



Cleveland Athletic Club will close New Year's Eve



By [John C. Kuehner, The Plain Dealer](#)

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The Cleveland Athletic Club will close on New Year's Eve and begin liquidating soon after -- in what would have been its 100th year of operation.

A "calamity of errors," such as debt, falling catering revenues and operating challenges posed by the Euclid Corridor Project, combined to doom the private athletic, social and business club, said its president, Harry McDonald, during a phone interview late Friday afternoon.



Scott Shaw/Plain Dealer file photo
Construction work connected to the Euclid Corridor Project has affected business on Euclid Avenue for more than a year.

Knowing the club is insolvent, McDonald and his board of directors have been trying to raise money so they could reorganize the club in bankruptcy court.

"With less than half of the goal reached by Thursday, and with less than half the membership agreeing to lend funds, it is apparent that it is time to end the legacy of the CAC," McDonald wrote in a letter e-mailed to club members Friday.

"While we have made a valiant effort to resurrect our club, there are just too many obstacles to tackle and overcome," McDonald said in the letter.

The club will operate during its regular hours until 6 p.m. on Dec. 31, when it will close. McDonald recommends that members remove personal items from lockers by that time to avoid possible limited access to the club after that.

McDonald said he has been working with lawyers on a Chapter 7 bankruptcy liquidation filing. "I don't know when we will file," he said.

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