

◊ Cascade Chronicle ◊

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Look What's Coming in the Cascade Locks Park!

The much anticipated Towpath Trail

June 2004 will mark the beginning of construction of the towpath trail section through the Cascade Locks. The ADA accessible trail will end temporarily at the innerbelt, but will be accessible from downtown Akron via a pedestrian link along Beech Street to Main Street, ending at the Lock 3 Live amphitheatre.

The Beech Street Steam Plant

This historic Beech Street Steam Plant owned by the City of Akron is slated for demolition beginning in April 2004. The environmental contamination of the building made it improbable for adaptive reuse. Funded through a grant from the Clean Ohio Revitalization Fund, much of the contaminants have already been removed in preparation for demolition.



The Beech Street Steam Plant, located within the park, once heated businesses in downtown Akron.

As part of the project, the City will construct a trailhead and connector trail for access to the towpath trail and the Cascade Locks Park at this site. The connector trail will be ADA accessible through a series of switchbacks. We are working with the City to develop this design and determine methods we will use to interpret the site.

Single Volunteers of the Western Reserve clean out our Painted Lady House

On March 13, a group of 8 Single Volunteers and CLPA volunteers cleaned out what remained inside the house at 121 N. Canal Street. This was their second day dedicated to this project and their hard work was an enormous step forward in realizing a vision for this historic house!

Dominion East Ohio dedicating a day to our Park

Through Dominion's "Putting Our Energy to Work for the Environment" project, 40-50 employees will volunteer to landscape and spruce up the grounds near the historic Painted Lady

House on April 15. This will make an enormous impact on the Cascade Locks Park and the Howard Street project. We are very grateful to have been chosen to partner with Dominion and are grateful for Dominion's commitment to the Ohio & Erie Canalway.



The Painted Lady House at 121 N. Canal Street.
Photo by Denny Reiser

An old partnership becomes new again...A roof to secure the house

As a partner in the Ohio & Erie Canalway, the National Park Service has again teamed up with CLPA on a project in the park. Cuyahoga Valley National Park has generously agreed to provide the labor to install a temporary roof on the house. Dominion East Ohio has given CLPA a grant, which will be used for the materials needed for the roof. Work is scheduled for May.

Rotarians from across the Region to make an impact in the Cascade Locks Park

The Rotary District 6630 Annual Conference will be held at Cuyahoga Falls Sheraton Suites on April 23-25, 2004. Four hundred Rotarians and their guests are expected to attend the event that begins with a special family dinner and tour of the Rain Forest at the Cleveland Zoo.

A Saturday afternoon volunteer service project is planned at Cascade Locks Park. Families will roll up their sleeves to sand, paint, clean up winter debris, and do whatever tasks need to be done to prepare the park for opening of the new season. Young children (ages 6-10) will gather in the Mustill Store to hear stories from the "olden days". Root beer floats will be served mid-afternoon to quench thirsts of the busy workers.

Rotary's District 6630 is comprised of Rotary Clubs from the Akron-Cleveland area. The workday will provide CLPA with an opportunity to introduce Rotarians and their families to the park and opportunities associated with it.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Wednesday, April 21, 7pm—The Shipyard in Old Portage—Was there a shipyard located in Old Portage during the War of 1812? Come and hear James Hudkins, local historian and author, discuss this interesting topic. Refreshments will be served.

Thursday, April 29, 7pm—Woodland Wildflowers: Conservation and Propagation

Join us as we learn about the plants in our “new” (rescue plants) wildflower garden planted last spring by The Akron Garden Club’s Wildflower Rescue Committee. Jane Rogers, committee co-chair, will present a slide show of the local wildflowers and native plants in all their stages of development and share her knowledge of these native treasures. The AGC’s Wildflower Rescue is dedicated to raising public awareness of the plight of native plants and is committed to protecting and replanting native plants before their habitat is lost to development. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, May 1, 8:30am-12:30pm—Annual Spring Canal Clean-up

CLPA and EnviroScience Inc. volunteers join forces again to clean up the canal and the Little Cuyahoga River. Meet at the Mustill Store. Lunch will be provided. Call CLPA for details and to RSVP.

Guided Hiking Tours of the Historic District—Meet at the Mustill Store at 12 noon on the following Sundays: May 2, May 16, May 30, June 13*, June 27*, July 11*, July 25*, Aug 8*, Aug 22*, September 5, September 19, Oct 10*, Oct 24*

Come learn about the Cascade Locks Historic District, soon to host the newest section of the Ohio & Erie Canal Tow-path Trail. This important section will make the vital link to Downtown Akron!

Canal boats had to negotiate nearly 70 feet of elevation difference in less than a third of a mile within a section of the Ohio & Erie Canal now called the Cascade Locks. Akron was born along this section and industries thrived. Join a Cascade Locks Park Association volunteer for a free tour of the area.

For those days with a *, consider combining the tour with a ride aboard the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and experience history moving from canals to trains. Board at ROCKSIDE STATION in Independence at 10:15 am and be transported from the train depot to canal days at the Mustill Store in time for the guided tour. You will depart Akron on the train at 3:30pm.

To schedule your train ride call the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad at 1-800-468-4070
For questions about the walking tour, call the Cascade Locks Park Association.

Wednesday, May 19, 7pm—Genealogy and the Mustill Family

Join Bob Keener, CLPA Board member, to share some tips about genealogical research with examples featuring the Mustill family. In addition, you will learn about Joseph and Sarah Mustill who built the Mustill Store and House and some of their interesting descendants and their contributions to Akron and Summit County. Refreshments will be served.

June 2-4: World Canals Conference, The Welland Canals, Ontario, Canada. For more information check: www.stcatharines.ca.

Monday, June 21, 5:30pm—Member Appreciation Day!

Join CLPA and the Goodyear Community Concert Band as we thank our supporters and members. Members will receive invitations. Gather at the Mustill Store at 5:30 pm. Concert begins at 7 pm.

Saturday, August 28, 2004 6:30pm-11pm—“Hot Jazz on Howard Street” *

Celebrate Akron’s heyday of Howard Street at an event in the Cascade Locks Park. Please see page 3 for more details.

*Please note that our 2004 schedule of events brochure listed this event as being on August 7th. It has been changed to August 28th.

All events take place at the Mustill Store. For more information, call 330-374-5625 or email bgarvin@ameritech.net. Directions to the Mustill Store are available at www.cascadelocks.org.

HOT JAZZ ON HOWARD....WATCH FOR YOUR INVITATION!!

Hold the Date: August 28, 2004

CLPA's summer parties have traditionally been hosted near the Mustill Store. This year, as we embark on Phase II of Cascade Lock Park's development, we will have a different emphasis.

Travel with us back to 1940. It's a Saturday night at 11:00 p.m. on Howard Street – one of Akron's most culturally alive sections of town. A saxophone is wailing. Neon signs punctuate the dark sky. Laughter can be heard from open doorways. Now an up-tempo tune competes for attention from a neighboring establishment.

These were the days of the *Heyday of Howard Street*. Howard St. was long an enclave for various ethnic backgrounds – Greeks, Polish, Irish and others who had built the Canal and remained in the area to open successful businesses on Howard Street. It was now home to Akron's African-American community, and Howard St. had become an important stop for the best jazz musicians of the day. They came to play at places like The Green Turtle, The High Hat, and The Cosmopolitan. Howard Street was a dominant factor in Akron's cultural evolution, and its rich culture will be preserved through the efforts of CLPA and other interested groups and citizens.



The flat iron building once stood where Howard Street and Main Street intersected.
Photo provided by University of Akron Archives

On August 28, 2004 – an evening of fun, music, food and spirits will be hosted from 6:30 p.m. – 11:00 behind the Aggie Russell House – the multi-colored home that stands alone on the hillside overlooking Howard and Furnace Streets. The house is historically significant, and is one of the last examples of the working man's home at the turn of the last century.

Arriving guests will be welcomed by Tiki torches and twinkling white lights. Mingling aromas of chicken cooking on grills and sweet potato pie will signal good eating ahead. Waymon "Punchy" Atkinson is assembling a fabulous group of artists, like Jimmy Noel, who played 60 years ago on Howard Street. Later, Jack Schantz, director of Jazz Studies at the University of Akron; Roland Paolucci, former director of the program; and Akron's own Dolores Parker Morgan will delight guests with their own special jazz offerings.

Guests will love bidding on wonderful auction items, and two lucky people will win a raffle featuring "A Hot Harlem Getaway": a 3-day/2-night trip for two to New York with travel, lodging and entertainment included!

Aggie's house, still awaiting restoration, will provide an aesthetic backdrop for art and memorabilia from Heyday Howard Street. At the end of the evening, guests will depart filled with nostalgia and special memories of a magical night lifted from another era in our city's rich past.



A Message from your President

Our planning sessions for updating CLPA's Master Plan have been lively. There have been so many ideas and concerns presented that our planners have had a chore keeping up with the committee's wishes. The plan IS evolving and with so much input it should reflect the combined vision of both the planning committee and our partners and stakeholders who will have reviewed the proposed plan by the time you see this message. We are indebted to the First Energy Foundation, OECA and The Charles E. & Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation for their financial support that made this project possible. Stay tuned for more details.

I hope you have received our new Special Events Schedule for Spring-Summer 2004. Please keep it near your calendar and plan to attend as many of these nine events as possible. The second event, Wednesday March 24, was very interesting and I would like to thank Denny Reiser and Rosemary Reymann for a job well done. This season is underway and we are looking forward to seeing you soon!

Bob Freitag

Thank you for your support!

The functions and programs provided by CLPA are made possible by the support of our donors.

We are grateful for this support!

Our new and renewing donors since the December 2003 newsletter include:

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Continued, next page

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To celebrate Bridget Garvin's birthday...from Susan and Bryan Kinnamon
 To support the CLPA Archives project: Albert E. Brion
 In memory of Richard Latchic

In Kind donations were generously provided by:

Barb Snyder of Snyder and Snyder Real Estate (use of printer for brochure)

**Elizabeth Park
 Hope VI Revitalization News**

The Master Site Plan for the Elizabeth Park project continues to evolve. The homeownership and the rental units are now to be blended throughout the site. The rental units will be mainly two-story town homes whereas the units built for homeownership will be single-family structures. The overall idea is to create a village that is pedestrian friendly and takes advantage of the natural amenities of the Little Cuyahoga River Valley. One model homeownership unit will be constructed this summer. This single family home will be used to show prospective buyers what is being offered.

Construction of the town homes and the pre-sold homeownership units is expected to begin in late Spring 2005. The site and infrastructure work, which is expected to take at least six months, will begin by late summer of 2004. Infrastructure work to be done in this phase of construction includes roads, sewers, utilities, grading, etc. CLPA continues to work with the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority and The Community Builders, Inc. toward the realization of a thriving, vibrant and active neighborhood.

Check out our website: www.cascadelocks.org

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Bridget Garvin
 Executive Director

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SPOTLIGHT ON... BOB JENKINS



Cascade Locks Park Association is so lucky to have such a tireless worker, Bob Jenkins, in its midst. By his own admission, Bob prefers to stay in the background and work quietly, never expecting or wanting credit for all that he does. Born and raised in the Akron area, he has lived in Copley for the past forty years. A graduate of Akron South High School, Bob received his B.A. and M.A. in education from the University of Akron. He taught briefly at St. Francis de Sales and in the Akron Public Schools before moving to the Revere system where he taught 7th and 8th grade Ohio history. After a 27-year career, he continues to love local history, particularly the history of the valley, and the “unique place” between Akron and Cleveland. He has been a member of the Cascade Locks Board since 2002.

Bob loves to share his knowledge of history with young people and can often be found leading tour groups of school children at the Mustill Store and the adjoining Towpath Trail, the Simon Perkins Mansion, the John Brown home or Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens. He is a community volunteer extraordinaire!

The Education Committee, the Archives Committee and the Retail Store Committee of Cascade Locks all benefit from Bob’s expertise. He is currently preparing the store for its spring opening. It probably won’t come as a surprise to hear that he is stocking the shelves with a variety of good Ohio history books. If you stop in on a Saturday or Sunday, you will often find Bob interpreting canal history for interested visitors.

Bob shares his home with his dog, Jack, and his cat, Scooter. Jack was adopted from the Humane Society after Bob saw him at a Family Fun Day at the Summit County Historical Society and couldn’t get him out of his mind. Jack, who has only one eye, was appropriately named by one of Bob’s identical twin nieces. Thank you, Bob, for all that you do!

Susan Kinnamon, Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director

This is an exciting time for Akron. As you read through this newsletter, it is overwhelming to take in the activity going on in our neighborhood. I may be biased, but I am sure that it is all happening because of our work and the regional work of the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway.

One of the goals of the Canalway is to encourage compatible development to enhance the resources in the Canalway. We are on the verge of seeing this goal realized, making Akron and our neighborhood the “golden child” of the Canalway. (In my unbiased opinion)

By this summer we will have a plan to guide us in developing interpretive sites within the park with recommendations for appropriate private development. We have a busy few years ahead of us, and I am grateful for a strong volunteer force and strong partnerships that are already making it all happen.

Bridget Garvin

From the Planning Committee

We have witnessed much change in our neighborhood since the 1995 Cascade Locks Park Master Plan was completed. The Mustill House and Store project was completed, the towpath section up to the House and Store exists, the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad has a new depot at Northside and major investment is about to occur at Elizabeth Park. The CLPA Planning Committee felt it was time to update the plan to reflect new ideas and the new and growing desire for housing and retail in the area. Additionally, the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor (now known as the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway) Management Plan recommended that Cascade Locks Park and the Northside Development District serve as a northern "node" of the Canalway Visitor Center for Akron. The southern node is to be at Lock 1 in the Hamlin Building and CLPA is involved in the process to determine the form Lock 1 will take. The Lock 1 center will evolve, as our plan will, to make sure that the two "nodes" compliment and feed off of each other.

Cascade Locks Park Association hired Behnke Associates, Inc. to update the plan and look at the park as the northern "node". The team includes Tom Zarfoss, Principal and Landscape Architect, Hunter Morrison, Urban Planner and Chambers, Murphy & Burge, Restoration Architects. The team has been meeting with our planning committee and has developed a preliminary concept plan. On April 1st, this plan was presented to stakeholders, partners and property owners to gain input on what has been developed thus far. On April 5th, we presented it to our membership and to the public: again seeking input on the plan. We are ecstatic and encouraged at the excellent turnout for these meetings. It reminds us of the community's support of our project.

The discussion at these meetings will be considered and possibly integrated into the plan. The planning committee will continue to meet with our consultants during the next few months to define the details of the plan. By the end of the summer, we will again have something to show you... this time, the completed plan. It will include details on the interpretation of the Cascade Mill site and the history of Howard Street. It will include connections to the Northside Train station, the Northside district, the towpath trail, Elizabeth Park and the Lock 1 Visitor Center. And it will provide us with the road map to proceed with the development of the park.

Our special thanks go to the Ohio & Erie Canal Association, the FirstEnergy Foundation and The Charles E. & Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation for making this project possible.

To view the preliminary concept plan, Visit our website at <http://www.cascadelocks.org/currentprojects.htm>

Archives Update

Judy James and Mary Plazo of the Akron-Summit County Public Library, Special Collections Department have come on board to assist us with the organization of our archives materials. Their expertise and knowledge has added a great deal to the project and their time and dedication has sped up the process! Their first task was the organization of our photographs, which is almost complete.

Ruth Clinefelter has also come on board as a new member of the committee. Ruth is Professor Emeritus, Bibliography at the University of Akron and was the subject specialist at Bierce Library in History, Anthropology, Archaeology, Pan African Studies and Women's Studies. She is also very involved in other historical organizations in Akron such as Progress through Preservation and the Summit County Historical Society. Her expertise has already added a great deal to the committee.

The Hickory Corridor / Cascade Locks Urban Renewal Plan

The Hickory Corridor / Cascade Locks Urban Renewal Area Eligibility Report and Urban Renewal Plan was approved by the City of Akron Planning Commission on March 12, 2004 and by Akron City Council on April 12, 2004. The Hickory Corridor / Cascade Locks Renewal Area includes most of Cascade Locks Park, including the Mustill House and Store and all of the Park south of North Street to the Innerbelt, including the Ohio & Erie Canal. From North Street, the boundary follows Hickory Street north all the way to Memorial Parkway.

Passage of the Renewal Plan allows for the redevelopment of the district, clearing blighting influences, preventing the recurrence of blight, eliminating incompatible land uses and facilitating the construction of new housing in the Project area. The Plan contains a description of the boundaries, a statement of objectives, a land use plan and a description of the techniques and standards used to accomplish the objectives, including Zoning changes and the authority to purchase property. The plan is a culmination of a yearlong series of meetings attended by area property owners and residents. The City of Akron looks forward to working with the Cascade Locks Park Association and area stakeholders to redevelop and revitalize the Project area.

Kurt Mulhauser, Akron Department of Planning & Urban Development

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