



PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURA DEMARCO | THE PLAIN DEALER

A historical window in the Foundry, now a rowing facility for young Clevelanders, looks out onto the Columbus Road Bridge.

Transformation

A foundation for a new generation

LAURA DEMARCO | ldemarco@plaind.com

Cleveland was forged in places like the building at 1831 Columbus Road. ¶ The historic 1893 foundry on the north bank of the Oxbow operated for decades, filled with hardworking men who melted, molded and pounded metal casing into shape, building Cleveland into an industrial powerhouse as well as building new lives for their families in the growing town. ¶ It was one of so many foundries and factories and warehouses and docks that grew up on the banks of the Cuyahoga River in the second half of the 19th century. Places where immigrants and other men — including one named Rockefeller — built businesses and a city. This, the industrial Flats, is where Cleveland was born.

The site of this foundry has an even deeper history than that, though. The Columbus Road property was the site of St. Mary-on-the-Flats, the first Catholic church in Cleveland, organized by Irish immigrants in 1826.

What started as the U.S. Bronze Co. and the Standard Brass Co. eventually became the Foundry Equipment Co. in 1917. It was surrounded by other businesses in the bustling area, including lumber companies, a ship-repair

shop, heating and cooling companies, and a soap maker. It seems there was a speakeasy on the site at some point, too.

By the middle of the last century, though, most of these businesses had been shuttered, with the Westlake-based Pipeline Development Co. taking over most of the nine-building complex. Some of the structures, such as the original foundry building, fell into disrepair.



This corner building of the complex is from the 1890s. The Columbus Road site was once home to St. Mary-on-the-Flats, the first Catholic church in Cleveland, which was organized in 1826.

By 2015, the buildings were mostly used for storage and a few nonindustrial businesses.

It seemed the historic complex would go the way much of the industrial Flats had, sliding into neglect and oblivion. Where once industry had built the city, now the city seemed to waste away, sitting on one of its most valuable resources — the Cuyahoga River.

Enter Mike Trebilcock, chairman and CEO of MCPc, a technology consulting company based in Cleveland. Along with his wife, Gina, Trebilcock had a vision for the vacant property on Columbus Road.

He wanted to build a new, nonprofit rowing facility that would be accessible for youth of all income levels in Cleveland through outreach programs, and which would also be a world-class rowing facility that would attract and breed national talent.

“When I was growing up, people talked about the Mistake on the Lake,” says Trebilcock. “I say the mistake is we’re not on the lake. We don’t take advantage of and use this great natural asset.”

Trebilcock purchased the 2.7-acre Columbus Road

complex from the Pipeline Development Co. for \$3 million in 2015 and started to work on rectifying that situation, in partnership with MCPc Family Charities. He wasn’t alone in wanting to re-energize the river.

The Foundry is one of several new ventures that have taken root on Columbus Road in recent years. The mini-rennaissance on the Cuyahoga includes Merwin’s Wharf restaurant and the skate park across the street, as well as the Brick and Barrel Brewery.

Though he’s not a rower himself, the Trebilcocks’ three children were passionate rowers and hooked their parents on the sport. To head up his \$9 million investment in Cleveland’s past and present, Trebilcock hired Aaron Marcovy as the Foundry’s executive director.

Marcovy, a St. Ignatius High School grad who rowed at Columbia University, has headed up the efforts to transform the industrial site into a state-of-the-art rowing facility. It hasn’t always been easy. With facilities dating from the 1890s to 1960s, different historic preservation concerns and ordinances affect the various buildings.

SEE FOUNDRY | **D5**

Television

Summer’s got talent and plenty of original shows

MARK DAWIDZIAK
mdawidziak@plaind.com

No national political conventions this summer. No Olympic Games. No marathon campaign coverage. No actual marathon event for Olympic athletes.

But that doesn’t mean there won’t be plenty of politics and plenty of marathons in the TV mix this summer.

You want political intrigue? How about the sneaky infighting, sinister scheming and ruthless double-dealing regularly featured on “Game of Thrones,” which begins its seventh HBO season on Sunday, July

16? How about the desperate D.C. maneuvers of Frank Underwood on “House of Cards,” launching its fifth Netflix season on Tuesday?

You want marathons? How about the Syfy channel’s annual Fourth of July marathon of episodes from that land of shadow and substance, “The Twilight Zone.”

Fourth of July marathons have become a summer television tradition, a fun way to fill up holiday week-end hours with inexpensive programming. Well, the entire summer used to mean mostly repeats on TV, but network and cable channels, as well as streaming services,



MANU TRILLO | ABC

Anthony Stewart Head and Lashana Lynch star in executive producer Shonda Rhimes’ “Still Star-Crossed,” an ABC summer series premiering Monday.

have long ago seen the value of also using the mid-May-to-early-September stretch for original scripted series and reality shows.

For example, Showtime’s much-hyped return to “Twin Peaks” has been up and running (in all sorts of bizarre directions) since last Sunday, and, the following night, ABC started the new season of “The Bachelorette.”

Netflix made the second season of the brilliant “Master of None” available on May 12, the same day that rival streaming service Amazon premiered “I Love Dick” (starring Kathryn Hahn, who grew up in Cleveland Heights). ABC

debuted its series “Dirty Dancing” on Wednesday.

Let the summer games begin? They’ve already begun.

Here’s just a sampling of what else is on the TV horizon this summer for new and returning shows:

“Still Star-Crossed” (10 p.m. Monday, WEWS Channel 5): From executive producer Shonda Rhimes (“Grey’s Anatomy,” “Scandal,” “How to Get Away With Murder”), this new ABC drama picks up the Montague-Capulet feud where Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet” left off.

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