

Homeownership opportunities on East Derbyshire



3150 East Derbyshire Road is the first duplex to be converted to a condominium and put on the market.

Gail Jackson

There are a lot more flowers in bloom on East Derbyshire Road. Owner-occupants were able to get free landscaping

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Future Heights

from the city of Cleveland Heights last fall, as part of the kick-off for the East Derbyshire Condo Project, a special city program using Community Development Block Grant funds.

East Derbyshire Road between Lee and Cottage Grove roads is dominated by large duplex homes ranging in size from 1,700 to 2,900 square feet on each side. The street has a mix of owner-occupants who rent one unit and investors who rent out both units.

As part of this special city program, several of these duplex homes are being converted to condominiums to create

new affordable homeownership opportunities. Each home will be rehabilitated with new kitchens, bathrooms, windows, roofs, heating and electrical systems. The kitchens will come furnished with a dishwasher, stove, microwave and other amenities. Some of the homes will have additional enhancements, such as improved floor plans and half baths on the first floor. Each duplex conversion follows historic preservation guidelines to preserve interior and exterior architectural features that add uniqueness to the home.

Bill Knop, rehab specialist for the city, is on site every day to assure that each home is on schedule and within budget. Two condominiums are currently under construction and will be completed by late August.

The first rehabilitated condominium, located at 3150 East Derbyshire, just went on the market for \$139,900 and features new windows, roof, kitchen and bathrooms, beautiful hardwood floors, and more. Prospective homebuyers can take advantage of tax-abatement on the cost of improvements and, if eligible, down payment assistance from the city.

"The Derbyshire project is an



From Left: Bill Knop, rehab specialist for the city of Cleveland Heights, and Rick Wagner, manager of housing programs.

example of the city's attempt to be proactive and to take an imaginative approach to community revitalization," says Kathryn Lad, executive director of the Home Repair Resource Center.

The East Derbyshire Condo Project is an affordable alternative to other new condos, which are priced at \$200,000 or more. And, it's in a prime location, within walking distance to shops, restaurants, parks and other amenities in both the Cedar-Lee and Coventry areas.

Gail Jackson lives on East Derbyshire and works for the Home Repair Resource Center, which is a HUD-certified housing agency that provides a full range of services to homeowners and homebuyers. Visit the website at www.hrrc-ch.org or call 381-6100 for more information on programs and services.

Heights Observer partners with WJCU-FM

Yemi Akande

The *Heights Observer* is expanding its community outreach efforts through collaboration with John Carroll University's WJCU-FM Radio Station (88.7). Starting on August 18, WJCU-FM will launch the first in a series of 90-second weekly podcasts featuring stories from the current issue of the *Heights Observer*.

The partnership is an effort to reach a broader audience of Cleveland Heights and University Heights residents. The marriage of radio and the internet is growing in importance, and such a partnership recognizes the notion that the future of radio is the internet.

According to Mark Krieger, director of WJCU-FM and adjunct assistant professor of communication and theatre arts, the station had been looking for years to do a locally based community news product that would provide a consistent format over a long duration. Enter JCU Alumni and WTAM's Nate Marinchick who proposed a partnership with a local community newspaper.

In a serendipitous way, the *Heights Observer* was brought to the attention of Krieger, who was introduced to Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights which publishes the newspaper. The rest, they say, is part of history-making that will get underway on August 18. "This is a good

continued on page 2

Zagara's Marketplace floats expansion plans by neighbors

Sarah Wean

John Zagara, owner of Zagara's Marketplace on Lee Road, wants more parking for his customers and better traffic flow in his parking lot.

Zagara held a meeting July 23 at the CH-UH Main Library and presented a plan for easing parking lot congestion at his grocery store. He also received ideas and input from about 25 neighbors in attendance.

Zagara's plan enlarges the loading dock area, moves the auto entrance from Lee Road to East Overlook Road, razes one or two homes adjacent to the property, and shrinks the parcel pickup area.

Mike Madorsky's home abuts the northwest corner of the property. Acknowledging the difficult configuration of the parking and truck area, but questioning the need for more parking spaces, he told Zagara "I look out my window at the parking lot and I rarely see the jam up situation you describe."

Madorsky's wife Elizabeth Stern expressed concern about razing homes to accommodate more parking in a community that values its neighborhoods.

The proposed East Overlook auto entrance received much discussion. There was confusion about how much traffic would spill out onto the residential street and which direction it might go.

East Overlook resident Howard Van Kleef said that residents' negative

attitudes of six years ago (when Zagara's was planning its current location) had not changed. He said his neighbors have small children and any increased traffic from an East Overlook entrance would affect quality of life on his street.

There is no doubt Zagara's has been successful at its new location. The store racks up 1,500-1,800 customers on a typical weekday and finds its parking lot jammed on holidays and at peak hours. Golf cart shuttles are used to accommodate the overflow from leased parking at the Rite-Aid offices.

Zagara said there have been many changes in the grocery business in Cleveland in recent years and that he faces fierce competition from independent and corporate stores, alike.

In the end, Zagara agreed to put together a traffic study to more fully justify the need for expansion, and invited residents back to the table when it was completed.

Mayor Ed Kelley recognized Zagara's as an important community asset whose success has resulted in a "good problem." Admitting that not everyone will be happy at the end of the day, the mayor vowed the city would work with Zagara and his neighbors to promote a safe environment for everyone. "John has given me that guarantee," he said.

Sarah Wean is a Cleveland Heights resident.

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HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Cleveland Heights resident Ralph Solonitz (artist/writer) was born in 1947 in Munich, Germany.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Education of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District (the "District") is seeking Letters of Interest from entities interested in the lease and adaptive re-use of the former Coventry Elementary School Property (the "Property"). Entities interested in leasing and redeveloping the Property may obtain from the District at the address set forth below its Request for Letters of Interest detailing the procedures for submitting a Letter of Interest. Letters of Interest should be submitted to the District at that same address not later than 12:00 noon Eastern Standard Time on October 15, 2008. Letters of Interest received after this date and time will not be accepted.

The District does not currently intend to consider proposals for the sale of the Property, it being understood that the District is required by law to follow certain procedures for the sale of District property. Entities submitting a Letter of Interest, however, are requested to indicate their interest in and willingness to purchase the Property at a later date.

The Property's location adjacent to the Coventry commercial district and within a few miles of University Circle makes it highly attractive for a wide variety of innovative uses.

Requests for Letters of Interest may be obtained from, and Letters of Interest should be delivered to:

Stephen A. Shergalis,
Director of Business Services
Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District
2155 Miramar Boulevard
University Heights, OH 44118
Phone: 216-371-7171 x 2004
Fax: 216-397-3685

The District will select the entity proposing a re-use of the Property the District deems to be in the District's best interest and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Requests for Letters of Interest.



collaboration, and is a big part of what has been the missing link in WJCU- FM programming," says Krieger. WJCU's mission has always included a need to serve community interests and taste, but local news programming devoted to that part of the mission has not always been available until recently.

Currently, *Heights Observer* stories can be read online (www.heightsobserver.org) or by picking up a free print version of the newspaper at a local retailer. This new collaboration, which provides a third avenue to access news, "is synergistic and adds another element that allows for all three pieces (print, radio, and internet) to feed off of each other," says Fisher. "It is evident that this will be an extension of the paper. In recent times, people have accessed the media in so many different ways and each one reinforces the other."

Fisher expressed enthusiasm on the collaboration with John Carroll University, which is located in University Heights, one of the two communities the paper serves. "This partnership gives us an opportunity to reach out in a way we wouldn't have been able to otherwise," says Fisher. Mark Majewski, board president of FutureHeights, notes that the paper is only in its fifth issue and already there's a connection to help it expand. "This is surprising for a very young newspaper," Majewski adds. "There's a symbiosis between the paper and the podcast and it's reaching out in a new way to the communities we serve - Cleveland Heights and University Heights."

Fisher explained that this partnership is in line with the efforts of the *Heights Observer* to increase coverage to further its goals of creating and building community while encouraging civic engagement.

"I just see this as a beginning and hope we can build on this partnership, because we have all the tools in place," says Krieger. According to Fisher, "we continue to be encouraged by the responsiveness of the community and we see so much potential with this relationship and the 90-second podcast."

Yemi Akande, a resident of Cleveland Heights, is currently senior director of civic education at Cleveland Leadership Center and was previously assistant professor of communication and theatre arts at John Carroll University.

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How are we doing?

The *Heights Observer* is a new community-supported citizen media project of FutureHeights. We hope to stimulate discussion, inform people about issues that are meaningful in the Heights, support the local economy, and reflect the unique flavor of our communities.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Send to:
Heights Observer Editor
2163 Lee Road, Suite 103
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
or info@heightsobserver.org

An American's reaction to a round of UK pubs

Allan Kuntz

Our recent trip to England, Scotland, and Wales, plus last month's piece by Matthew Williams is perfect timing for this story.

My craving for craft beers started while stationed in Germany in the late sixties. In Germany, one drinks one's beer at guest houses. In that era, in addition to the local pilsner, the main choices were Lowenbrau or Becks. Back to the states and it was a 20 year taste drought until Great Lakes Brewery came along in 1988.

It was with great anticipation that we experienced our first pub, Deacon Brodies, in Edinburgh, Scotland. Many thoughts went through our minds, including the change in currency, misapprehensions about the local dialect, the protocol, and of course, what beer to choose. Because this tavern was close to Edinburgh Castle, it was full of tourists and the locals took our "rookie" status in stride. Plus it was more like a restaurant. The actual pub area was downstairs. We sat upstairs with servers to take and bring our order.

Our next pub experience truly educated us on the local customs. Americans are used to being seated and waited upon. Not here. You find your own table, go to the bar, order your beer or food and take the beer back to your table. If food is ordered, you receive a number to place on your table in order for the server to find you. The cycle is repeated if you want more beer or food. You pay as you go or run a tab with the

barkeep holding your credit card.

Our most memorable pub experience occurred in Bath, England. We discovered the Coeur De Lion, known as the smallest pub in Bath. It was unique, with the lower half of the front window in stained glass, bench seat in front of the window, three very small round tables and a fourth square table at the side of the bar. Three people could sit at the bar and a fourth could place an order. An outside patio had two tables. A circular stairway led down to the men's restroom and up to the kitchen and ladies restroom. No numbers were needed here. There was one barkeep and the cook/server. You ordered, sat down with your beer and waited.

We wandered in near 2 p.m. and were lucky to get a table. We were tired of hotel restaurant food from the tour and had our first taste of well done, English burgers. During our wait we had the chance to talk to a local, George Tyler, who was Barbados born and retired Royal Air Force. He settled on this pub because he did not care for the "blokes," including the owner, at his neighborhood pub. We asked why everyone called each other by last name. His answer: "too many Andys, Bills or Toms." It was a tap on the shoulder, or nod and the last name, as one was leaving. In parting, I told him we had something in common: My middle name was George. So I bade George a jolly good day.

Because we were on a set tour schedule our pub visits were limited



Inside the Coeur De Lion, the smallest pub in Bath, England.

to lunches or early evening. We were unable to experience true night life at a pub among the locals. Other observations included, no flat screen TVs, lots of beer choices with some taps indicating chilled brew (probably for American tourists), discovering the term "shared choices" (one order enough for two), and barkeeps always helpful in describing the best local brand. At one pub, I made a point of asking what was most popular among available beers. I was taken aback by the barkeep's response, "Becks, Fosters and Stella Artois," as none were local.

We never picked a bad-tasting local bitter. And, for all you scotch lovers, you'll love this part of the world, too; but that is a story for another day.

Allan Kuntz is a resident of Cleveland Heights.

Seeking University Heights stories

The Heights Observer is seeking writers from University Heights to send in stories, events, and photos.

Spread the news, connect to your neighbors, and strengthen your community.

Easy online article submission at www.heightsobserver.org "Member Center" or call the Heights Observer office for info: 320.1423.

Local independent merchants are an endangered species, even in the Heights

Christine McBurney

It's getting harder and harder to think globally and shop locally. Armed with my laptop and debit card, I made a stop at my locally-owned and operated pharmacy this morning only to find that a CVS in a neighboring city had swallowed it up. I say "my" pharmacy because I always had a chat with whoever was working behind the counter, I never had to wait long for a prescription, and I usually ran into someone I knew. All that was no more.

My intent this summer Saturday morning was to work on another story, but sadness about the loss of my local pharmacy overtook me and compelled an investigation.

Some of the best things about living in the Heights are the walkability of the city and supporting its independent merchants. Economic realities and Medicare legislation contributed to the demise of my pharmacy. I'm not a politician and I don't pretend to understand how the economy works. But I am a concerned citizen who loves Cleveland Heights and tries to spend most of her money on goods and services within its borders.

Today, I had no recourse but to give my money to CVS. Does anyone really know what CVS stands for anyway? I'm sure I can cultivate a relationship with the folks who work there. Experience has taught me that even the most indifferent clerk is human, and I like to talk to strangers, so there is some hope.

Although it will take some time to get used to the hyper bright fluorescents and the annoyingly chipper pop music wafting through the overly air conditioned aisles, I can make the adjustment. I already have.

I don't have anything against CVS (except perhaps its aesthetics and room temperature) but I prefer to support local merchants instead of large corporations. And I'm concerned. There is no other independent pharmacy in Cleveland Heights that accepts insurance. Now to fill prescriptions, I will have to drive instead of walk or bike. And a domino effect happens so easily. Instead of working at my locally owed and operated coffee shop, it was easier to go to the one next to CVS. These are real dollars leaving Cleveland Heights. And not by choice.

As engaged citizens and elected

officials, we need to ask ourselves what we can do to help ensure that local, independent merchants stay local and independent. This isn't about being smug and self-righteously politically correct. This is about the future of Cleveland Heights and all unique communities that have not yet succumbed to the cookie cutter suburb.

Christine McBurney is Theatre Arts Department Chair at Shaker Heights High School, performer, freelance writer, and proud Heights High soccer mom.

**Editor's note: According to Wikipedia: The initials CVS once stood for "Consumer Value Stores," but CEO Tom Ryan has said he now considers it to stand for "Customer, Value, and Service."*

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Summer Santa sends smiles

Nivi Engineer

The Cleveland-based Summer Santa project concluded on July 15. The toys were sorted and packaged on July 16, and the truck filled with all the toys the people of Cleveland contributed, along with over 100 Classy Cruisers, tricycles, and wagons donated by Step 2, pulled out of Beachwood Place on Thursday, July 17.

The show of support from Clevelanders was tremendous. One woman donated three boxes full of Matchbox cars in their original packaging that her brother had collected for years. After her brother died, she wasn't sure what to do with the cars, but when she heard about the toy drive, she decided to share them with the kids in Iowa.

Two children that live near Sue Maher pooled together their allowance money that they had been saving to buy a Game Boy, and gave it to Sue to buy toys for the kids instead.

Companies also came together to help the cause. Dotti Franks, vice president of marketing communications at the Step2 Company, arrived at Beachwood Place on July 17, to meet the organizers and see off the truck.

In addition to contributing the truck, driver, and fuel expenses for transporting the collected toys, Step2 shipped \$14,000 worth of Infantino products from their San Diego location.

Progressive Urban Real Estate set up drop boxes at their Cleveland Heights, Ohio City, and Lakewood locations, and featured a link to the drive's website on their website.

Individuals at American Greetings donated a large number of toys by the July 15 deadline, and then overnighted an additional two boxes of toys, including dolls and lunchboxes, directly to Iowa so they would be available for distribution.

Organizer Sue Maher and her son followed the truck out of Cleveland, and



Organizers Nivi Engineer and Sue Maher in front of the truck packed with toys to deliver to flood victims in Iowa.

then met it as it arrived in Cedar Rapids on July 18.

Volunteers from Mercy Medical Center in Iowa City helped unload the truck on Friday, and the doors opened Monday morning to kids and their parents to come and pick out their gifts.

Pam Ohsmann, an Iowa native from Mesa, Arizona, arrived in Iowa City after having raised over \$11,000 in one day in her café. People had lined up out the door to donate money. She arrived and teamed up with Sue, buying more toys, and helping others as needed. Another individual, who claimed that "giving anonymously is the only way to give," dropped off three large bags full of toys that he had just purchased at Kohl's. Whenever the toy supply would run low (especially for older children), Pam would head out and purchase more.

At "Santa's workshop," children who had received toys Monday returned on Tuesday with letters for Santa. One little girl saw a Hannah Montana Barbie doll, grabbed it, then ran back to Santa and hugged him. "Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you!" she cried. One woman started crying as she looked into the two rooms full of toys, and had to be held for several minutes.

Summer Santa was a huge success.

Nivi Engineer is a writer, computer programmer and Cleveland Heights mom.

FutureHeights teams up with COSE to promote local shopping

Mark Majewski

FutureHeights has formed a new partnership with the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE) to encourage consumers and business owners to support locally owned businesses and keep dollars within our community. FutureHeights has promoted local business through its Heights Shops program since 2003. COSE's new I Buy Northeast Ohio (NEO) program will complement FutureHeights' existing gift certificate and advocacy efforts.

"One-of-a-kind independent businesses are what give the Heights its unique character," says Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights. "Research shows that for every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, \$45 goes back into the community, strengthening the tax base. For every \$100 spent at a chain store, only \$14 comes back. And, nonprofits receive

an average of 350% more support from local business owners than they do from non-locally owned businesses."

The I Buy NEO program consists of a website with business listings and a community loyalty card that rewards customers for shopping locally. While the I Buy NEO program is available throughout Northeast Ohio, FutureHeights is working with COSE to produce a uniquely branded Heights Shops card. Each time a cardholder makes a purchase from a participating business, the cardholder and a nonprofit or school of the cardholder's choice receives a cash back rebate.

FutureHeights will launch the program in September 2008. For more information, call 320-1423.

Mark Majewski is a 20-year resident of Cleveland Heights and a community planning consultant.

Vote for your favorite business and you might be a winner, too

Deanna Bremer Fisher

On Sunday, September 28 FutureHeights will announce the winners of the 4th Annual Best of Cleveland Heights Awards, a public opinion survey designed to highlight the most popular businesses in the Heights. Citizens who return a completed ballot to the FutureHeights office by September 2 will be eligible to win a \$100 FutureHeights gift certificate.

The Best of Cleveland Heights celebrates the rich and diverse range of businesses located in the Heights, many of which are locally owned and operated. New this year is an opportunity to vote for your favorite University Heights business.

The event, which is free and open to the public, takes place from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at Nighttown, 12387 Cedar Road in Cleveland Heights. The ceremony begins at 5:00 p.m. and is followed by a reception with a cash bar.

Awards will be given to winners and runners-up in 21 categories. The \$100 gift certificate drawing will be held at the awards ceremony. Citizens are encouraged to vote for their favorite businesses by completing the ballot on the back page of the *Heights Observer* or by voting online at www.futureheights.org.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights.

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CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS AUGUST 2008 MEETINGS

Meetings are held at City Hall, 40 Severance Circle, unless otherwise noted.

Mon	4	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole	Executive Conference Room
Mon	4	7:30 pm	City Council Meeting	Council Chambers
Tue	5	4:00 pm	Architectural Board of Review	Council Chambers
Tue	5	7:30 pm	Cable Television Commission	Council Chambers
Mon	11	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole	Executive Conference Room
Tue	12	5:30 pm	Landmark Commission	Superior Schoolhouse ¹
Tue	12	7:00 pm	Citizens Advisory Committee	
			Public Hearing	Council Chambers
Wed	13	7:00 pm	Planning Commission	Council Chambers
Mon	18	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole	Executive Conference Room
Mon	18	7:30 pm	City Council Meeting	Council Chambers
Tue	19	4:00 pm	Architectural Board of Review	Council Chambers
Tue	19	7:00 pm	Citizens Advisory Committee	
			Public Hearing	Council Chambers
Wed	20	7:30 pm	Board of Zoning Appeals	Council Chambers
Mon	25	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole	Executive Conference Room

¹ The Superior Schoolhouse is located at Superior Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard.

For information on any of the above meetings, please call 291-4444.

Heights Arts pulls away from Coventry

Sarah Wean

On July 22, Cleveland Heights arts organization Heights Arts stepped away from its idea of using the former Coventry Elementary School as a multi-tenant arts and nonprofit facility.

The Heights Arts board of directors cited the need for a slower process to build the community's interest in, and support of, a dedicated arts facility.

Director Peggy Spaeth said the intense growth needed to lead a multi-tenant project would be a challenge for the organization, considering the short timeline and criteria required to submit a letter of interest to the CH-UH Board of Education. "I am hoping we can keep the idea of a community arts center alive," she said. "Our vision has

always been to have a community arts center. Unfortunately, we just don't fit the criteria."

Heights Arts hopes to conduct a community survey and review process to get a stronger picture of what the community desires in an arts facility.

The CH-UH Board of Education, which retains ownership of the empty building in the Coventry Village neighborhood, recently published a request for letters of interest in the property.

The district seeks a qualified tenant for lease and adaptive re-use of the 61,000 square foot open floor plan building. Letters of interest are due by October 15 and can be found online at www.chuh.org/boe/coventry_committee.

Sarah Wean is a Coventry Village resident.

Cleveland Heights City Council:

Highlights of June 2008 meetings



Monday, June 2, 2008 meeting (Mark Tumeo excused)

Special improvement district plans

Council approved petitions for adopting five-year renewals of public services plans for the Cedar-Fairmount and Cedar-Lee Special Improvement Districts. The budget for Cedar-Fairmount will be \$50,000 and for Cedar-Lee, \$125,000 per year; both with three percent increases each subsequent year.

Community Development Block Grants

Council approved the distribution of Community Development Block Grant funds to:

- Cleveland Tenants Organization for telephone information services, \$7,000
- Heights Community Congress for programs promoting integration and fair housing, \$27,820
- Heights Emergency Food Center for operating expenses, not for acquisition of food, \$4,930
- Noble-Nela Merchants Association for administrative costs and activities, \$8,500
- Open Doors, Inc., for after-school programming for middle school-aged youth, \$30,000.

University Heights road salt storage

Council approved an agreement with

University Heights for the transfer, storage, and loading of rock salt at the Cleveland Heights salt storage facility at 1418 Warrensville Center Road.

Cain Park improvements

Council approved a change order, \$2,391.97 for handrails, to the contract with Apex Construction and Management for Cain Park improvements. The final cost of entrance improvements will be \$282,445.72 to come from Issue 27 money, not the General Fund.

LWV Observers: Blanche Valancy and Katherine Solender

Monday, June 16, 2008 meeting (All Council Members present)

Council Endorses gay rights bills

Council passed a resolution declaring June, 2008 LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Pride Month. Council voted to endorse two bills currently in the 127th Ohio General Assembly, House Bill 502 and Senate Bill 305, that would amend the Ohio Revised Code to eliminate discrimination in employment and housing. Councilmember Mark Tumeo urged the endorsement and passage of the amendment and recommended sending council's resolution of support to newspapers, the bills' sponsors, the Speaker of the House,

the President of the Senate, and to our delegation in the State Assembly.

Council Approves CDBG Funds

Council approved the distribution of Community Development Block Grant funds to:

- Center for Families and Children for FAME (Fun After-school Methods of Enhancement), \$6,000, and Pinpoint programs, \$27,000
- Heights Arts Collaborative, Inc. for Heights Arts at the Library program, \$20,000
- Heights Parent Center for support to families and youth, \$40,000
- Heights Youth Club, Inc. for Project Learn and The Educational Enhancement Program, \$30,000 (Note: Compliance with construction issues causing this disbursement to be placed in a contingency fund have been resolved.)
- Home Repair Resource Center for home-repair and home-improvement programs, counseling and loan assistance programs, \$344,619. Councilmember Ken Montlack explained that the exceptional support for HRRC stems from their providing essential services as well or better than city staff is able to provide.
- Jewish Community Center of Cleveland for the Nutrition and Afternoon Out Program, \$25,000
- Council also approved funds for resurfacing streets (\$14,094) and city lot #5

(\$45,000). These projects must meet the CDBG criteria for service to low and medium income residents.

Regulatory reforms

Council passed a resolution urging the National Credit Union Administration, the Federal Reserve Board, and the Office of Thrift Supervision to adopt reforms for the Federal Trade Commission Act, Truth in Savings Act, and Truth in Lending Act to protect consumers from unfair and abusive practices by the credit card industry.

Recycling

Councilmember Bonnie Caplan informed residents that black plastic plant trays and pots are now recyclable. Also, Habitat for Humanity's Restore Program accepts remodeling refuse such as cupboards, sinks, toilets, etc. Their number is 216-429-1299.

Solar panels for parking garage

Council approved an agreement with Cleveland Cement Contractors, Inc. to install solar power panels on the Cedar-Lee Parking Garage for \$148,516, \$38,000 of which came from a State of Ohio grant. The panels will be added to the garage within the next few weeks.

LWV Observer: Carol Gibson

*See LWV disclaimer on page 6.

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University Heights City Council:

Highlights of June 2008 meetings



June 2 Meeting

(Frank Consolo excused)

Privacy concerns for public statements

A University Heights resident, introducing herself as 'Jane Doe', cited privacy concerns with including citizens' names and addresses in council minutes published on the internet. She had protected her privacy with an unlisted phone number and a P.O. Box. After testifying at University Heights City Council meetings where audience members are asked to begin their statements with their name and address, she received a package from someone who found her address through the internet minutes. Councilmembers were visibly sympathetic, but Councilwoman Frankie Goldberg pointed out that "We're a public entity...a public forum."

Water main replacements

Council authorized solicitation of bids for water main replacements on Silsby, Bushnell, and Charney roads. The Cleveland Water Department will reimburse University Heights for the estimated \$1.14 million project cost and up to an additional ten percent in overruns.

Salt storage agreement with CH

Council approved a salt storage agreement with the city of Cleveland Heights.

Reverse 911

Council approved a software licensing agreement with CityWatch. The soft-

ware would provide reverse 911 to enable the city to communicate with residents in an emergency.

University Square garage

Councilwoman Frankie Goldberg expressed disappointment that Inland, the company responsible for the University Square parking garage, had declined to attend tonight's meeting to report on progress of garage repairs. Law Director Ken Fisher commented that Inland was waiting for an increase in the bond market before reissuing bonds for renovations, which are scheduled to begin in 2009. Finance Director Arman Ochoa and City Engineer Joseph Ciuni pointed out that garage beam repairs, which are separate from overall garage renovation, should be done by the beginning of July.

LWV Observer: Susan D. Pardee

June 16 Meeting

(Kevin Patrick Murphy excused)

Bellefaire to demolish building

Council approved a demolition permit for Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau to raze Building "I" on its campus. The two-story building, built in 1928 and used originally as a dormitory for the orphanage, has been vacant for ten years.

Diving boards and insurance

Mike Bentley of Brookson Stafford Company presented a bid for a Public

Officials, Law Enforcement Liability, Umbrella Excess, and Package Policy from Traveler's Insurance. No other company was willing to provide coverage because the swimming pool has diving boards. All except Vice-Mayor Adele Zucker voted to table the ordinance, pending more information on costs if the diving boards were removed. Last year's policy will be continued on a pro-rated monthly basis.

Cyber insurance

Councilmember Frankie Goldberg strongly urged consideration of adding cyber coverage (for liabilities related to the city's website), an optional addition for \$703 per year.

Assessment increases

Council approved assessment increases for:

- Street lights, from 60 to 70 cents per front foot.
- Tree maintenance, from 40 to 80 cents per front foot. (Shaker Heights assesses one dollar per front foot.) The city is preparing to address the threat of the emerald ash borer. The Tree Fund has been operating at a deficit for several years.
- Sewer maintenance (supplementary), from \$58 to \$78 per year. The city will use these funds to videotape and clean 20% of the sewer lines each year. Fees were last raised in 1998.

Water line replacement

Council awarded a contract to Noce Enterprises, Inc. to replace the water

line under University Parkway. The cost of \$418,000 will be reimbursed by the city of Cleveland Water Department. The project will take four months to complete and will require digging only a five-foot wide trench, not the entire street. The city will notify residents.

Wynn Road house to be demolished

Council authorized purchase of a foreclosed property at 2099 Wynn Road for \$45,000. The property is adjacent to the former Ohr Chodesh property where the city had planned to build a salt storage facility. The house had been in a fire. Demolition will cost \$7,000.

Sewer repairs

Council voted to authorize solicitation of bids for various sewer repairs. Several locations at Traymore, Eaton, and University Boulevard have chronic sewer problems.

LWV Observer: Wendy Deuring

Disclaimer: These summaries of the LWV Cuyaboga Area-Heights Chapter report of public meetings contain member observations and selected highlights edited by Maryann Barnes; they are not official statements by the League of Women Voters. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of this report.

To subscribe to listserv postings of the full reports send an email to lwv_chubreports-request@chub.net and place "subscribe" in the subject field. Each posting contains instructions to unsubscribe.



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CH-UH Public Library Board: Highlights of June 16, 2008 meeting



(All Board members present)
Rationale for collabortions
 The board discussed the rationale for collaborations that guided it during the planning of the Lee Road library renovation. The contract with Dobama was part of that process. Since Esther Moss was the only member still on the board when the rationale was developed, the board felt this was a good time to revisit the issue. The operations committee will discuss it prior to the July meeting and make recommendations at that meeting.

Maureen Weisblatt retiring
 Library Director Stephen Wood announced that Maureen Weisblatt, University Heights branch librarian, will retire September 30 after thirty years of service. Wood expressed sadness about her retirement saying that he and she have worked together a long time.

Joint school-library activities
 Associate Director Catherine Hakala Ausperk is compiling a list of joint activities with the schools. Board member Kevin Ortner spoke about a successful program in West Virginia that uses reading dogs. Children read aloud to the dogs without fear of correction.

New director search
 The board has received a number of applicant resumes for director through the consulting contract with the Ohio Library Council. Several applicants have been chosen for phone interviews. Face-to-face interviews will follow. [Director Wood is retiring at the end of August]

Dobama Theater
 After a long period of inaction, Dobama is moving forward on its proposed move into the space that the library has held for it. Director Wood will revise the library's contract with Dobama.

Librarian appointed to HPC board
 Children's librarian Amy Switzer has been appointed to the Heights Parent Center board of trustees.

American Arts display
 The library has been chosen by the American Library Association as one of the locations to display laminated pictures of American arts.

Friends of the Library disbanded
 Director Wood explained that he has dissolved the Friends of the Library board because there were only four members on a twelve-member board, never enough for a quorum. He plans to reconstitute the group.

LWV observer, Anne S. McFarland
 See disclaimer on page 6.

Retiring library director reception set for August 17

Judithe Soppel

"Slow down, you move too fast. Gotta make the moment last..." those lyrics certainly never pertained to Steve Wood during his tenure as director of the CH-UH Public Library. But, starting August 31, 2008, when his retirement becomes official, they will.

The public is invited to an appreciation reception honoring him on his retirement. The event will take place on Sunday, August 17, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. A brief program is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

For the last 20 years as director, and for 11 years before that, he never slowed down in driving the library into the 21st Century. Through his vision and leadership, he implemented the library's successful online hook up to the Cleveland Public Library's automated system. Heights Library was the first outside library to do so.

He was the driving force behind the renovation and expansion of the Lee Road building. Because of his leadership, Hennen's American Public Library Rating index placed Heights 5th in the nation for libraries of its size. He was always concerned with spending the public's money wisely to benefit its customers.

Those who wish may contribute to the Friends of the CH-UH Public Library's Rachel Nelson Permanent Art Fund in Wood's honor.



Join Steve Wood for a retirement reception on August 17.

For more information, call Judithe Soppel, at 932-3600, ext. #277.

Judithe Soppel is public relations coordinator for the CH-UH Public Library.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Unviersity Heights City Council will hold a Special Meeting on **TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2008 at 7:00 PM** in the Donahue Auditorium, Dolan Science Center, John Carroll University, 20700 N. Park Blvd., University Heights, Ohio to consider the following agenda item:

- A. Appeal to Council by Waterway Gas & Wash Company of the Board of Zoning Appeals' decision of June 17, 2008 regarding its request for a Special Permit for the use of a full service car wash, gasoline and convenience store facility at the property located at 2216 Warrensville Center Road.

Nancy E. English, MMC
 Clerk of Council
 City of University Heights

Posted and Mailed: July 10, 2008

Featured Heights Libraries Programs

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road 321.3400
 NIA Coffeehouse Open Mic
 Tuesdays, August 5 & 19, 6 p.m.
 Black Deaf Advocates
 Saturday, August 9, 1 p.m.
 Story Stop
 Fridays, August 15 - 29, 10 a.m.
 Deaf Gatherings
 Monday, August 25, 6 p.m.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road 932.3600
 Explorastory
 Thursdays, August 7 - 28, 10 a.m.
 Mother/Daughter Book Discussion
 Thursday, August 21, 7 p.m.
 Breaking Dawn Teen Book Discussion
 Friday, August 15, 3 p.m.
 Rock the Block
 Tuesday, August 12, 6 p.m.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road 291.5665
 Baby and Toddler Stay & Play
 Fridays, August 1-29, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 Knitting Circle
 Thursdays, August 7 & 21, 7 p.m.
 Mystery Evening
 Thursday, August 14, 7 p.m.
 Summer Story Stop
 Fridays, August 1-29, 11:15 a.m.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road 321.4700
 Senior Spot
 Wednesdays, August 6-27, 12:30 p.m.
 Monday at the Movies
 Mondays, August 4-25, 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.
 Story Stop
 Wednesdays, August 6-27, 10:30 a.m.

For more information visit
www.heightslibrary.org or call 932.3600.

Biography leads to discovery of Cleveland PGA Hall of Famer

Judithe Soppel

Last spring, Joan Freeze, a fiction and biography reader, walked by a book display featuring spring and sports materials on the second floor of the Lee Road Library. Among the books was the autobiography *Just Let Me Play: The Story of Charlie Sifford, the First Black PGA Golfer*.

Though not an avid golfer, Freeze said what first caught her attention was the cover photo of a black man with a big, friendly smile and a cigar clenched between his teeth. Freeze later discovered cigars were an ever-present part of Sifford's persona.

"I grew up in Washington, D.C. and was involved in the civil rights movement at the time, so the cover caught my attention," Freeze stated.

She snagged the book, found a comfy chair, and began to read. "I became glued to it," she said, and explained that when she finally went home she continued to read, finishing the book in only one day. The book was about Sifford's life in the golf world, which he entered as a caddy in North Carolina. "I found it funny, and poignant," Freeze said. "Even as he discussed the racism he experienced in the game, his sense of humor showed through."

Totally intrigued after finishing the book, Freeze became determined to try to locate Sifford. She knew he had a Cleveland connection and eventually

did locate him. Following several phone conversations, they met and became friends. Sifford still plays golf, although he reluctantly gave up the cigars for health reasons.

During their conversations, they discussed Sifford's induction into the PGA Hall of Fame Museum in St. Augustine, FL. Sifford, now 85 years old, told Freeze he spends the "nice weather" in Cleveland and tries to escape to Florida in the harsh winter. He offered to give her a personally guided tour any time she would like.

In February, Freeze traveled to Florida, where Sifford made good on his offer. While they were touring the PGA Hall of Fame together, other visitors approached Sifford to talk about his career. Freeze backed away to let him enjoy the conversations. At one point, someone pointed to Freeze and asked who she was. "In typical Charlie humor, he said 'Oh, she's my swing coach,'" Freeze said.

Sifford has paved the way for other African-American golfers to follow in his footsteps. As Arthur Ashe stated in the foreword of Sifford's autobiography, "Because of Roscoe and Eliza Sifford's son, Eldrick "Tiger" Woods should never have to suffer these indignities." Incidentally, Freeze pointed out Sifford is godfather to Tiger Woods.

Judithe Soppel is public relations coordinator for the CH-UH Public Library.

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What are they doing now?

Lita Gonzalez

It has been a pleasure to update you on what Heights graduates are up to. Please keep those updates coming! I would love to hear from more families about what their grads are doing now. Email me at lita@valancy.com.

Here's just a sampling of what some of our graduates have been up to:

Class of 1988

KENNA QUEREAU was a journalism major at the University of Wisconsin. After graduation, she worked for a variety of advertising agencies in Cleveland and Baltimore. Since 2005 she has been with T. Rowe Price, an investment management firm, as a part of their in-house marketing department. This May, Kenna was promoted to director of marketing for the Europe, Middle East and Africa operations and will be based out of their London office beginning in July.

Class of 2004

DAVID CARLSON graduated from Oberlin College with a double major in mathematics (Honors) and East Asian studies, and minors in economics and history. David's East Asian studies work focused on Chinese language. He spent two summers studying Chinese in Beijing and is preparing to start law school at Cornell University this fall. **GRAHAM ECKERT** graduated magna cum laude this June from Harvard University with a major in social studies. Graham was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. In September he will join the consulting firm Oliver Wyman's Dubai office. **KATHERINE M. VINCENTY** graduated with honors from Kent State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in visual communication design

and a minor in art history. Katherine's senior thesis focused on ethnography and multiculturalism pertaining to graphic design in China and the United States. She is lead designer at a small firm and also freelances. **JOSHUA WILDEY** graduated from Purdue University this year with a degree in electrical engineering. He is working for MC Dean Corporation, an engineering construction company, in Reston, Virginia.

Class of 2005

ANDY NASH will be a senior at Wittenberg University majoring in math and theater. He is an Eagle Scout and a brother of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. This summer, Andy stayed in Springfield to take several classes through neighboring Clark State College and to continue work in local theaters. He hopes to attend graduate school where he would like to continue to study math.

Class of 2007

RACHEL PETREY will be a sophomore at Tulane University. She is enrolled in a summer program that involves working as a middle school math teaching assistant through an internship with New Orleans Outreach. She is also taking an interdisciplinary course at Tulane on "the geography, culture and history of New Orleans and issues affecting urban community development." **ALLISON SOLARU** will be a sophomore at Ohio State University and is majoring in chemistry and minoring in music (cello). This summer she is going on a mission trip to Honduras.

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

MY PARTY & EVENT CHECKLIST

- ✓ RESERVE A VENUE
BALLROOM ON PARK LANE OR HEIGHTS ROCKEFELLER EVENT CENTER
- ✓ BOOK A BAND
(POLKA? REGGAE?...SPEED METAL?)
- ✓ CREATE GUEST LIST

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Heights High graduates are college ready and life prepared

Michael Dougherty

It was a memorable evening for the Heights High Class of 2008 at their graduation. Commencement exercises were held at the State Theatre of Playhouse Square Center. Senior speeches were delivered by Jeanniece L.L. Jackson and Cierra Janell Burgess. The posting of the colors and the pledge

of allegiance were conducted by Dontave Darnell Cowsette, Jr. and Manpreet Kaur Dillon. Chana'e Ashley Curtis sang the national anthem. Victoria Lee Cacho Williams, student council president, delivered a welcome message. Reginald Alan Golden, president of the class of 2008, presented the class mantle to Shequea Howard, president of the class of 2009. The evening also in-

cluded choral performances of "For Good" (from the Broadway musical Wicked) and "Letting Go."

Congratulations to the class of 2008! Cleveland Heights High School seniors were offered scholarships totaling over \$9 million. They have accepted scholarships to attend 4 year universities in the amount of \$4.1 million. In addition, seniors received over

\$114,000 in scholarships from local community organizations in Northeast Ohio.

The graduating seniors of Cleveland Heights High School were accepted to the following colleges and universities listed below:

Michael Dougherty is the Coordinator of Communications for the CH-UH City School District

Alabama State University Allegheny College American University Art Institute of Pittsburgh Ashland University Baldwin-Wallace College Ball State University Baran Institute Bennington College Bethume-Cookman College Bluffton College Boston University Bowling Green State University Brown University Bryant & Stratton Business Institute California College of Arts & Crafts California Institute of Technology Capital University Carleton College Carnegie Mellon University Case Western Reserve University Chaffey College Clark Atlanta University Cleveland Institute of Art Cleveland State University Coastal Carolina University College of Wooster Columbia University Cornell University Cuyahoga Community College Dartmouth College Defiance College Denison University DePaul University Devry Institute of Technology Earlham College Eastern Michigan University Edinboro University of Pennsylvania Elizabeth City State University Fairmont State College Fordham University	George Washington University Georgetown University Hampton University Harvard University Heidelberg College Hiram College Hocking Technical College Hofstra University Howard University Indiana Institute of Technology Indiana University at Bloomington Indiana University of Pennsylvania Ithaca College John Carroll University Kalamazoo College Kent State University Kentucky State University Kenyon College Lewis & Clark College Liberty University Lincoln University Loyola University Chicago Lynchburg College Macalester College Marietta College Marquette University Maryland Institute, College of Art Marymount Manhattan College McGill University Menlo College Mercyhurst College Miami University Michigan State University Miles College Morehouse College Morgan State University Morris Brown College Muskingum College New York University North Carolina State University Northeastern University	Northwestern University Northwood University Notre Dame College of Ohio Oberlin College Ohio Northern University Ohio State University Ohio Technical College Ohio University Ohio Wesleyan University Parsons School of Design Portland State University Prairie View A&M University Pratt Institute Princeton University Purdue University Rhode Island School of Design Rhodes College Robert Morris College School of the Art Institute of Chicago Seton Hall University Seton Hill University Shawnee State University Simmons College Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania Spelman College Stanford University State University of New York Swarthmore College Syracuse University Tennessee State University Texas Southern University Tiffin University Towson State University Trinity International University Union College University of Akron University of Albany University of Charleston University of Chicago University of Cincinnati University of the Cumberland	University of Dayton University of Evansville University of Louisville University of Massachusetts University of Michigan University of Northwestern Ohio University of Pennsylvania University of Pittsburgh University of Rio Grande University of Rochester University of Scranton University of Toledo Urbana University Ursuline College Valdosta State University Vassar College Virginia State University Virginia Union University Wake Forest University Walsh University Washington University Wesleyan University West Virginia University West Virginia Wesleyan College Wilberforce University Wittenberg University Worcester Polytechnic Institute Wright State University Xavier University Yale University Youngstown State University
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REAL School Principal Marc Aden presents senior Daley Baker his diploma.

CH-UH Board of Education:

Highlights of June 2008 meetings



June 3, Regular Meeting (all board members present)

Calendars for upcoming school years

The board approved 2009-10 and 2010-11 school year calendars in which spring break was moved to the week of the last Monday in March to avoid a conflict with State testing.

Grants approved

The board approved grants from the Cuyahoga County Department of Health and Human Services for \$408,392 and from the Ohio Department of Education for \$299,664.95.

Public school employee contracts

Superintendent Deborah Delisle reported that two of the three OAPSE (Ohio Association of Public School Employees) units have agreed to contracts. She praised the manner in which they handled negotiations.

Heights High football game at JCU

Board President Michael Cicero will try again to get University Heights City Council's approval for the Heights High football game with Mentor to be played at John Carroll University stadium.

LWV Observer: Adele Cohn

June 17, Work Session (all board members present)

Union contracts

The board approved contract agreements with the Educational Administrative Professional Staff Council (EAPSC) and the Ohio Association of Public School Employees (OAPSE) effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011. The board and the superintendent thanked the representative from the two bargaining units for their cooperation during hard financial times.

Taylor building

Stephen Shergalis, director of business services, and Joseph Micheller, director of educational services, reported on Taylor building usage for 2008. The building is 83% occupied with the following occupants:

- Information Technology
- Heights Parent Center
- Cosmetology
- Custodial Storage

- Diversified Heath Occupations
 - Warehouse & Receiving
 - Historical Archive
 - Professional Development Center
 - Credit Union
 - Tri-Heights Career Education Program
 - Literacy Department
 - Math
 - Adult Basic Education Programs
 - Instructional Materials Storage
- Superintendent Delisle would like to have all the career tech programs at the high school to reduce travel time. The cosmetology program would be costly to move. Information technology (the fiber optic network for the school and cities) would cost \$400,000 to move. The administration will prepare and present to the board a three-year plan for Taylor.

Coventry building

William Wendling, facilitator for the Coventry study committee, presented the committee's report. The committee recommended that the board initiate a public process for soliciting proposals for use of Coventry building. The

process would require a prospective user to submit to the board a letter of interest articulating the user's ability to conduct a solid and viable business and provide for the sustained operations of the building. The committee suggested that the board establish a firm deadline for letters of interest submissions.

The district's lay finance committee would analyze all proposals for potential impact on the district's five-year financial forecast. After such analysis the board would decide which, if any, proposal to pursue.

The committee urged the board to arrive at an agreement in principle between the board and a tenant by the end of 2008. The committee considered razing the building to be a last resort.

The board adopted the committee's report in principle expecting to finalize what will happen to Coventry by the end of the year.

LWV observer, Adele Cohn

See disclaimer on page 6.



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Heights grads rescue pieces of Cleveland's history

Lita Gonzalez

Every building has a story to tell -the story of those who designed and labored to build it, the families or businesses that used the space, and the neighborhood and environment surrounding it. Sadly, as neighborhoods change, these stories are often lost, especially when an older building is torn down. Two Heights High graduates, however, are capturing this history and keeping much of the valuable wood materials from ending up in landfills.

As the housing services manager for the St. Clair Superior Development Corporation, Chris Kious (class of '91) monitored boarded up buildings slated for demolition. He felt there had to be a way of saving the old, often first growth wood, from many of these century old houses. Chris started researching the deconstruction movement that was catching on around the country. Building deconstruction, or reverse construction, if done correctly, can salvage thousands of dollars of usable wood and materials from each building.

Kious and his friend Ezra Taxel (class of '96) started exploring the idea of developing a business for "rescuing and upcycling" wood from buildings facing demolition. "We wanted to take the wood from these broken buildings with tales to tell and give it new life," he says. Kious and Taxel, together with two other friends, Aaron Gogolin and P.J. Doran, formed A Piece Of Cleveland (APOC), which conserves old wood and repurposes it into high quality furniture

and interior furnishings. "When deconstructing, we focus on all the wood, wood doors, wood floors, even framing lumber, which in older buildings can have very tight veining you can no longer find."

Each partner brings a unique set of skills to the business: Kious has a background in materials acquisition, Taxel and Gogolin are designers and furniture/cabinet makers, and Doran is an artist who uses recycled materials.

At the end of 2007 the four designed and made a dozen cutting boards out of wood harvested from a Cleveland building. Each board displayed a "re-birth certificate," which told the history of the materials that went into it. The boards quickly sold and word spread.

Taxel and Kious agree that they were in the right place at the right time. "The sustainability movement is catching on and the Cleveland community is beginning to embrace it," says Kious. APOC is filling custom orders for private residents, businesses and local restaurants. "People are intrigued by the idea of owning a piece of Cleveland's history," adds Taxel.

The partners are careful not to overcommit themselves and are financing the company's controlled growth. Word of mouth and a retail presence at Planet Green in Rocky River drives much of the business' expansion. Architects who have seen their products are spreading the word.

They recently received a call from a man who planned to tear down a house. He asked APOC to deconstruct it and

reinvigorate the wood into tables for a new restaurant he was opening.

The Welshfield Inn in Burton set aside the wood salvaged during a remodeling project. APOC is using the wood for custom orders.

As APOC grows, they are looking toward the eastern suburbs. Kious pointed out that cities are showing an increased interest in going green. "We haven't been approached by Cleveland Heights yet, but that may happen as they begin evaluating some of their older housing stock."

"When we started the company, we weren't even pursuing greenness. The character of older houses that were built to last is what peaked my curiosity, along with the beautiful stories and products we could create." Taxel pointed out that living in the Heights is unique, but "when you're young, you automatically think that rest of world must be better. Sometimes it takes leaving and living somewhere else to really appreciate what we have here."

Kious adds, "I think we've found the proper way of honoring the memory



Chris Kious and Ezra Taxel in their show room.

and history of these buildings. In the process, we have become accidental environmentalists."

For more information go to www.apieceofcleveland.com.

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

Beat the rush! Register now for school

Michael Dougherty

Register now in the Cleveland Heights - University Heights City School District for the 2008-2009 school year.

The first day of school is August 26, 2008. Your child is eligible for kindergarten in 2008 if they are age 5 by September 30, 2008. Registration takes place at the Board of Education, 2155 Miramar Blvd. The Department of Students Services is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to serve your registration needs. In addition, appointments will be available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. between August 11 and August 26.

Please call 371-7430 to schedule an appointment. For more information on registration requirements, click on the Student Registration link at www.chuh.org or call 371-7430.

Michael Dougherty is the Coordinator of Communications for the Cleveland Heights - University Heights City School District

Heights grad studies in Tanzania



COURTESY OF MARK MUTHERSBAUGH

Lita Gonzalez

By the time he graduated from Heights High School in 2005, Mark Muthersbaugh had logged 1,000 volunteer hours at the Natural History Museum, so it didn't surprise family or friends when he decided to study biology at Oberlin College.

Last semester, when the opportunity to study abroad in Tanzania presented itself, Mark jumped at the chance. "Tanzania protects 30% of its land in large National Parks," explained Mark, "so I felt studying there would offer the animal behavior field study opportunities I wanted, while giving me an experience I couldn't get any place else."

That experience included living in a tent for three months, ten minutes away from Lake Manyara National Park, an area that stretches along the Rift Valley with a setting that Ernest Hemingway called "the loveliest I had

seen in Africa."

Forty-nine other students from all over the United States joined Mark in Tanzania. His classroom instruction included wild life management, wild life ecology, environmental policy and sample counting techniques; information that was later used when Mark went out into the National Park to determine how various animal populations were doing. Mark's accommodations ranged from high-end safari lodging camps to simpler safari campsites. "Staying in a two person tent for three months forced me to be ultra organized," laughed Mark.

During a longer expedition, Mark went into the Serengeti for five days. He met members of the Masi Tribe who live a predominately pastoral life style. He also spent three weeks following four baboon troops: two troops ranged freely and hunted for their food in the wild while the other two troops were

foragers that gathered their food by rooting through human trash. "I was amazed at how smart and clever the baboons were," said Mark. "At the end of the study I found that the foraging troops had a smaller range, had more free time, and were more social."

The pictures Mark shot in Tanzania were beautiful enough to be featured in *National Geographic* magazine. One picture showed lions sleeping beside the van Mark was riding in. "It is so hot that lions will look for whatever shade they can find," explained Mark. "This shade just happened to be right next to our transportation!" Another picture showed the massive elephant that had charged Mark when he got too close while snapping pictures.

This summer, Mark will work with Roger Laushman, head of the biology department at Oberlin, doing research on crayfish populations in Northern

Ohio. The research, which has been going on for several years, is studying the effect of pollution on crayfish, as well as the relationship between invasive and native crayfish species in two rivers.

Mark explained the importance of the research to Northeast Ohio. "Crayfish is a keystone species that is important to the whole ecological system and can demonstrate the health of a river system." Pollution affects crayfish and is passed on to their predators such as big mouth bass and heron.

After college Mark would like to work on resolving wildlife problems and is considering going into the Peace Corps. He hopes to go back to Tanzania someday.

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

CH-UH students reach musical heights



SUSIE KAESER

Percussionists Sheldon White, Joe Mullen, and Tyon Holloway (left to right) provide a spirited welcome to concertgoers at the Finale Concert of the 2008 Heights Summer Music Camp at Wiley Middle School.

Simone Quartell

On June 21, the Wiley Middle School stage lit up to reveal 85 fourth through ninth graders in the CH-UH City School District. Dressed in burgundy shirts and jeans, the children were ready to perform after a week at the Heights Summer Music Camp.

The camp, sponsored by Reaching Heights, was held at Wiley Middle School from June 16-20. Any CH-UH student who has taken at least a year of private music lessons may attend the

camp, staffed by professional musicians, CH-UH alumni, and Heights High students. "This year's group of students is much more musically advanced than any other group," said camp coordinator Betsy Neylon, who teaches general music at Roxboro Elementary School during the school year.

The days were packed for students attending camp. They practiced at the beginning and end of each day with the entire orchestra conducted by Heights High Symphony Director Scott Astey, and also practiced solely with their section to improve their instrument's part of the pieces. They took music theory classes and formed chamber groups, which are small groups of students that perform selected pieces. They could learn to play guitar, be in the jazz band, or sing in the choir as an elective.

On Friday, the jazz bands and guitar players performed for parents, as did all the chamber groups. After the Friday recital, four chamber groups were selected to perform in Saturday's Finale Concert: the alto saxophone trio of Briana Kidd, Gianni Quartell and Trey Walls; the clarinet quartet of Carolyn Holt, Amani Musawwir, Anna Watcher and Chris Weck; the woodwind quintet of Julia Gay (flute), Mary O'Keefe (oboe), Carter Hastings (trumpet), Ayla London (horn), and James Tarnay (bass clarinet); and the string quartet

of Trenton Bulucea (violin), Rachael Evans (violin), Mikale Thomas (viola), and Mark Stroud (cello).

The Finale Concert was held June 21 and featured the four chamber groups, the choir, and the full orchestra. The choir sang "Why We Sing" by Gilpen, which featured Kymeron Carter, Hunter Falconer, Amber Jackson, Alice Janigro and Kayla Olds, and "Rhythm of Life" by Fields and Coleman. The orchestra performed "The Great Gate of Kiev" and "Hopak" by Mussorgsky, "Ancient Aires and Dances" by Respighi, and selections from "The Corpse Bride" by Elfman.

"The children have so much fun in this program," said Camp Administrator Susie Kaeser. "They get more music in a week here than they get in an entire school year, but that's what cultivates kids to love music. This program creates the future Heights musicians."

To make sure all students could attend, Reaching Heights provided scholarships to 30 students this year.


The students enjoyed the camp. Ayla London, who will be a freshman playing French horn in the Heights High Symphonic Winds this fall, said her three years of camp have "been fun and helped me in my musical career."

Annie Zicari, a Wiley Middle School sixth grader who plays trumpet, agrees. "The teachers here are really devoted," she said. "The music is challenging, but

they're always willing to help us." This was her first year attending music camp, and she said she will definitely return.

Reaching Heights is a nonprofit organization that works to promote public schools and create the best school system possible for CH-UH students.


Simone Quartell will be a senior at Cleveland Heights High School in August. She has been a member of the Black and Gold student newspaper since her freshman year, where she is managing editor and has covered school district issues in depth. She plans to study journalism in college.


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Heights couple releases parenting board game

Marc Buenaventura

The trend is undeniable: parents are becoming more proactive and seeking ways to improve their parenting skills. This can be seen in the growing number of parenting websites, parenting books, magazines, radio and TV reality shows (such as *Nanny 911* and *Supernanny*). The book, *What to Expect When You're Expecting*, has currently sold over 13 million copies. Clearly parents are taking steps to be more conscious and consistent in how they raise their children.

The Greater Cleveland community, in particular, has demonstrated a desire to enrich the quality of parenting. The presence and success of organizations, such as the Heights Parent Center, W.O. Frohring Family Resource Center, Center for Families and Children, and programs, such as Strong Start for Cuyahoga's families, reflect the community's desire to improve parents' abilities.

In response to this movement, Cleveland Heights parents Juliette and Michael Reynolds founded Babysteps Limited. Babysteps recently released Parent Talk,™ the first and only board game to offer parents a fun way to address crucial parenting issues.

Unlike parenting books, this board game provides a more interactive way for adults to discuss how they will raise their children. Playing the game with other adults enables parents to leverage community and share parenting strategies, information, experience and insights. Parent Talk™ promotes conscious and consistent parenting through communication and community. The game facilitates discussion on key topics relating to a child's physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development. The questions also encourage parents to discuss financial issues, sharing responsibilities and the changing dynamics of their relationship.

I played the game with seven of my friends, all of us unmarried and childless college students. Although we may not be the ideal demographic for this board game, we found that the game greatly changed our views and expectations on being parents. Playing the game made us all think about what we value and find important. Although none of us have kids or plan on being parents in the near future, we could not help but get into meaningful discussions. For some questions, we were each sure our individual answer was right and could not believe anyone would reply differently. "Who gets up with the baby in the middle of the night?" You may think your answer is right, but what does your partner think?

Marc Buenaventura is a senior management/marketing major at Case Western Reserve University. He has been interning for Babysteps Limited through the Summer on the Cuyahoga Program, which unites students from Colgate, Cornell, CWRU, Yale, Princeton, Smith and Harvard, to live together and intern with Cleveland businesses. The goal is to prevent brain drain and bring talent to the Cleveland area.

For more information, visit www.ParentTalkGame.com, email ParentTalkGame@gmail.com, or call 320-0602.

Tips for finding a baby sitter

Ellen Barrett

Whether you have a dentist appointment in the middle of the day, a meeting at your kid's school in the evening or are trying to plan "date night" with your spouse, the task of finding a sitter can be a challenge. Where to begin, what to ask and what to expect are just a few of the dilemmas you might face. Here are a few tips to guide you through this journey.

The best place to begin the search for a sitter is in your own neighborhood: at the playground, at the library, at your church. Learn about kids who live near you who may be of baby-sitting age and seek recommendations from other parents. Word of mouth is the most useful and comfortable way to find a sitter who will be a good fit for your family and will be interested in doing the job. If you want an older sitter, college age or adult, find out if local colleges have lists of potential babysitters. John Carroll University, Notre Dame College and Ursuline College all have services available to connect to students. Nanny agencies also provide part- and full-time care options (Heights Parent Center does not endorse any particular agency or institution).

Be sure to ask questions that will make you feel secure with your choices. Ask for references to give you a feeling for the sitter's promptness, level of maturity and attitude towards kids. Do they have experience with baby-sitting? Have they taken a first aid class? If not, are they willing? Baby-sitting classes are available at the CH-UH libraries. Heights Parent Center provides the library with a speaker during these sessions to help kids be successful baby sitters. Don't forget to ask why they want to baby-sit. Although most kids want to baby-sit to earn money it shouldn't be the only reason. You want them to "like kids" or "like to hold babies" or something that indicates they'll enjoy their work!

Once you have found a potential sitter, invest the time getting to know him or her. Some of the best baby-sitting experiences come from beginning with a "mother's helper." This involves choosing a younger sitter who would be there only when you are home. Mother's helpers are usually between 8 and 11 years old and can provide an extra pair of hands and eyes on your child for you while you pay bills, prepare dinner or even take a rest. The benefits of starting with a helper often result in your being able to "groom" a sitter for future long term jobs. They will benefit from getting to know your house rules, hearing the way you interact with your child, bonding with your child and developing a vested interest in your family. One downside is that you won't be able to rely on them right away for the appointments that will take you out of the house. But before you know it, you'll be able to run a quick errand or two as your helper grows into the job.

Be sure to give your sitter all they will need to be successful:

- Arm them with information about

your child's routines and habits.

- Inform them about any allergies, food preferences or restrictions.
- Provide contact information for yourself or spouse, close neighbors and pediatrician.
- Be sure they know to call 911 in an emergency.
- Leave them with clear rules about television watching, bed time and other situations that might occur.

Have realistic expectations. Remember, sitters are not parents. Their job is to keep your kids safe and happy. They should not be expected to discipline your child as you might. They should not be asked to prepare difficult meals or clean up anything that isn't related to their tasks. Sometimes, baby sitters can provide special fun by doing things with your kids that you might not want to. Set them up with play dough, finger paint or other messy projects. Let them eat ice cream together or order pizza for dinner. Make it special and

exciting so both the sitter and your kids will have a positive experience and want to do it again!

Baby sitters can provide much needed respite from the daily grind of parenting, as well as enable parents to meet their responsibilities outside the home. Taking the time to choose a sitter carefully will go a long way towards a comfortable and successful relationship.

Remember to treat your sitter fairly and in most cases they will reciprocate. Like any other relationship, the more you put into it the more you'll gain!

For more information on parenting, call Heights Parent Center at 321-0079 or visit www.heightsparentcenter.org.

Ellen Barrett is the program director at Heights Parent Center. She has been with the Center for 12 years and is a life long resident of Cleveland Heights. She has two sons Ryan and Peter who are in college.

<p>Coventry P.E.A.C.E. and Coventry Village present</p> <p>MOVIES UNDER THE STARS</p> <p>Thursdays at the Coventry School PEACE Playground</p> <p>Music from 7-9 PM</p> <p>Films shown at dusk (9-ish)</p> <p>This event is Free to the Public.</p>	<p>AUGUST 7: Come and enjoy Jim Carrey in LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS and several fun shorts following the Coventry Street Arts Fair, generously sponsored by Cleveland Heights' fun/cool family, the Goldfarbs!</p> <p>AUGUST 21ST: Enjoy R&B, Jazz and Funk with Mary Player and Swank, followed by SUPERMAN, the original 1978 movie with Christopher Reeves plus several Superman shorts sponsored by the Siegel and Shuster Society, commemorating Cleveland's Superman creators.</p>
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Motorcars aims to keep shoppers' dollars local

Jeff Bendix

Programs aimed at persuading shoppers to spend their dollars with local independent businesses are springing up all over the country. Locally, Future-Heights has been selling gift certificates redeemable at participating Cleveland Heights businesses for several years. Now Motorcars Cleveland, one of the Heights area's largest employers, is joining the trend with a shop local program of its own.

Begun in February, Motorcars' program has three elements:

Valuable Merchant Program: Shoppers at participating businesses can pick up fliers redeemable for a \$10 gift certificate to that business if the shopper test drives a car at Motorcars Toyota, Honda, or First Choice. Car purchasers with a flier will receive a \$100 gift certificate.

Rewards Program: Motorcars customers receive one point for every dollar spent on service, parts, or detailing, up to 15% of the amount spent. Points can be accumulated for up to four years and used towards the purchase of a new or pre-owned vehicle, up to \$1,500. In addition, customers can use their rewards cards to get discounts and gifts from participating local businesses. A premium level with additional services and allowing for higher point accumulation is also available for an additional charge.

New Home Owners Program: Motorcars sends postcards to new homeowners in the Heights, inviting them to come to a dealership where they can receive coupons good for discounts and gifts from local merchants.

"We view all of these programs as a

way of generating more support for local businesses," explains Tracey Cooley, who oversees the program for Motorcars. "It allows the merchants to piggyback on our rewards program and use it as a tool to bring more customers to their businesses."

So far 61 merchants are taking part in the program. The majority are in the Heights, with the remainder in Cleveland, South Euclid, and Lyndhurst. "We wanted to include businesses we know our customers use," Cooley said.

Although the program is still fairly new, it is beginning to catch on. Robert Kopis, owner of Pizza BoGo, said he has run out of the first batch of discount fliers he received, numbering about 450, and "four or five" customers have redeemed them. "I think we'll get more as more people learn about the program," he said.

Steve Presser, owner of Big Fun, said his customers have yet to use the program, but he supports it. "It helps get word about my store out on the street, and I like that Motorcars is encouraging people to spend their dollars in the community."

Susanna Niermann O'Neill, community relations director for Cleveland Heights, said Motorcars' program is typical of its support for the Heights. "They support youth teams and underwrite events at Cain Park. They're very good neighbors."

More information, including a list of participating businesses, is available at www.rewards.motorcarscleveland.com.

Jeff Bendix is a writer and public relations professional living in Cleveland Heights.



Motorcars General Sales Manager Trevor Gile and Top Dog Tucker.

Lee Road makes the CUT

Lita Gonzalez

Ten years ago when Laura Griffith and her husband decided to move from Chicago to Ohio, they explored numerous cities in Northeast Ohio looking for just the right community. They settled on Cleveland Heights. Four years ago, when Laura decided to open her own hair salon, she knew that the Cedar-Lee Business District was the right location. Today, CUT Hair Studio, 2254 Lee Road, is a thriving business that exemplifies Laura's commitment to Cleveland Heights.

Walking into CUT is like running into a group of old friends. The friendliness of the staff is contagious. "The Cleveland Heights community and the Lee Road business owners are so supportive that I never thought about going any place else but Lee Road," says Laura as we sit in two cushioned chairs by the front windows.

The brightly painted walls are adorned with artwork by local artists, giving the shop the look of an artistic boutique. It's the diversity of the street that appeals to Laura – the variety of restaurants, businesses and customers.

"I can see and talk to so many different types of people of all age groups," Laura explains that Lee Road is vibrant without being overwhelming. "There is an energy here but it's relaxed."

Like the community around it, CUT Hair Studio is able to attract a diverse clientele from two to 70 years old, many of whom ride or walk to her shop. "I actually had some clients who cross-country skied to make their appointments this past winter," she smiles.

Laura provides her clients with natural hair products that are 100% vegan and sulfate free. "Living in Cleveland Heights and having children has given me a real sense of how we all have to do our part to positively impact the environment," she explains.

CUT's new web site, www.cuthairstudio.com, gives present and potential clients additional information about the salon and its products, and an opportunity to meet the stylists.

There is a sincere glow about the



Laura Griffith stands outside CUT Hair Studio.

CUT staff, Karen Anderson, Nicki Pritts and Renee Bennet. I got the feeling that these are people who honestly enjoy coming to work. Hair stylists Laura and Karen describe themselves as working artists. Nicki, the salon coordinator, is an artist and her handmade bags are displayed around the salon. Renee, a Heights High senior in the cosmetology program, has been interning at CUT.

Laura feels that the uniqueness of Cleveland Heights is what attracts people. "It's a small-town feel that brings people together with a sense of community," Laura explains. "Cleveland Heights drew us in because of the culture, entertainment and diversity of choice in schools."

Despite knowing no one when they first moved here, it didn't take Laura and her husband long to meet people and fit in. "There is so much for families to do," explains Laura, "and I see this community becoming more family oriented." Both her children are on the East Side Kickers soccer team and her husband Todd is one of the coaches.

Laura looks around her salon and then out the windows at the people passing by on this summer afternoon. "This really is a great place to live and work."

Readers can reach CUT Studio at 932-1220.

Lita Gonzalez, a long time community volunteer, lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband Mark. Both her daughters are Heights High graduates.

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FIFTH THIRD BANK PET PARADE: 2:00 p.m. (Registration at Fifth Third at 1:00 p.m.)

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS FIRE TRUCK & FIREMEN: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

MERCHANT'S SPECIALS: Noon - 4:00 p.m.

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FREE CHAIR MASSAGES: Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Heights Massotherapy - On Track Massage

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FACE PAINTING & CHILDREN'S GAMES - India Community Center Noon - 4:00 p.m (Sponsored by Cleveland Heights Church)

LINNEA'S CLEVER AND FUN GAME FOR KIDS - Chase Bank:
Noon - 4:00 p.m. (Sponsored by Church of the Redeemer, United Methodist)

PET FANTASY LAND - Fifth Third Bank: Noon - 4:00 p.m.

ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE: Noon - 4:00 p.m.

ADVENTURE BOUNCE HOUSE: Noon - 4 p.m.
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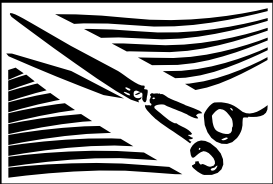
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Roth Pharmacy closes - an end of an era!

Kathryn Lowe

Bob Roth, owner and son of the founder of Roth Cedar Fairmount Pharmacy, has closed his drug store after 19 years at the Fairmount location, and 46 years in the pharmacy business. Bob's father opened his first pharmacy at 1619 Euclid Avenue in 1941. Following in his father's footsteps, Bob graduated with a degree in pharmacology and joined the family-owned business on Euclid Avenue. Since then Roth Pharmacy has had six locations. They moved the drug store to 2458 Fairmount Boulevard in 1989. It became Cedar Fairmount Pharmacy.

Bob said he made a difficult decision in today's ever-changing business climate. Pharmacy benefit managers control the price of drugs and cap profits for small, individually run pharmacies. Thus it became increasingly difficult to run a pharmacy by reimbursement, since profits on prescription drugs amount to about 7%. Most drug stores' profits are made in over the counter drugs and other items. Bob said, "It is very difficult to compete with the national movement of larger pharmacy chains such as Walgreen's and CVS and big box stores."

Bob closed the Roth Pharmacy in the Cleveland Clinic building on Cedar Road in Beachwood when his lease was not renewed last December. With profits disappearing over the past three years, in January Bob reduced his space at Cedar Fairmount to cut costs, enabling him to break even. In the



Bob's sister Joan Krohn, his wife Margo and Bob standing in front of the Roth's Pharmacy.

spring, CVS became very aggressive in approaching him to purchase his business. After much deliberation, he made a bittersweet decision to sell.

Bob leaves a legacy of customer service, delivering prescriptions to those who couldn't come in, caring for his loyal customers, and not charging extra. He found he was no longer comfortable with today's brutal business climate. He will continue to operate Parkway Pharmacy, which deals with special situations and is not open to the public. All of his staff have been offered jobs either with CVS or Parkway Pharmacy.

One loyal customer said, "Bob, you have been a gift and we appreciate how well you have served us and the Greater Cleveland Heights Community. You and your staff will be missed." The Cedar Fairmount business community agrees.

Kathryn Lowe is executive director of the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.

Nighttown Celebrates the Dog Days of August!

Is your Dog a Top Dog?



Bring a photo of your top dog to Nighttown during the month of August and receive a 15% discount.

Nighttown will donate \$1 to the South Euclid Dog Park, www.SouthEuclidFIDO.org, for every photo received.

And, May the Best Dog Win!

On Sunday, September 21, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. Nighttown will invite ten lucky dogs to meet on the patio. A celebrity judge will pick three top dogs.

Top Dog: A four night's stay at the historic Pomander Walk Apartments, 94th Street and Broadway in Manhattan's Upper Westside, for the dog's owner.

First Runner Up: A \$150 gift certificate to Nighttown.

Second Runner Up: A night at the fabulous Shoreby Club in Bratenahl.

Not applicable with early Bird Specials or any other discount. Max discount per photo is for two persons. One entry per dog. No three legged dogs. Discount is for food only.



Life sure is ruff at Dogtopia in Cleveland Heights

Kathy Bell

You want to provide nothing but the best for your kids, right? You want them to play to their heart's content, chasing their friends from one room to the next, playing fetch (I mean catch) outside and tug of war inside, and even lounging poolside on hot summer days. And, then there's nap time and snack time, of course, and the dogged tiredness that comes from playing all day long.

You're probably thinking daycare, right? Close... Think daycare for man's best friend.

That's right, doggy daycare. From indoor-outdoor play areas and kiddie pools to unlimited chew toys and verbal report cards, man's best friends are living the high life.

In recent years, more than 1,500 daycare centers for dogs have opened around the country. In the Heights, there's just one: DogTopia, located on the corner of Noble and Monticello roads in Cleveland Heights. For new "parents," it's a godsend. Oh, and the dogs love it too.

"I have two dogs, Zoya and Tallinn, and they love DogTopia," said Debby Martens, a DogTopia client since July 2007. "When we turn the corner to pull into the lot, they start wagging their tails and whining; they can't wait to get inside and are just as excited to see the staff as their playmates."

Before a dog is accepted into the

DogTopia family, he or she undergoes a rigorous evaluation that includes in-depth aggression testing. Dogs must then come back for a half-day session to see how they react to the environment.

DogTopia has a certified canine behavioral trainer on-site daily and a one-to-12 staffer-to-dog ratio for all daycare sessions. A full-service veterinary clinic is right next door, too.

Daycare is capped at 36 dogs a day to ensure they are safe and receive personalized attention.

Full day sessions are broken up with naptime at noon, where treats are served, the lights are dimmed and soft, soothing music is played. After all, dogs need a little downtime, too.

Staffers keep a running log of all activities and happenings. Parents get verbal report cards when they pick up their dog, so they know how their dog fared that day, and a formal report card should their dog need updated vaccinations.

Owner Connie Karłowicz, a dog lover herself with three black labs,



Playtime at Dogtopia in Cleveland Heights.

Wally, Dex and Tommy, believes that her dogs are a part of the family. Knowing that other people feel the same way about their pets, and wanting to provide a safe haven for dogs to romp and play along with peace of mind for parents, she opened DogTopia in 2004.

Doptopia also provides overnight boarding in a non-kennel environment that includes dim lights and soothing lullaby music, behavioral training classes and a DIY doggy wash area.

In partnership with the South

Euclid Humane Society, Dogtopia also hosts an adoption service. Eleven dogs have been placed in loving homes since July 2007.

"It's extremely important to have a place where I can drop off my dogs and leave them with peace of mind—knowing that they're safe and having a blast, even when I'm boarding them overnight," says Martens.

Kathy Bell and her dog, Scamper, are residents of Cleveland Heights.

Cleveland Heights and University Heights Summer Fun Guide 2008			
Date	Event	Info	Location
August 7	Blue Lunch	932-7800	UH Summer Band Concert-Wiley Middle School
August 7	Coventry Street Arts Fair	556-0927	Historic Coventry Village
August 7	Music, Movies, and Just Plain Fun	heightsobserver.org	Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Playground and Arch
August 10	Discover Cedar-Fairmount Festival	cedarfairmount.org	Cedar-Fairmount District
August 12	Rock-The-Block Festival	561-3530	Cedar Lee District
August 14	Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band	932-7800	UH Summer Band Concert-Wiley Middle School
August 21	Frank Moravcik Polka Band	932-7800	UH Summer Band Concert-Wiley Middle School
August 21	Music, Movies, and Just Plain Fun	heightsobserver.org	Coventry P.E.A.C.E Playground and Arch

Call for more information or visit our community calendar at www.heightsobserver.org

Mad Greek, in Heights since 1976, adds patio

Kathryn Lowe

The Mad Greek, 2466 Fairmount Boulevard, restaurant was opened in 1977 by Loki and Nickie Chopra. After 32 years, the restaurant continues to offer a menu of contemporary American, Greek, and Indian fare. All ingredients are fresh and all recipes made from scratch. Over the years the restaurant has been recognized for outstanding food and service including most recently the *Cleveland Magazine* Silver Spoon Award and *Northern Ohio Live's* award for Best Greek Food.

After Loki's death in March of 2002, his son Chris Chopra took over and became partners with former manager, Bill La Rue. In the past 5 years extensive renovations have been made to the inside of the Mad Greek. These include fresh paint, renovated bar area, new fixtures, a remodeled bathroom, and a new outdoor patio.

In summer 2007, a beautiful 15 x 60 foot patio was created behind the award-winning restaurant. The multi-level patio consist of brick pavers, a pond-less waterfall, raised flower beds, a limestone privacy wall, exotic grasses, trees, and colorful flowers. The patio creates a relaxing European atmosphere. It is a beautiful surprise complete with twinkling lights in the trees, umbrella covered tables, and a relaxing atmosphere for sharing a drink or meal with friends. A new sound system provides music for the wee hours

Owners Chris Chopra and Bill La Rue have recently announced the Mad Greek Patio Party, every Firday and Saturday evening from 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. The new patio menu offers appetizers and specialty sandwiches at special pricing. Sandwiches vary from a Mad Burger (half pound beef burger grilled and served on Ciabatta roll) to a Greek Bruschetta with a spinach cream sauce. Summer cocktails are \$5.00 each. The extensive specialty martini list includes choices such as Santorini Sunset or Chocolate Cream. Each martini is only \$6.00.

The Mad Greek is a Cleveland Heights institution that continues to offer great food and great service, while being innovative and appealing to young and old.

Kathryn Lowe is Executive Director of Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District.



Mad Greek's new patio offers an immensely different dining experience from the indoor cafe.

Tour of Heights patio dining spots

Christina Klenotic

"Al fresco" dining is one of summer's pleasures. There's a sweet satisfaction to sipping a cool beverage with good company while enjoying a breeze and a tasty dish as the sun goes down. The Heights area, particularly on Lee Road and the Cedar-Fairmount area, abounds with wonderful patio dining options. Here are some favorites along with suggested dishes and drinks to sample.

LOPEZ Pretty white lights augment this lovely patio that overlooks Lee Road, which is a great spot to people watch. The leafy tree provides shade from the summer heat while tall ceramic heaters offer insurance for chilly nights. Best of all, the irresistible golden margaritas \$7.90 (and tequilas) are half-off on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Try: Mushroom-goat cheese quesadilla \$15 and limon frozen mojito \$7.50 (on a good night, tastes like a Dairy Queen lime Star Kiss).

BRENNAN'S COLONY The Colony is sporting an impressive, roomy brick patio out back with a full, covered bar, tables and ceramic heaters. Enter from the front of the restaurant or through the gate in the back for a relaxing, low-key night. Take your pick from two menus: one comprised of sandwiches, salads and fried appetizers and another which changes slightly daily and features full dinners with many fish options. Try: "All-World" burger \$6.50 and Blue Moon on tap \$4.

MAROTTA'S This cozy Italian spot boasts rich, satisfying entrees and an Italian-only wine list. Marotta's is a member of Cleveland Independents and locally owned and operated. The patio is enclosed by brick, which eliminates any glimpse of the massive parking lot in the



Nighttown's elaborate, year-round patio was a wonderful addition to this Cleveland Heights institution.



Pretty white lights augment Lopez's lovely patio that overlooks Lee Road.

back. Recent specials featured a delicious, cold cantaloupe soup sprinkled with prosciutto crisps and black peppercorn for \$6. Try: *Rosetto* (gnocchi, sausage and roasted red peppers in a tomato cream sauce) \$22 and organically produced *rosso guggiolo* \$8.

NIGHTTOWN The elaborate, year-round patio was a wonderful addition to this Cleveland Heights institution. In summer, the walls and ceiling are retracted for open-air dining, while in the off-season, the glass-enclosed patio protects diners from the elements. A waterfall splashes over a brick wall that separates diners from busy Cedar Road, and a pergola offers protection from summer heat. Live music is offered seven nights a week. Try: halloumi kabobs (skewered Cyprian sheep and goat's milk cheese, grilled veggies and chive oil over a pilaf) \$13.95 and Riesling by the glass \$6.50.

MAD GREEK Tucked just below the parking lot for privacy, this summer's new patio investment has been very well received and offers an immensely different dining experience from the indoor cafe. A cascading waterfall, pergola and umbrella tables welcome guests. Sample a variety of Greek and Indian dishes. Try: *spanakopitakia* \$8.50, gyro platter \$15.50 and White Sands mojito \$7.95.

Per her grandmother, Christina Klenotic is a "good eater" who never met a carb she didn't

like. She enjoys sampling eclectic restaurants, galleries and neighborhoods, which is why she loves Cleveland Heights.

LOPEZ 2196 Lee Road, 932.9000 www.lopezonlee.com
Monday – Thursday: 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Sunday: 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

BRENNAN'S COLONY 2299 Lee Road, 371.1010
Monday – Saturday: 11:30 a.m. to 12 a.m.
Sunday: 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

MAROTTA'S 2289 Lee Road, 932.9264 www.marottas.com
Monday – Thursday: 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.
No reservations

NIGHTTOWN 12387 Cedar Road, 795.0550 www.nighttowncleveland.com
Monday – Thursday: 11:30 a.m. to 12 a.m.
Friday – Saturday: 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Sunday: brunch 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. dinner 3 p.m. to 12 a.m.

MAD GREEK 2466 Fairmount Blvd., 421.3333 www.madgreekcleveland.com
Monday – Thursday: 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 11:30 a.m. to 12 a.m.
Sunday: 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.



Japanese and Malaysian Restaurant

1763 Coventry Road
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
www.pacificeastcoventry.com

Mon. - Thurs. :11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Fri.: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Sat.: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m., 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Sun.: 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Tel: 216-320-2302 Fax: 216-320-2306

A poster child speaks out

Patti Substelny



My name is Patti. I moved to Cleveland Heights in 1997, and was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis a few months later. In the Heights it seems like most everyone knows someone with MS, and many of these friends and family of MS sufferers have banded together to raise money to fight the disease and to fund programs in our area.

The Patti's Paladins bike team is a

small group of committed people who want to change the world. After training all summer on the streets of Cleveland Heights and elsewhere, they ride in the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's bike ride in August.

Last year this group raised over \$51,000 to fund research and programs to benefit MS patients in the Ohio Buckeye chapter.

If you are ready to ride your bike 30, 75, or 125 miles in August, or would like to donate to this great cause, please visit www.pattispaladins.com or contact Patti Substelny at 321-5024.

Lee Road library needs of homework center volunteers

Tonya Gibson

Help us help our students. Volunteer for our Homework Center and you will make a significant impact on a student's life. Step up and become a Homework Center volunteer!

Duties: To serve as an educational role model by assisting elementary school students with homework and study skills at the library.

Qualifications:

- Strong background in elementary school subjects such as math, science, social studies, and English.
- Desire to help diverse student populations succeed academically.
- Willingness to work at least one, two-

hour shift per week (center hours are 3:30-5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday) for a nine-week period.

Children under the age of 18 will require parental permission and a letter of recommendation from a teacher.

Background checks will be performed on anyone age 18 and up.

Training will be provided by Heights Library personnel.

If you are interested, please contact Sarah Biscuso, children's services librarian at 932-3600 ext. #293 or at sbiscuso@heightslibrary.org.

Tonya Gibson is an employee of the Heights Libraries who enjoys writing and photography in her free time.

Heights Observer seeks neighborhood reporters

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Are you always the first one to know about something happening in your neighborhood? Why not put your knowledge to work by becoming a *Heights Observer* neighborhood reporter?

The Heights Observer seeks citizen-journalists to write stories and report on news in your Heights neighborhood.

Qualifications: curiosity, integrity and a desire to write. No experience necessary. Send an email to editor@heightsobserver.org or call 320-1423.

Learn the basics of conducting an interview, gathering facts, newswriting and submitting a story to the *Heights Observer* at the CH-UH Public Library, 2345 Lee Road, on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Real citizens vote

Sarah Wean

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote. — George Jean Nathan (1882-1958)

Have you moved recently? Changed your name or address? Turned 18? Recently become a citizen? Been apathetic but want to change your ways?

Register to vote today.

Remember, voters must be registered in Cuyahoga County in order to vote in any election. Register at any of these CH and UH locations:

- University Heights City Hall 2300 Warrensville Center Road
- University Heights/Cleveland Heights Board of Education 2155 Miramar Boulevard
- University Heights Branch Library 13866 Cedar Road
- Cleveland Heights City Hall 40 Severance Circle
- Noble Neighborhood Library 2800 Noble Road

- Cleveland Heights Library 2345 Lee Road
- Cleveland Heights High School 13262 Cedar Road
- Coventry Library 1925 Coventry Road
- Air Force Recruiting Station 2122 Lee Road
- Beaumont School 3301 North Park Boulevard

In order to vote in Cuyahoga County, you must meet the following requirements:

- You must be a United States Citizen;
- You must be at least 18 years old on the day of the General Election;
- You must be a resident of Cuyahoga County for at least 30 days;
- You must register to vote at least 30 days before an election to be eligible to vote.

Info: boe.cuyahogacounty.us or call the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and they will send a registration card to you: 216-443-3298.

Sarah Wean is a community volunteer.

Meet the Neighbors: Free community meal to be offered at Disciples Christian Church

Toni Laurenson

Disciples Christian Church (formerly Euclid Avenue Christian Church) will offer a free community meal on Thursday, August 28, from 5-6:30 p.m. The church is located at 3663 Mayfield Road, at the corner of Mayfield and Yellowstone roads, in Cleveland Heights.

Disciples Christian is also home to the Heights Emergency Food Center (HEFC), which helps to feed hundreds of local families each month with an all volunteer staff.

Hazel Haffner, volunteer director of HEFC, said "one hundred percent of donations to HEFC go towards food. The average number of individu-

als served last year was 300 per month and most of those served were senior citizens. This year that number has jumped to nearly 1,000 individuals fed per month."

HEFC has extended hours on Thursday evenings, so the church hopes that many who are coming for their three-day food supply will stay and enjoy a good meal.

This "Meet the Neighbors" meal is free and open to all. If you'd like to help or support the meal, please call the church office at 382-5344 or visit www.discipleschristian.org.

Toni Laurenson is the office administrator at Disciples Christian Church where she and her husband, Bill, are both members.

Walking tour and lecture connect ancient watershed and local history



A winter view of one of the bluestone brooks.

Mazie Adams

Enjoy a two-part exploration of the history and horticulture of our local watersheds, "the bluestone brooks," on Thursday, August 21 starting at 6 p.m.

Meet at 6 p.m. at the Superior Schoolhouse to join Pebbles Bush, a horticulturist with the Cleveland Metroparks, who will lead a walking tour along the Dugway Brook inside Cumberland Park. A specialist in native plants, she'll give a guided tour of the brook's plantscape and natural habitat. Dress for hiking.

At 7 p.m. Dr. Roy Larick will give a lecture inside the Superior Schoolhouse. Dr. Larick is an archaeologist and author of two books about our region's history: *Euclid Creek and Euclid Township, 1796-1801: Protest in the Western Reserve*. His interest and research in the region have led Dr. Larick to be active in the historic preservation and nature conservation efforts of the Euclid Creek area. Dr. Larick enjoys a reputation as a wonderful speaker.

He will discuss the "bluestone brooks," Doan, Dugway, Nine Mile and Euclid, which are streams in the eastern part of Cuyahoga County. They cut their deep channels over a period of 14,000

years. Starting 150 years ago, local residents filled and paved their courses and dug massive sewer systems underneath. These changes led to the development of cities like Cleveland Heights. Remnants of the great brooks exist and are important and in flux today.

This presentation is full of interesting maps and historical photographs of the area's brooks. The events explore the natural world around us and its impact on the development of Cleveland Heights.

Reservations are required for these free events, and space is limited. Call the Cleveland Heights Planning Department, 291-4878 to register for one or both activities. Park in Cumberland parking lot and meet at Superior Schoolhouse. There is limited parking available for handicapped or elderly available at the Schoolhouse.

Sponsored by Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission (www.cleveland-heights.com/historyarch_landmarks.asp), Cleveland Heights Historical Society (<http://chhistory.org>), and Friends of Dugway Brook.

Mazie Adams is a Cleveland Heights Historical Society trustee.

A Conversation with Cleveland Heights writer Les Roberts

Jessica Schreiber

After a six-year hiatus, Cleveland Heights' legendary private investigator Milan Jacovich is back. In *King of the Holly Hop*, Les Roberts's 14th novel of the series, Milan attends his 40th high school reunion where a former classmate is found murdered. Everyone, it seems, had a motive to kill Dr. Phil Kohn, but the prime suspect is St. Clair High School's most successful graduate, playwright Tommy Wiggins. In the process of investigating the murder, Milan uncovers secrets about his former schoolmates that he would prefer to have left buried.

I sat down over coffee with Les Roberts to discuss the book's release. Though he has aged along with his fictional investigator, Roberts looks youthful with a full head of silver hair and is smartly attired in a Hawaiian shirt. Unlike Milan, who can be a bit rough around the edges, Roberts is soft spoken and thoughtful.

Roberts attributes the enduring popularity of the series to the character of Milan Jacovich. "Milan is as an extremely ethical and decent human being. Readers can identify with what he goes through. He has his problems. Milan is a lonely man. Women readers keep hoping Milan will find someone because

he is a good and capable man."

Is Milan your alter ego? "Well, I'm not 6'3", I didn't play football in high school, and I've never had a Stroh's in my life. But ethically, Milan is very much me. He reflects my moral sensibilities."

"I was raised in Chicago. My father was a member of the NAACP and one of the few dentists at the time to take care of black patients. The only time he ever hit me was when I was seven years old and used (the "N" word), which I had heard on the street. So racism angers me. In Cleveland, some people who are otherwise liberal say, 'Black is not my favorite color.' In the book I explore what would happen if this prejudice rose to the surface. Where were the black students from Milan's high school? Why weren't they at the reunion?"

"Phil Kohn, the murder victim, is based on a real person. A lot of people who are very successful start believing that whatever they want is their due. If you hurt people or behave in ways that make people hate you, it doesn't matter."

"Cruelty experienced when you are seventeen years old cuts you deeply. When you are older, you can brush it off. But when it happens to an insecure adolescent, you never get over it."

Roberts sees similarities between how Milan has developed since the

beginning of the series and changes in Cleveland since he moved here. "Back in 1990, I chose the Cedar Fairmount location for Milan Jacovich because it was an exciting place to be. He could look out of his window and see (the former) Russo's Market and Mad Greek Restaurant. Nighttown was a great hang out for Milan, who is divorced. In *King of the Holly Hop*, Milan is now pushing sixty years old. His dreams and hopes and fantasies did not come true. He missed his opportunity to reshape the world, and now he has to come to grips with it."

"I came to Cleveland in 1990. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and a new stadium had just opened. Cleveland was in bloom. That was 18 years ago. Today Cleveland is very, very depressed and deeply in trouble. When I first came here, I met a lot of movers and shakers. These people said, 'We're going to invest in this city.' Those people are now either gone, passed away, or in their 80s. Where are the people in their 50s and 60s to take their place? They are missing."

Roberts explained what he likes best about living in Cleveland Heights. "I love the people! Half the people on my street are writers, teachers or musicians. Cleveland Heights is home to me in a way that Beachwood, lovely as it is, never would be. I walk to the Cedar Lee, have great



Cleveland Heights author Les Roberts.

Turkish food at Anatolia Cafe, Chinese food at Sun Luck, Jewish deli at Jack's, and of course, I love Nighttown."

Jessica Schreiber is a community volunteer.

That's life! 71 year old jazz singer plays Cleveland

Christine McBurney

What do Grandma Moses, Nancy Pelosi and Elli Fordyce have in common? And who is Elli Fordyce?

All three women achieved career success later in life. Grandma Moses began painting at 67. Speaker of the House Pelosi entered politics at 47. And Elli Fordyce, who has been performing as a singer and actress in films and television for just over five decades, has just released her first CD, *Something Still Cool*, at 71.

Fordyce has taken a few breaks from her career. Her earliest exposure to jazz was when she cut class with her best buddy, drummer Bobby ("Darin") Cosotto. Soon she was singing with a local dance band and jazz trio. But, months after a triumphant debut before a thousand other freshmen at the University of Massachusetts, Elli chose marriage and a family over career. During this break she raised her family, which includes son and Cleveland Heights attorney, Tim Collins. Another break, not of her choosing, came with a devastating accident on a snowy highway en route to a gig in Illinois.

She stopped singing for 15 years, "not even 'Happy Birthday,' not even in the shower," she recalls. It was years later, after realizing how much her yorkie pup, Dindi, loved her singing that Elli found her voice again. And, find it she did. The reviews are in for *Something Still Cool*, and they are hot.

Bob Gish of Jazz Improv says "Whatever the term [cool] means . . . you know it when you hear it. And Elli Fordyce is cool! . . . as implied in the title, once cool, always cool, vintage cool

. . . Ms. Fordyce has the spirit and voice of one of the blessed, the spirit and stamina of eternal song." Brad Walseth, from the website www.jazzchicago.net says Fordyce's voice is "lovely with strong command, a natural rhythmic touch and just a touch of a rough edge . . . a true showcase for a singer whom one wishes would have never had to give up singing for so long."

Something cool is a running motif on the CD. The cover art is a black and white shot of a teenage Fordyce with windswept hair, standing somewhat

awkwardly on a sand dune. "We moved from New York City my senior year of high school. I had no driver's license and was seven miles from anything, after a lifetime of using public transportation." When she got a hold of June Christy's 1953 album, *Something Cool*, that summer, Fordyce credited it with saving her life. Even the font type on the CD borrows from Christy's with the word "cool" inserted with a carrot. And, of course, the CD features the classic jazz standard "Something Cool."

Fordyce is currently working on

editing her second CD and gearing up for a tour. She performs at Nighttown on August 21 at 7:00 p.m., joined by Cleveland musicians Ed Ridley, Jr. on piano, Marty Block on acoustic bass, and Roy King on drums.

Christine McBurney, like so many of us, used to live on Hampshire Road. She's the theatre arts department chair at Shaker Heights High School, a performer, writer, and proud Heights High soccer mom.

Western Reserve Chorale Welcomes New Music Director, New Members

Joanne Poderis

The Western Reserve Chorale (WRC), a Cleveland Heights based choral group, has announced the appointment of Dr. J. D. Goddard to the position of music director effective July 1.

Dr. Goddard, founder and artistic director of the Master Singers Inc. Chorale of Northeast Ohio, has conducted both amateur and professional choral and orchestral groups. He is a professional clarinetist and opera singer with degrees in operatic performance, stage direction, conducting, voice, and music education.

WRC was founded in 1992. The group begins rehearsing for its 2008-2009 season on Tuesday, September 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 13001 Cedar Rd. All singers are wel-

come. No formal audition is necessary.

"I can't describe how much pleasure I have had singing with this group for over ten years," says a WRC member. "Making music together has a way of creating friendships. WRC is a warm and caring group of like-minded people, and newcomers are readily accepted."

The group performs: Sunday, December 14, 2008, a program of works by many composers of the 1500's to the present day, all with brass accompaniment; Sunday, March 8, 2009, Haydn's "Mass in the Time of War" with soloists and orchestral accompaniment; and Sunday, May 17, 2009, Dvorak's "Mass in D" (original version) with organ accompaniment.

All concerts are free to the public. WRC also performs in retirement homes and cultural institutions



J.D. Goddard conducts the Western Reserve Chorale.

throughout the season.

For more information, call 791-0061, email jpoderis@msn.com, or visit www.westernreservechorale.org.

Joanne Poderis makes her home in Cleveland Heights. She is executive director and accompanist for the Western Reserve Chorale.

New name, same people, renewed vision

Claudia Vondriska

The large colonial style church on Mayfield Road across from Severance Center has a new name. No longer is it called Euclid Avenue Christian Church. An overwhelming majority of the congregation voted to change the name to Disciples Christian Church. The church is part of the denomination Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The church also has a new pastor, the Reverend Kristine Eggert, who was called to the church almost a year and a half ago.

I sat down to talk with Pastor Kris (her preferred appellation) about the name change and the direction of the church's ministry. What I got was a lesson in personal philosophy, a feeling of excitement for the community of Cleveland Heights, and an impression of a vibrant, energetic, intelligent woman who engages a person in direct eye-contact.

I don't belong to a church so I was interested to find out about the church's mission. Pastor Kris began by explaining that her call is to communicate. She said that preaching is all about communicating the Gospel message and taking that message into your week. The work of the church is to be active in bringing Jesus' message into the community, by looking for ways to serve, to be relevant, to be creative in ministry, and to worship together to give honor and glory to God. For additional emphasis she cited the hymn, "We Call Ourselves Disciples." The last verse is: "So now the vision brightens, the light of Christ burns still in hearts of all disciples to be the church God wills. From quiet meditation, and

joyous hymns of praise, we go to do God's mission, lead us all our days."

The church started on Euclid Avenue in the mid 1800s and moved to its current location on Mayfield Road in the early 1950s. Over a year ago a transformation team approached the topic of a name change. They took a full year of discussion, small meetings, and prayer before the vote came to the full congregation. Perhaps surprisingly, the vote did not necessarily fall according to age or length of time in the church. Some teenagers were especially sentimental about the former name.

Pastor Kris stresses that "we are the same church with a renewed vision." They still house the Heights Emergency Food Center, and they will still open their doors for the one-day adventure of the Journey to Bethlehem. Fifteen members of the church traveled to Slidel, LA in September of 2007, to assist in restoring homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

However, new plans are on the horizon. On Sunday September 14, the church will have worship service at 11:00 a.m. followed by an outdoor party with food and fun, open to the wider community. Soon they plan to institute a monthly free meal, open to anyone, to build a sense of kinship. And, they are building a new playground to be completed this fall on the corner of Yellowstone and Mayfield roads that will be accessible to the neighborhood. Access to the church is off Yellowstone Road. Pastor Kris wants everyone to know that they are welcome to worship on any Sunday. To me, her sermons are arresting, consoling, and challenging, delivered in

a well-modulated tempo and tone, sometimes inviting an "Amen" from the congregation.

I asked about her impressions of Cleveland after spending her lifetime in Indianapolis. Other than a longer, harsher winter, she said that Cleveland has a lot to offer: theater, sports, restaurants, and the Metroparks. Nevertheless, Pastor Kris and her husband, David, are diehard Colts fans—though you can often find them at Progressive Field enjoying an Indians game!

For more information call Disciples Christian Church at 382-5344.

Claudia Vondriska is living her dream, writing and living in Cleveland Heights.



Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road.

Join us in welcoming

Rev. Eric R. Dillenbeck
our newly called Associate Pastor

Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10 AM



FAIRMOUNT
Presbyterian Church
2757 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118
www.fairmountchurch.org

connecting | renewing | inviting

Meredith Bowen makes a difference in Tanzania

Bob Cheshier, Ann Farmer and Caroline Morgan

Although she is only 26, Meredith Bowen, a University Heights resident, has already given a lifetime of service to others. She is an active member of St Paul's Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights, serving on the Global Mission Action Group and Apostleship Commission. She also serves on the state level of the Episcopal Church, as a member of the

Episcopal Bishop of Ohio's Commission of Global and Domestic Mission, and she is a board member of the statewide Episcopal Community Services Foundation.

As if that is not enough, Meredith began volunteering to help Tanzanian children immediately upon graduating from Syracuse University and before entering CWRU law school. She spent a year in Tanzania volunteering at the

Rift Valley Children's Village (www.tanzaniachildrensfund.org) as a preschool teacher. Meredith became fluent in Swahili because "I spoke only English in a class of 10 children who spoke only Swahili."

Meredith has spent about two years volunteering in Tanzania. While attending CWRU law school (she graduated in May), she spent a semester as an intern in the judges' chambers at the International War Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda. However, she returned every summer to volunteer in a bush clinic founded and operated by Dr. Frank Artress and his wife Susan Gustafson in Karatu, Tanzania.

Frank had been a practicing anesthesiologist in California and nearly died during a climb of Tanzania's highest mountain, an episode which inspired him and his wife to sell their California home and belongings and move to Tanzania. There, they created a bush clinic, supported by the Foundation of African Medicine and Education, www.fameafrica.org. Meredith plans to return there in September as coordinator of American volunteers and Tanzanian staff on site. Her fluency in Swahili will be very useful.

Meredith has always paid her own way as a volunteer, but since she just finished law school in May she is low on

funds, and could use sponsorship. She will not earn a salary but needs money for living and traveling expenses. Volunteers are expected to cover all their own expenses.

In addition to all of the service to others mentioned above, Meredith founded and is the executive director of the African Orphan Education Fund, which helps children in the region pursue formal education. Her fund has already assisted students, including the first student from the Rift Valley Children's Village to ever attend college and law school.

Meredith wants to ensure that other children in the village and surrounding area can improve their lives through education.

For more information about the African Orphan Education Fund visit www.africanorphanfund.org.

If you want to tell Meredith how proud you are that she is a member of our community or if you have questions, you can reach her at mbowen13@aol.com.

Bob Cheshier, Caroline Morgan, and Ann Farmer are members of the Global Mission Action Group at St Paul's Episcopal Church.



Meredith Bowen with Vincente, a child sponsored by St Paul's Church.

Community gardening beats high food prices, celebrates diversity

Christine McBurney

Stories abound these days about urban gardening and transforming that big green square that is your lawn. With food prices on the rise, community gardening is ready for a comeback.

Cleveland Heights has three gardens of our own: the Canterbury Garden, the Oxford Garden, and the Hampshire Road Garden. That number could increase according to Lois Rose, master gardener and leader of the Hampshire Road Garden.

"A huge number of people want to garden," she says. Rose, who earned the title, master gardener, through the Ohio State University Extension program, is working with that organization to find more spaces in Cleveland Heights that can host community gardens.

For the Hampshire crew, the program has supplied seeds, given advice, donated plants and trained Rose. Members are also involved in numerous projects such as volunteering to teach the art and science of gardening.

Nestled between two imposing double houses, white butterflies flit about the Hampshire Road Community Garden, which hosts everything from the ugliest of squash to the loveliest of roses. The garden celebrates 30 years of existence this year.

On this warm June afternoon, humans, too, are buzzing around. Jim Kazan tends the back fence as Jan Curry dashes into the garden during lunch to

care for her tomato plants. She's had a plot for "many, many years," she says, crouching down in full business attire to pluck weeds. Upon being asked why she started her plot she answers, "Cleveland Heights has big beautiful trees. I have no sun in my yard."

The gardeners are a mix that attests to the diversity of the city. Don Snyder, a professional photographer who has had a plot since he and his wife moved to Cleveland Heights 18 years ago, estimates that one third are Russian senior citizens. All signs are printed in both languages and a translator attends the community work days.

As an assistant to Rose, Snyder cares for the garden's technical and financial needs. According to him there is a waiting list of 22 people. "There is not a lot of turnover in this garden," he says.

The city of Cleveland Heights does not charge the gardeners rent but requires a small fee of \$20 per year which covers water consumption. "The city has bent over backwards for the garden," Snyder says. And the only commitment, outside of tending to your plot (you will be notified if your weeds are out of control), is three community workdays in spring, midsummer and fall. The members are planning a beet throwing contest this year.

Although not technically organic, the garden is "biodynamic." There are rules about which products gardeners can and cannot use.

With soaring food prices, Snyder



thinks the waiting list will grow. "I haven't bought store lettuce since May," he says. "I appreciate it now."

For information on joining the waiting list at the Hampshire Road Garden contact the city of Cleveland Heights Community Relations Department.

Or, if you can't wait, contact the Ohio State University Extension Program at <http://extension.osu.edu/> to see how you can help create more community garden space in your neighborhood.

Christine McBurney, like so many of us, used to live on Hampshire Road. She's the theatre arts department chair at Shaker Heights High School, a performer, writer, and proud Heights High soccer mom.



Top: From left Valentina Kartakova, Ian Hoffman, James Redhed, Dwight Olson, Wade Dougherty, Svetlana Sornikova, Paul Springstub and other members of the Hampshire Garden spread wood-chips on opening day.

Bottom: From left Eugenia Vainberg, Efim Yankelevich, and Nancy Strauss enjoy the community spirit of the garden.

Change your travel vacation to a successful Heights "staycation"

Randy Martin

With the rise in gas prices, folks are changing their traditional summer plans from a travel vacation to a "staycation" at home. Here are a few tips to make your staycation the best it can be.

Mark your staycation days on the calendar. Your staycation should have the same weight as a vacation. Since it's time you and your family are choosing to spend together, pick the weeks, mark them on the calendar, and treat them just like you would if you were driving somewhere expensive.

Create plans for daily and nightly activities. Don't just wing it. Rent movies, move your TV outside for

nighttime viewing, hook up outdoor stereo speakers, gather books to read and games to play. And, don't let being at home get in the way! If you had driven a thousand miles to be on vacation, you wouldn't come home to have your teeth cleaned. Don't do it on staycation.

Plan day trips. Staying at home doesn't mean you can't go out of the house. Maybe take a day trip to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, or the West Side Market, or an Indian's game. Or go to your local beach or pool.

Review your outdoor living conditions. Often, patios and decks are not considered to be part of our home's decorating plan, but they're really extensions of the indoor living space so furniture should be comfortable and

stylish. Your space will feel better if furniture and the grill are arranged to fit the space and the traffic patterns your family follows.

Clean your spaces, indoor and out. But do it BEFORE your official staycation dates. You don't work on vacation; don't work on staycation. When that first day of staycation arrives, spend it sitting on your stylish patio furniture, reading a book and sipping on your favorite beverage, instead of sweeping the porch.

Plan special meals. Have family members pick their favorite foods. Let them make dinner, set the table, and clean up. Get your grill up to speed or up to date. If you use disposable dishes and utensils on vacation, use

them on staycation. Or not. It is, after all, YOUR staycation!

Invite your friends. Make arrangements for neighbors, friends, and relatives to drop in for a mini-party. Have them bring food and beverages and hold a volleyball or horseshoe tournament.

Bring back the good old days. Don't forget cameras, pictures, backyard camping, s'mores, and campfires (using a fire pit or a chiminea).

Staycation should be fun. And fun should start at home.

Randy Martin is the marketing director for Reflections Interior Design in the beautiful Cedar Fairmount district.

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