochran

Communications and Outreach
614-644-2160
Lisa.Cochran@epa.ohio.gov

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK NIGHT

2026 SCHEDULE

JAN 26TH	FEB 25RD	MAR 23RD	APR 27TH	MAY X	JUN 22ND
JUL 27TH	AUG 24TH	SEP 26TH	OCT 26TH	NOV X	DEC X

ACTION CLINIC

FEB 2ND	MAR 2ND	MAR 30TH	MAY 4TH	JUN 1ST	JUN 29TH
AUG 3RD	AUG 31ST	OCT 29TH	NOV 2ND	NOV 30TH	DEC X

"IGNITING THE POWER OF EVERYDAY PEOPLE TO CREATE TOGETHER. AN EXTRAORDINARY WORLD RIGHT WHERE THEY LIVE"



CITY OF CLEVELAND • MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Shaker Boulevard



★ COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE 2.0

Let's get the details right, together.

Attend the second community open house to review previous public feedback and work to get the details right on the concept design for the Shaker Boulevard corridor.

JOIN US!

September 30, 2026
6:00 - 8:00PM

Shaker Square Visitors Center
13206 Shaker Square,
Cleveland, Ohio 44120

Stop by anytime between 6-8 PM to explore activity stations & share your feedback on the concept design.

PROJECT AREA

Woodhill Road to the Shaker Heights border



PROJECT NEED

We're making changes to Shaker Boulevard to address traffic safety concerns, improve the condition of the roadway, and strengthen connections in our growing citywide bike network.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Winter 2026 Design completion	Spring/Summer 2027 Construction begins	Summer 2028 Construction complete
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ESTIMATED COST

\$13.7M
total project investment

PROPOSED CHANGES

- Complete asphalt resurfacing
- Upgrade curb ramps to meet accessibility standards
- Slow traffic speeds using traffic calming tools
- Explore adding pedestrian safety enhancements
- Replace curbs, sidewalks, and driveway aprons as needed
- Investigate adding a new bikeway connection

Ward 6 Community Meeting
Tuesday, October 13
6 pm

In-person

Fairhill Partners
12200 Fairhill Road
Cleveland, OH 44120

Virtual

facebook.com/Griff4CLE6



Join Councilman Blaine A. Griffin to hear important updates and participate in the discussion of community concerns.



OCT
31

Larchmere Candy Run

Saturday, October 31, 2026
5:00PM - 8:00PM
larchmereboulevard.com

OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

2026-2027

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

in CUMMINS HALL / 10AM - 12NOON



ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Saturday Dates

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026
OCTOBER 24, 2026
NOVEMBER 21, 2026
DECEMBER 19, 2026
JANUARY 23, 2027
FEBRUARY 27, 2027

MARCH 20, 2027
APRIL 24, 2027
MAY 22, 2027
JUNE 26, 2026
JULY 24, 2027
AUGUST 28, 2027

12601 SHAKER BLVD | CLEVELAND, OH | 216-421-4211 | www.olpchurch.com



1st Annual Gala Dec. 12, 2026

6:00pm
6111 Landerhaven Drive, Mayfield Heights



KEYNOTE:
FMR. PRESIDING BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY
A Fundraiser for
Christ Episcopal Church, Shaker Heights
joining with the **Shaker Heights Youth Center** to
build supportive after-school teen youth programs.
Tickets: \$125

Scan QR code or visit
www.cometochristchurch.org
for tickets & more information!



THRILLER ON LARCHMERE

OCTOBER
2026
DAY AND TIME
"TEA"

Film
Performance