

## UH council, mayor spar over charter review commission

Sue Pardee

The University Heights city council meeting on Sept. 15 will determine whether the city proceeds with a charter review that could eventually lead to a city manager form of government.

At issue is an ordinance establishing a commission to look into updating the city's charter. Council members voted 5-2 in favor of the ordinance at the council meeting on Sept. 2. Mayor Beryl Rothschild vetoed it the next day. It was, she said, only the second time she'd taken that action in her three decades as mayor.

Council members will decide whether to override or sustain that veto when they meet Sept. 15. If the ordinance

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## Annual tour displays heritage and beauty of Cleveland Heights homes

John Satola

There's a certain sense of adventure in exploring places that, while familiar, still retain a sense of mystery. These are the places that we've always wondered about, be they a building, a home, a forest or a field.

The 32nd annual Heights Heritage Home and Garden Tour will reveal the stories behind some of the city's most interesting residences. The self-guided tour will be held on Sept. 21, from noon until 6 p.m. It is sponsored by the Heights Community Congress, a non profit organization dedicated to social justice, fair housing and building community.

This year's theme is "Back to the Future." Six homes and three gardens are featured, along with the newly renovated Church of the Saviour at 2537 Lee Road. Each stop is an example of the rich architectural diversity found in Cleveland Heights.

Participants must purchase a ticket to learn the tour locations. Each participant gets a souvenir book that includes a map, a description of each site, as well as information on its history. Souvenir books are also available at every stop.

Refreshments will be served at the Church of the Savior throughout the afternoon.

The weekend kicks off on Saturday, Sept. 20, with a preview party at the Oakwood Country Club, 1516 Warrensville Center Road. The evening's activities include a sneak peak of selected homes during the Candlelight



PHOTO BY STEPHEN CUTRI, CUTRI PHOTO ARTS

This is one of six homes featured in the 32nd annual Heights Heritage Home and Garden Tour, sponsored by Heights Community Congress. The tour runs from noon to 6 p.m., on Sept. 21, 2008.

Preview Tour, dining, dancing, and a silent auction. Music will be provided by Cleveland Heights' own High Society. Brendan Ring, the owner of Nighttown and honorary chair of the tour, will serve as host. The festivities start at 6 p.m. Dressy attire is required.

Tickets for the tour are \$20 each, and can be bought at various locations in the Heights. Tickets for the preview party start at \$75. Tickets for the tour and the preview party can also be purchased online at [www.heightscongress.org](http://www.heightscongress.org). For group rates, call the Heights Community Congress office at 216-321-6775.

For more information on the Heights Heritage Home and Garden Tour and Preview Party, please call Heights Community Congress or visit the organization's website.

*John Satola is president of the board of trustees of the Heights Community Congress.*

## Economic downturn? Try economic opportunity in the Heights

Tobias Rittner

In the 1980s, homebuyers saw real estate as a precious commodity. Double-digit interest rates were the norm and the prospect of getting into a home was a lifelong proposition. Achieving the American dream was not easy.

Something changed in the mid-1990s: incomes spiked, interest rates tumbled, and the perception of real estate changed. By the early 2000s we had become a country of quick flippers. Loads of average people tried to win big by buying property at low prices, sinking small amounts of capital into improvements, and then reselling the house for a big gain. It was a win-win for everybody. Communities collected more property tax income while flippers modeled the American dream quickly by moving into bigger and better homes.

Unfortunately, a simple concept was lost in this transformation: For the average person real estate was never supposed to be a quick-flip financial windfall. The artificial inflation of the 1990s sparked

a real estate revolution that catalyzed a financing boom and made home ownership a much more transient endeavor. People normally satisfied to find the perfect starter home and live in it for 10 years before moving began to skip the starter home and head straight for the big house. Mortgage lending skyrocketed and many people incurred substantial debt obligations wrapped up in complex financing schemes. Adjustable rates, balloon payments and no-interest financing permeated the landscape, heavily contributing to our current situation.

Today some people say we are in an economic downturn or a recession. But are we? Much debate has taken place on this topic over the past eight months, intensified by the presidential election. Gas and food costs, for example, have certainly increased, but a significant argument can be made that these everyday commodities were heading for an inevitable increase regardless of current economic factors. And, despite those negative pressures, the economy still grew last quarter and the municipal bond

*continued on page 3*

Purchase tour tickets at the following:

- Appletree Books\***  
12419 Cedar Rd.
- Borders Books & Music\***  
Severance Town Center  
3466 Mayfield Rd.
- Charlie Fabrics & Home Furnishings**  
2562 Noble Rd.
- Cleveland Heights City Hall**  
Community Relations Dept.  
40 Severance Circle
- Dewey's Pizza\***  
2194 Lee Rd.
- Heights Community Congress**  
2163 Lee Rd.
- Heights Garden Center\***  
13410 Cedar Rd.
- Paysage International**  
3451 Fairmount Blvd.
- Revive**  
2248 Lee Rd.
- Stone Oven**  
2267 Lee Rd.
- Vidstar Video\***  
1836 1/2 Coventry Rd.
- Zagara's Marketplace\***  
1940 Lee Rd.

\*Open on Sunday

## Miles Coburn: A Man of the Heights



COURTESY JOHN CAROLL UNIVERSITY

Miles Coburn in one of his elements.

Greg Donley

Saturday morning, August 16, was one of those clear and sunny Northeast Ohio mornings that makes you wonder why anyone would go anywhere else for a summer vacation. It seemed as if half the population of the Heights was out walking, jogging, gardening, or just taking in the day.

The conditions were especially good for a long bike ride, and many cyclists (myself included) spent a few hours on the road that morning. One of us didn't make it home. Miles Coburn was hit and fatally injured at the intersection of State Route 44 and Music Street in Newbury Township.

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# HEIGHTS OBSERVER

The *Heights Observer* is a citizen-based news source published monthly by FutureHeights, a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life.  
2163 Lee Rd., #103,  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.  
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the *Heights Observer*, its publisher and staff, or of FutureHeights, its staff and board of trustees.  
Seed funding for the *Heights Observer* generously provided by the Cyrus Eaton Foundation, the Dominion Foundation, and the Katherine and Lee Chilcote Foundation.

# UH charter review commission – why now?

Win Weizer

I got concerned when I first heard about the charter review commission for University Heights.

I wanted to know where the idea came from. And more importantly, I wondered why now?

A partial answer comes from council members Steven Bullock, Frank Consolo and Kevin Murphy when they said in the *Sun Press* that they are interested in a city manager form of a government. This would require changing the charter. The review commission is the first step.

But their answer does not address a central question: why change the form of government? And their answer doesn't give the public full disclosure.

The council has been discussing this topic since the beginning of the year, when it met for a retreat. But that fact has been left out of releases about the need for a charter review commission. It is more than disingenuous just to present the commission as something that is necessary for the good of the city. It is an insult to the intelligence and the thoughtfulness of the residents of University Heights.

During the retreat, the council heard a presentation from Sy Murray of the Levin College at Cleveland State University. He is a nationally respected expert on governmental structure, and had been a city manager for many years.

But he did not recommend that form of government for University

Heights. He rather suggested that the council instead have a city administrator, who would be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council.

After the retreat the council had a number of "council of the whole" committee meetings to discuss these options. These meeting apparently failed to achieve consensus among the council members. Now suddenly we find that it has become imperative to form a charter review commission.

If our council was not engaged in political maneuvering, it should have been willing to make its debate about this issue a lot more public. Having public hearings would be an appropriate way to determine whether the city's residents want to hire a city manager, a city administrator, or leave the system as it is.

But council members seem to have chosen not to allow public discussion over the past seven months. While they have met the bare letter of the open meetings law, they have violated the spirit of that law, which lets citizens know what their government is doing.

For example, the Aug. 11 agenda of the council's civic information committee included the creation of the charter review commission with "change in form of government issues." The announcement of this meeting was sent to the clerk of council on Wednesday, Aug. 6, too late for newspaper publication that could have informed the community about the meeting.

Even though council committee meetings traditionally do not have a

mechanism for public comment, interested parties could have become aware of what was happening. The tight lead time certainly prevented the full dissemination of the committee agenda among the community.

Council persons present on Aug. 11 voted to prepare an ordinance to create the commission. They also debated how the commission would be formed.

On Aug. 13 (again a Wednesday preventing press notification to the community), Councilman Consolo requested a special council meeting be held on Aug. 19 to vote on this ordinance. Apparently, the vice mayor's insistence that changes be considered to the prepared ordinance led to a sudden cancellation of that meeting and a transfer of the ordinance to the Sept. 2 meeting. On Sept. 2 council members voted in favor of an ordinance to create a review commission; and, the next day, the mayor vetoed it. What will happen next is unknown, but certainly the residents of University Heights deserve better of our representatives.

When we elect someone to "represent" us, it implies that they are willing to listen to what we (those that they represent) have to say. Unfortunately, in this case few if any have been aware of the discussions to be able to give their input.

*Win Weizer is a 17-year resident of University Heights and a former member of University Heights city council.*

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS continued from page 1

goes forward, a commission could consider shifting power and control from the mayor's office to a city manager.

Councilman Frank Consolo proposed the ordinance at the Sept. 2 council meeting, basing the process on one used 30 years ago when the city charter was last reviewed. Heated discussion occurred among council members over how the commission members and chair would be selected. An amended ordinance passed, with Vice Mayor Adele Zucker and Councilman Peter Bernardo voting against the proposal.

Zucker suggested amendments that she later withdrew. "I see no reason for rushing into this," she said. "All I want is that the public be informed. I think

it's time we slow down."

As amended, the charter review commission would include eleven members. Each of the seven council members would appoint one, the mayor would appoint one, and the committee of the whole would appoint three.

Council also passed a motion to immediately publicize the ordinance and invite interested residents to provide a letter and resume showing their interest in serving on the commission.

Several residents commented that their only information had come from reading a recent *Sun Press* article. In a written statement, former councilwoman Win Weizer asked "Why now? In part, that question was answered by councilmen Bullock, Consolo, and Murphy stating their preference for a city manager form of government. To change the governmental structure in University Heights to that form would take a charter change, hence the commission is required."

Former councilwoman Susan Infeld criticized the move. "It sounds as if some of the council [members] have an agenda, and [the process] isn't as open as one would like."

Some residents were supportive. Mary Bondy said, "I know many, many citizens who really want change."

*Sue Pardee is an observer of UH City Council for the League of Women Voters. Fellow observer Wendy Deuring and freelance writer Afi Scruggs also contributed to this article.*

Startup funding for the  
*Heights Observer*  
provided by

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# School reform is alive and well

Susie Kaeser

School reform isn't new to the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District. Over the last six years, district educators have been engaged in intensive reflection, research, planning and action guided by more than a dozen educational experts. The process has led to a powerful transformation in expectations and practices, right under our noses! As a result, the schools are on a course that is forward thinking, great for kids and empowering to educators.

Last spring, as part of its collaboration with the Wallace Foundation and Harvard University, district leaders put that course on paper for public awareness and reaction. Their document reveals high and hopeful expectations for public education, children and educators. They reclaim public education as a positive force in the lives of children. Their vision rejects the popular public narrative that has given up on public education and the potential for minority and low-income children to thrive. It proclaims a determination to make sure that our schools and children succeed.

The vision statement, which can be reviewed on the school district's website, leads with a simple declaratory statement: "We believe in our students!"

That statement is elaborated by 11 bullet points, including one that states: "Improved academic achievement is the result of the professional practices of our teachers and leaders, not the economic, ethnic or linguistic characteristics of students."

This simple statement affirms the capacity of all children to learn and the power and responsibility of educators to make a difference. It rejects the deep-seated attitude that has permeated popular thinking that certain children just can't achieve because of their background. This is critical in a school district where more than 55% of the student body is below the poverty line and 80% of students are African-American. Our educators are taking ownership for the success of the students who we have entrusted them to educate. They are determined to interrupt patterns of underachievement.

But there is no more effective approach to student success than educators who are empowered to be their best! The plan calls for a highly effective staff, effective use of data to guide strategic action, a focus on global content, use of appropriate instructional materials and methodologies, and the professional development of staff.

It's not simple idealism, either. The district's strategy for "preparing all students for success in a global economy" depends on educators working together, and addresses this as necessary to achieving their commitment: "We believe in the power of our collective knowledge and, therefore, through the use of our Professional Learning Communities, we will build capacity to meet all students' needs..."

So what are Professional Learning Communities? The district believes that teachers can accomplish so much more when competition and isolation are replaced with collaborative teams that share their knowledge, teach and motivate each other and pool their best ideas to devise interventions that help children. Collaboration inspires growth and brings out the best in teachers. Professional Learning Communities hope to prove the sum is bigger than its parts.

The Professional Learning Communities (PLC) innovation has taken hold over this five year transformation process. A recent conversation with the fifth grade team at my neighborhood elementary school about their PLC affirmed that their collaboration has helped their students meet the high

expectations that have been set for them. They like their jobs and love their students. Collaboration has been the key to keeping stress at bay and focusing on serving their students.

And, unexpectedly, the real power of this strategy may be its effect on students. One teacher explained that her students have adopted her increased confidence in them. They no longer doubt the possibility of their own success. Success has become a new self-fulfilling prophecy.

By writing down their vision, beliefs and strategies for all to see, district leaders have opened the door to public scrutiny and support. Take notice, learn more and get behind it. When the community joins forces with its educators, all kinds of dreams can become reality.

*Susie Kaeser is an advocate for public education. She founded Reaching Heights, a citizen advocacy organization for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools, in 1989 and retired as executive director last December. She is a resident of Cleveland Heights and her two adult children are graduates of the Heights schools.*

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN continued from page 1

industry witnessed the two largest issuance volume months in U.S. history this summer.

So are we really in a downturn or is something else happening? Perhaps this is all just a "correction" that will bring our real estate appetite to a more appropriate level. While the media focus largely on economic problems related to sub-prime mortgage lending, many industries are making significant economic progress. Take the home repair, rehabilitation, landscaping and renovation industries, for instance. Here in the Heights home improvement is booming and the trend does not look to be slowing down anytime soon.

Erik Fridlund, co-owner of Reserve Restoration, says the company has "more business than they know what to do with," and that this summer has been very successful." This news comes from a company that specializes in extensive (and expensive) projects that encompass a comprehensive approach to improving older homes, including painting, window glazing, and extensive repair and restoration elements. Reserve Restoration has been inundated with project requests this year and sees the current real estate market as an opportunity for homeowners to reinvest in their properties.

A look around Cleveland Heights reveals more of this economic "correction" taking place with hundreds of homes currently under some type of serious improvement. Landscapers and painting companies are doing a brisk business and glass block window installers are on a 2-3 week backlog for new installations. In the neighborhood bordered by Lee Road, Cedar Road, Coventry Road and Fairmount Boulevard alone,

dozens of houses are witnessing significant rehabilitation from painting, architectural repair, and landscaping to window, door, and roofing projects. That's a recession?

Heights residents Mike and Michelle Riechman made the decision to replace all of the windows in their home, a costly expense and a decision that flies in the face of concerns over property values. Said Michelle, "we realize with today's real-estate realities that we will be making a longer-term commitment to our home in Cleveland Heights than we had perhaps originally expected and that we might as well get the most enjoyment and affordability out of our home now. With the potential for an increase in heating costs it only makes sense for us to invest in keeping our house efficient and competitive in the real estate market."

So where does this all leave us? As a community we will always face challenges related to the cost and availability of natural resources and commodities. America has struggled through these ebbs and flows for years. Today, homeowners are looking at longer investment horizons and more significant commitments to their homes and neighborhoods, positive side-effects that should be embraced in our community.

A large investment is taking place right here in our backyard, building a stronger and more substantial housing stock for the long-term economic viability of the Heights, certainly not a bad outcome.


*Toby Rittner lives on Coleridge Road and is an active community volunteer.*


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# Cleveland Heights City Council

## Highlights of July 2008 meetings



**Monday, July 7, 2008**

(All Council Members present)

### Special Improvement Districts

Council passed public services plans for the Cedar-Fairmount and Cedar-Lee Special Improvement Districts. For 2009-10 the Cedar-Fairmount budget will be \$51,000; and the Cedar-Lee budget, \$125,000, both with a 3% annual increase through 2013.

### Replacement of garbage trucks

Council authorized the purchase of two refuse collection trucks from Bell Equipment at a cost not to exceed \$440,000. Councilmember Bonnie Caplan explained that, because two trucks were destroyed in a fire on June 9, this was an emergency situation and did not allow time for a lengthy bidding process. Mayor Kelley thanked the city of Lyndhurst for helping Cleveland Heights maintain its garbage collection schedules during the emergency.

### Tax abatement

Council voted for two resolutions asking for increased tax abatement in residential construction projects. The first, which revised the terms of tax exemptions granted in 2002 and 2005, called for a seven-year, 100% abatement of assessed property taxes for Bluestone Development, the Courtyards of Severance, and 500 Severance Place. The second resolution expanded the Community Reinvestment Area, established by resolution in 2002 and known as Boulevard Townhomes (at Eu-

clid Heights Boulevard), and called for 100% abatement of assessed property taxes for seven years.

Councilmember Tumeo commented that these measures abate only the increased value of improved property. The owners still pay taxes on the land and the schools don't lose money. Councilmembers also noted that although the city has a substantial supply of housing, as evidenced by the number of foreclosed homes, new condos are far more likely to attract buyers. Councilmembers also pointed out that Cleveland Heights development must compete with new housing developments in Cleveland and University Circle, which are offering generous tax abatements.

*LWV observers:*

*Kay Heylman and Katherine Solender*

**July 21, 2008**

(Bonnie Caplan excused)

### 2009 tax budget

In a hearing held prior to the regular meeting, council reviewed the 2009 tax budget. Revenue was estimated at \$42,983,219 and expenditures at \$42,974,988. Council will revisit the budget in the fall and make any necessary adjustments for next year. Moody's and Standard & Poor's have both reaffirmed the city's AA rating. There were no comments from council or the public during the hearing.

Council passed the budget during the regular meeting. Councilmember Ken Montlack noted that city hall staff

will receive no salary increases and that two major bond issues were going on the market on July 22.

### Vice City Manager Ruane retiring

Vice City Manager Kathleen Ruane will retire at the end of July after more than 29 years with the city. [League reporters learned after the meeting that Susanna Niermann O'Neil, director of community services, would absorb Ms. Ruane's duties.]

### Community Center and park

Council amended the use regulations and rates for admission and other services for the Community Center and parks for fall and winter 2008-2009. Some of these were read into the record at the July 7 meeting and can be found online in the minutes of that meeting at [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com).

### Business loan

Under the Revolving Loan Fund Program, council authorized a loan to Auburn Partners, Ltd. for the purchase of inventory to open an Elgin Furniture store at 2040 Lee Road. The ten-year loan is for \$200,000 at 3% interest. Opening is planned for October or November.

### HUD One-Dollar-Home Program

Council approved the sale of city-owned property at 3519 Edison Road, 1175 Quilliams Road, and 1429 Westover Road to the Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) for rehabilitation and resale to an owner-occupant as part of the HUD

One-Dollar-Home Program. HRRC would pay all closing costs. The city owns 15 such homes, which will eventually be sold for renovation.

Earlier in the meeting council authorized the city manager to advertise for bids for the demolition of some city-owned HUD properties. Council member Mark Tumeo commented that house demolition bids should include recycling of house parts salvaged from the teardowns.

The HUD One-Dollar-Home Program allows local governments to purchase for one dollar homes owned by the Federal Housing Administration due to foreclosure and not resold within six months of foreclosure. Local communities can then fix up and resell the properties in order to revitalize neighborhoods.

### Traffic light removal on E. Overlook

Council authorized an agreement with CT Consultants (engineering services) to conduct a signal removal analysis for the East Overlook/Coventry intersection.

*LWV Observers:*

*Blanche Valancy and Carol Gibson*

*This summary of the League of Women Voters Cuyaboga Area-Heights Chapter reports of Cleveland Heights City Council meetings contains member observations and selected highlights and is not an official statement by the League of Women Voters. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of this report.*

MILES COBURN continued from page 1

The tragedy reverberated through the community and was widely covered in the print and broadcast media. People stood in line for hours at the wake, and the following Saturday morning brought a steady procession of bicyclists on Music Street, clearly paying homage.

The extent and depth of feeling were a direct result of the way Miles Coburn lived his life, with a rich variety of involvements that exemplify what living in the Heights can be. The many hundreds of people who attended the wake at John Carroll University on the Wednesday evening after the accident represented a striking range of connections.

There were the colleagues from John Carroll, where he had been a professor of biology since the early 1980s. There were current and former students. Fellow environmentalists. Family members. People from the arts community, who knew Miles as the quiet, friendly husband of Heights Arts director Peggy Spaeth — a guy who would gladly haul chairs around for a cookie or two. Bicycling companions. Neighbors from Kingston or Queenston or Princeton roads. Other families whose kids attended Canterbury Elementary, Wiley Middle, or Heights High schools. Scouts and leaders from Boy Scout Troop 22, where his son Kevin had become an Eagle Scout. The jazz band director from Heights High, where Kevin played, and his daughter Rosey still does. Kids from Project Qué?, a program

he initiated to help Hispanic youths from the near West Side get involved in math and science.

The line took a long time to move, and meanwhile all these people spent that time speaking with each other about Miles; about the shared interests and passions that brought them there; about kids going to college, new jobs, daily goings-on. The cumulative impression was of the unmeasurable value this man's life had contributed to so many around him — and a reminder of how even one life can so strongly bind a community together.

Miles grew up in University Heights, and many of his siblings still live around here. Peggy, too, is a local kid. They could have gone anywhere, but they both decided to stay here and make this a better place, and their efforts have succeeded admirably. People like Miles and his family, with quiet determination and good humor, have continued to make the Heights area a wonderful place in which to live, work, play, go to school, raise a family, walk the dog, ride a bike — to live life to the fullest. The more of us who live by that example, the better.

A Ride for Miles is planned for September 20. Visit [www.rideformiles.org](http://www.rideformiles.org) for information and to register.

*Greg Donley is a longtime Cleveland Heights resident.*



## CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS SEPTEMBER 2008 MEETINGS

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

Mon	1	<b>LABOR DAY – CITY HALL &amp; COMMUNITY CENTER CLOSED *</b>	
Tue	2	5:30 pm	Landmark Commission
Tue	2	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole
Tue	2	7:30 pm	City Council Meeting
Wed	3	4:00 pm	Architectural Board of Review
Mon	8	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole/ Public Safety and Health Committee
Tue	9	7:00 pm	Citizens Advisory Committee
Tue	9	7:30 pm	Cable Television Commission
Tue	9	7:40 pm	Recreation Advisory Board
Wed	10	7:00 pm	Planning Commission
Mon	15	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole
Mon	15	7:30 pm	City Council Meeting
Tue	16	4:00 pm	Architectural Board of Review
Tue	16	7:00 pm	Citizens Advisory Committee
Wed	17	8:00 am	Financial Institutions Advisory Committee
Wed	17	7:30 pm	Board of Zoning Appeals
Fri	19	9:00 am	Commission on Aging
Mon	22	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole

\* For the week of the holiday, refuse and recycling collection will be delayed by one day.

<sup>1</sup> The Superior Schoolhouse is located at Superior Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard.

<sup>2</sup> The Community Center is located at Monticello Boulevard at Mayfield Road.

<sup>3</sup> The Senior Activity Center is located inside the Community Center, Monticello & Mayfield.

Visit [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com) for any changes or additions. For more information on the above meetings, call 291-4444.



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# CH-UH Public Library Board

## Highlights of July 21, 2008 meeting



### AT&T box

The board granted AT&T a perpetual easement for a cabinet on the grounds of the University Heights Library. Library Director Stephen Wood remarked that granting the easement would give the board more leverage in deciding where the cabinet went.

### New Macs for Lee Road Library

The board considered a request to purchase \$84,000 worth of hardware and software, including a number of Macintosh computers. Director Wood made several points justifying the purchase of new Macs: 55 library computers are six years old, the Mac graphic capabilities are attractive, and the schools are using Mac laptops in the "1 to 1 program" a learning program offered by Apple, Inc. Because it is easier to network and update like computers the new Macs would all be placed in the main library on Lee Road. None would be in the branch libraries.

Several board members engaged in a discussion about the merits of the proposed computer purchase. Board member Eric Silverman questioned the library enabling video game playing on high-graphic computers. Director Wood countered that gaming can be a draw to involve teens in the library, but both Silverman and board member Glenn Billington asked if there was evidence for that premise. Director Wood further noted both educational (gaming enhances development of cognitive skills) and PR

advantages (teens are future voters who will decide whether to support libraries) advantages. Board member Jim Posch agreed with the director that allowing and providing gaming was good customer service. Director Wood agreed to have the staff further evaluate the issue.

### New director search

Board President Gerald Blake reported that interviews of final candidates for Director Wood's replacement would take place in early August. The board expects to announce the new director at the August board meeting.

### Librarian contributes to publication

*The Oxford Companion to Crime and Mystery Writing* will include a chapter on American police procedures created by Noble Branch Librarian Joanne Vicarel.

### Program on Middle East conflict

Director Wood announced that planning continues for a program the library will co-sponsor with the Anti-Defamation League called "The Middle East Conflict: an Historical Perspective."

LWV observer: Anne S. McFarland  
See disclaimer on page 4.

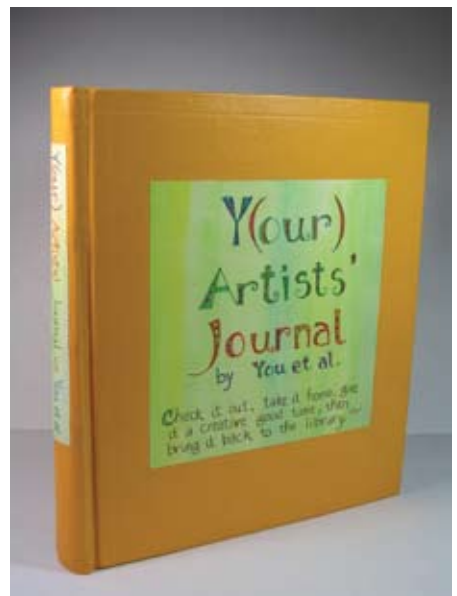


# Y(our) Artists' Journal by You

Tonya Gibson

On September 15, the Coventry Village Library (located at 1925 Coventry Road) will have a new addition to its Local Authors collection. This new collaborative journal is a book-in-progress. It started with a blank book handmade by Cleveland Heights book binder, Ellie Strong. Then several local artists and writers decorated a few pages with images and words. It is now available for anyone to add to it with words, drawings, or collages. Check it out at the Coventry Village Library, take it home, give it a creative good time, and return it within 14 days. Check it out later to see how it has grown!

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



Stop in and check out this unique book!

TONYA GIBSON

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# Featured Heights Libraries Programs

Don't miss out on these exciting programs:

### Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road 321.3400  
Teen Sci-Fi Book Club  
Thursday, September 4, 6:30 p.m.  
Explorastory  
Fridays, September 5 - 26, 10 a.m.  
Step out of Time  
Thursday, September 11, 7 p.m.  
Library Board Meeting  
Monday, September 15, 7 p.m.

### Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road 932.3600  
Anime Film Festival  
Monday, September 15, 6:30 p.m.  
Twilight Tales  
Thursday, September 18, 7:15 p.m.  
Book and a Movie  
September 3 & 24, 6 p.m.

### Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road 291.5665  
Drop Everything and Read  
Fridays, September 5 & 26, 4 p.m.  
Library Players  
Monday, September 8, 6:30 p.m.  
Mystery Evening  
Thursday, September 11, 7 p.m.  
Great Book Discussion  
Tuesday, September 16, 7:30 p.m.

### University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road 321.4700  
Family Story Stop  
Wednesday, September 3 - 24, 10:30 a.m.  
The Senior Spot  
Wednesday, September 3 - 24, 12:30 p.m.  
Rock, Paper, Scissors  
Sunday, September 14, 2:30 p.m.  
Monday at the Movie  
September 8 - 29, 1pm & 7 p.m.

# Heights libraries and Cedar Center MotoPhoto present: the first annual Lee Road Library Tech Festival

Tonya Gibson

Join us for our first Tech Expo on Saturday, November 1, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. at the Lee Road Library. You will get the opportunity to interact with some of the most innovative technologies from organizations all over Northeast Ohio including demonstrations from the Bio-robotics Lab at Case Western Reserve, super cars by R/T Auto Evolutions and the latest gear from stores like H.H. Greg, Best Buy, and lots more.

### Heights libraries digital photography contest

As a lead into Tech Festival, the Heights libraries have partnered with the Cedar Center MotoPhoto to help organize the first annual Heights Libraries Digital Photography Contest. Shoot your way into digital stardom by sending us an entry! Submissions will be accepted at the Lee Road Library starting September 1, 2008. The last date for submission is October 14, 2008. Visit [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org) for a full list of rules and regulations.

All photo contest entries will be on display at the Tech Festival. The public will have the opportunity to vote on a winner the day of the event. Make sure you stop by so that you can vote for your favorite semi-finalist!

You do not have to be a professional to participate in our photo contest. If you have a digital camera and are unsure of what to do with it, sign up for Digital Photography 101, taught by Cedar Center MotoPhoto. These classes are free and take place at the Lee Road Library's community office. Seating is limited, so registration is required. Call 216.932.3600.

Whether you participate in one or all of our events, you're sure to have fun and learn something new! Three classes will be held this month, on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 1 p.m.; on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 6 p.m.; and on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 10 a.m. Registration is required.

Learn about memory cards, proper shooting skills, flash settings, battery consumptions, and resolution. Also learn how to view and save your photographs and delete the shots that are not so favorable. We will briefly cover the many ways of transferring your images to your computer and teach proper archiving so they can be cherished for future generations. The last part of the course talks about the creative side of digital photography. We will introduce the many ways to manipulate photographs into the masterful works of art that you will want to hang on the wall.

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

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# CH-UH Board of Education



## Highlights of July 15, 2008 meeting

(All Board members present)

### Laptop computer grants

The board approved the grants of laptop computers to teachers and middle school students. A policy for acceptable use of the laptops was given first reading.

### Lunch fees increased

Type A lunches will increase by twenty-five cents next year to cover costs.

### Coventry School

The board heard a presentation for proposed use of the former Coventry School. The board would like to rent out the building on a long-term, perhaps five-year, lease. According to the proposal the lessee would be required to bring the building to good condition, including putting on a new roof. Further proposed conditions of the lease would include having at least \$1,000,000 available to cover costs of renovation and upkeep. The board engaged in considerable discussion about whether this was too large

a sum and would frighten away potential lessees. Annual rent was not specified, but the board considered whether this should be highly negotiable since the lessee would maintain the building. Mr. Shergalis, director of business services, urged general agreement so he could advertise the building's availability for the fall. When the building is rented, the board will no longer have the expense of heating and maintaining it for the period of the lease.

LWV observer: Anne Cook  
See disclaimer on page 4.

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# "All About Heights High"

## A welcome for new parents

Joy Henderson

A newly organized parent group at Heights High wants to make incoming parents feel welcome and informed about opportunities and options for their students. The Parent Connection Council (PCC) is a new version of the PTA and will host a New Parent Welcome on September 16, 7:30 p.m., at Heights High.

The group began meeting last spring and heard a common concern from parents—they felt disconnected from the school. "From those initial conversations, we decided that one of our first priorities should be to welcome and orient parents who are new to the school," Andrea Freeman, Co-President of the Parent Connection Council, said.

The event will include information about extracurricular activities, college readiness, and community resources for teens. Current Heights High parents will

share their experiences and offer suggestions for the incoming new parents.

Principal Marc Engolia (Legacy School) said that student achievement improves when parents know more about their student's school and connect with teachers and other parents. "We're so happy to partner with the PCC on this event," he said. "Current parents of upperclassmen have experiences that will be helpful to new parents."

The event is for parents of freshman students and parents of incoming older students.

For more information, contact one of the PCC Co-Presidents: Andrea Freeman at 382-0840 or [freedenmel@aol.com](mailto:freedenmel@aol.com) or Sheronda Hunter at 321-7670 or [ssi-hunt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ssi-hunt@sbcglobal.net).

Joy Henderson is the Parent/Community Liaison for Heights High.

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# What are they doing now?

Lita Gonzalez

Keep that information about our Heights graduates coming! I would love to hear from more Cleveland Heights and University Heights families about what their graduates are doing now. Email me at [lita@valancy.com](mailto:lita@valancy.com). Here's just a sampling of what some of our graduates have been up to.

### Class of 1976

Clifford A. Zucker earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in accounting and finance, *magna cum laude*, from Boston University's School of Business, 1980. In 2002 he became a partner with J.H. Cohn's Business Investigation Services Group in New Jersey, and represents financially troubled companies, unsecured or secured creditors during workout, turnaround and bankruptcy situations. He specializes in working with companies in the retail, transportation,

warehousing, distribution and health-care industries. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants, as well as the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors, American Bankruptcy Institute, and the Turnaround Management Association. Cliff and his wife, Lori, live in Westfield, NJ.

### Class of 1999

Shannon Barden owns and operates a tree service business in the Heights called Nature's Beauty Tree Service.

### Class of 2001

Brendan Knoblauch completed five years in the Marine Corps as an electronics technician with service in Okinawa, Japan; California; North Carolina and Iraq. Brendan is a dean's list double major in economics and philosophy, and is in his senior year at John Carroll University.

Abi Barden is in her second year as a school psychologist at Maple Heights High School.

### Class of 2003

Prince Williams is the new Ohio State University representative working with counselors, students and parents in the Cleveland area. While at Heights High School, he was a member of the National Honor Society and participated in the track, cross country, wrestling, and football teams. Prince is an alumnus of the Fisher College of Business, and was president of his fraternity and a varsity athlete at The Ohio State University.

Leah DeGolia received her teaching certificate for elementary education from DePaul University in Chicago last year. This summer she served as associate project director for the Amigos de las Americas Program in Nicaragua, help-

ing to supervise 55 volunteers living with families and engaging in community projects. Leah was first recruited to volunteer with Amigos when she was 16 after hearing a presentation at Heights High from students who had previously participated. She was a supervisor for Amigos in Honduras in the summer of 2005 and has been gratified to learn that former Heights High students she helped recruit are also continuing to participate in Amigos.

### Class of 2005

Elliot Barden is a senior at Miami University in Oxford, OH majoring in sports studies with a minor in business.

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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# New Saint Ann principal means business for education

Stephanie Applegate

According to American author and philosopher Richard Bach, we are all “learners, doers and teachers.” Meg Cosgriff, the new principal at Saint Ann School, certainly epitomizes this notion in that she has been all three at one point in her professional life: novice, practitioner and educator.

Cosgriff officially joined the Saint Ann community on July 1, but the buzz surrounding her new position commenced well before she moved into her office. In April, after extensive consultation, the principal search committee made its recommendation to Father Jim Singler, pastor of Saint Ann Parish. “Ms. Cosgriff brings to us all the academic and professional requirements we desired in a candidate. These include a master’s degree in educational administration from Ursuline College, elementary principal license, ten years elementary teaching experience, catechetical leader certificate, an understanding of the philosophy of Catholic education, evidence of continuing education, five years experience as a principal and two and a half years as an educational consultant. As a practicing Catholic who is a collaborative leader, she personifies all of the qualities desired from the surveys of students, faculty, parents, parish council and finance council, including an excellent and approachable communicator, knowledgeable in technology and experienced in marketing and development practices. That’s why we hired her.”

Cosgriff grew up in Euclid and attended St. William School and Regina High School before attending Ursuline College. She has been a teacher at St. Christine in Euclid, St. Clare in Lyndhurst, and St. Mary Magdalene in Willowick. She taught third grade and

junior high math and religion. However, sensing that she could better affect the lives of more children, Cosgriff sought her master’s degree in educational administration. In 2000, she became the principal of St. Jerome School in Cleveland. When asked about her most valuable contribution to St. Jerome School, Cosgriff cited both the increase in test scores and the raised academic standards of the school.

So why leave? It would seem that the personal philosophy of affecting the lives of more students drove her to seek out an even larger audience. Working as both principal and a chairperson for the Ohio Catholic Schools Accrediting Association in 2005, Ms. Cosgriff realized that she could further expand her personal philosophy. So in that same year, she launched her own business, Principal Support Services, which eventually led to a consulting position with the nonprofit Spirit Services, Inc. An organization that serves and supports Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Cleveland, Spirit Services, Inc. provides educational and technological assistance to improve learning and enrollment in Catholic schools. It was while she was with Spirit Services that Cosgriff acquired the skills that further advanced her talent in leadership, multitasking, marketing and grant writing. Consultant for fourteen schools in the diocese, Cosgriff enjoyed her work and the visible improvements she accomplished, but consulting allowed for only limited contact with students; Cosgriff wanted to be back where her heart was. And so when the position opened up at Saint Ann, she leaped at the chance.

Upon arriving at Saint Ann, Cosgriff called a faculty meeting to determine a framework for the upcoming school year. And, since the Saint Ann



Ms. Meg Cosgriff, the new principal at Saint Ann School, wants to raise the school’s profile.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICH PAPAS/ DREAMCATCHER STUDIOS

curriculum includes a legacy of faith development and service to others, both Cosgriff and the faculty decided upon the theme, “Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus.” This philosophy echoes that of children’s rights activist Marian Wright Edelman, who affirms that Christianity requires service to others and that the purpose of education is to leave “your community and world better than you found it.”

With a resolute goal in mind, Cosgriff’s next task is two-fold: marketing and academics. “I’d like to get the word out about Saint Ann School,” Cosgriff maintains. “It’s a hidden gem, the best-kept secret in the Heights.” Touting high test scores and graduates who get into the top high schools in the Cleveland area, Cosgriff hopes to further cement Saint Ann School as one of the best in the diocese by establishing both a Junior National Honor Society and a National Elementary Honor So-

ciety in the near future.

These challenges pale in comparison, Cosgriff jokes, with her first challenge upon becoming principal at St. Jerome. There was a fire in the gym/cafeteria. The lesson learned? “I’m glad I’m not in the construction business,” she laughs. The parents and students of Saint Ann School are, too.

We’d rather she stay in the education business.

*Stephanie Applegate is a life-long resident of Cleveland Heights and the mother of two boys. She also currently serves on the board of Heights Community Congress.*



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## Ruffing Montessori Intergenerational Project becomes a national model for volunteerism

Carol Provan

As part of a national effort to encourage youth philanthropy, Ruffing Middle School teacher and Cleveland Heights resident Cary Seidman was invited by the Independent Schools Network and its partner, Learning to Give, to submit a description of the Intergenerational Project conducted with the support of Judson Retirement Community. Learning to Give has a website to encourage youth philanthropy and offers specific

lesson plans to independent schools and youth groups, as well as parents, to promote service learning and volunteerism.

Cary’s detailed explanation of the annual project’s philosophy, methodology and learning objectives will enable other schools and groups to follow the Ruffing model, now honed by years of practice into a successful and meaningful experience for both students and older participants. To see the Middle School’s step-by-step lesson plan, go to:

[www.learningtogive.org/independent\\_schools/resource22.html](http://www.learningtogive.org/independent_schools/resource22.html)

Ruffing views service learning and community service as critical parts of the school curriculum. Such activities educate students about philanthropy, develop behaviors and skills and encourage voluntary citizen action throughout life.

*Carol Provan is director of development for Ruffing Montessori.*

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# First Watch Daytime Café serves up a smile

Christina Klenotic

Until a friend invited me there for a breakfast meeting, I thought First Watch was a medical supplies store. Tucked in the back of Cedar Center near Whole Foods, First Watch is actually a café that serves up breakfast, brunch and lunch...and wonderful customer service.

The restaurant's name is inspired by a nautical reference, referring to the first shift of the day. (Okay, now I get it.)

Service was exceptional both times I visited. I actually remember my server's warm smile as much as the tasty espresso French toast on sourdough from my first visit (\$6.49 daily special).

On a Saturday morning while my husband and I waited 10 short minutes for a table, we overheard a customer complimenting his server to the cashier as he paid, setting the tone for our meal.

Our server greeted us with warmth and knowledge about the menu. She

steered us well when we sought her suggestions. For example, the cranberry nut pancakes are available in stacks of one, two or three (love that!). When I asked how many I should order if I wanted home fries too, she was right on the money with a recommendation of one (\$2.79), which was the size of a 10-inch dinner plate. The home fries were seasoned, not too salty, and grease-free.

First Watch offers guests other hospitable touches like free coffee, newspapers and Wi-Fi. There's a nice amount of space between tables to permit private conversations, and booths are roomy. The décor is as friendly as the staff with warm colors and cheery breakfast artwork.

I'm the kind of girl who can eat pancakes all day, so I was pleased there wasn't a breakfast cut-off. Other breakfast items include omelets and "crepeeggs" (crepes combined with whipped eggs).

Lunch options include salads, wraps and specialty sandwiches like the



First Watch features breakfast and lunch daily.

BLTE, a BLT plus fried egg, cheese and mayo (\$6.59).

"The Healthier Side" of the menu features dishes that are lower in fat like

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fresh fruit crepes (\$6.39) and a turkey and egg-white power wrap (\$6.99).

No trans-fats are used in any menu item, and low-carb and gluten-free options are available too. Nutritional information for every dish is available online, although I was shocked when I read that my one cranberry nut pancake contained 32 grams of fat!

In addition to the two-year-old University Heights cafe, First Watch has Rocky River and Westlake locations.

*Per her grandmother, Christina Klenotic is a "good eater" who never met a carb she didn't like. She enjoys sampling our area's eclectic restaurants, galleries and neighborhoods.*

## My heart goes BOOM!

Pam Neides

I spend a lot of time thinking about my house (call it a mild obsession). I try to concentrate on the space at large; the rooms, the flow, etc. but often find my attention alighting upon my things, my quirky chairs and odd sculptural objects or upon the vacancies where I want to put new things.

The most recent object of my desire is a Danish rosewood credenza, circa 1966, from BOOM Modern on Lee Boulevard. One of the reasons I love this piece is that, like so many of the pieces at BOOM, it blends easily with what I have from other eras and of other styles be they traditional - a round foyer table, or more modern - an oddball, Jetson-era plaid chair—think George Jetson's version of the La-Z-Boy, also from BOOM.

I have been living with the credenza in my head for several weeks now, envisioning it with the proper lighting, surrounded by art work, for use as a bar or server, or with a flat-screen television atop its lustrous surface. If I squint really hard, I can even call it a sculptural object. Because the credenza has already passed the "It's gorgeous, but do I need it?" test, I go to BOOM to visit it.

First, as always, I do a tour of the store's exterior windows because a) they are large 3D compositions b) they have really cool stuff in them, and c) they are so inspiring! I walk through the door and before I am greeted by Deborah Edwards, owner and operator, I have a yuk because hanging vertically just behind a fabulous George Nelson desk/table (with a totally cool leather covered insert which, when opened, reveals hidden storage for files, etc.) are a series of miniature animal heads that look as if they'd been taken from the hunting lodges of hobbits. It is such a funny juxtaposition and

charming contrast to the style of the Nelson desk so sleek and cool. And it is so BOOM to mix the styles like that.

Before I can work my way over to Deborah, I dart around like a fish in search of food so that I can be sure to take in everything new in the store since my last visit (former obsession: Nelson desk). Hat blocks, an elegantly low and long coffee table, a Mirium Peck painting draw me hither and thither and at last I am standing in front of the credenza.

Deborah and I begin processing the 'wheres' and 'hows' and uses for the piece and inevitably, like in any good therapy (retail and otherwise), I am led to a life-changing conclusion: the piece is really too large scale for my home.

I am crestfallen. Oh, the loss! After living with this piece in my head for weeks, my household spaces revert to vacancies. "But I thought... Perhaps it could... Maybe the ceiling could come up just a foot..." I whimper grasping for possibilities.

And at that moment of despair, in reaction to a glint of sun that catches hold of the tear of disappointment in my eye, my face turns toward the light. Behold, it is in fact a glint of light from above, but it beckons from a smaller, more whimsical source than the sun (yet no less essential, mind you). Heavenly. A rush goes through me as the image of the most charming, loopy, lacy 1960's Lightolier chandelier comes into focus. Balls of light burn atop sticks perched upright on a pinwheel of brass and painted metal.

I blink flirtatiously. "Have we met?" The dialogue begins again.

*BOOM Modern: 2499 Lee Boulevard, www.boommodern.com*

*Pam Neides, a three-year resident of Cleveland Heights, says that of all the places she has lived, she feels most at home in the Heights.*

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scape restoration, or sympathetic additions. To nominate a property, call 216-291-4878.

Properties are eligible for a Community Improvement Award if they have had visible improvements from a public right-of-way. Tender Loving Care Awards are presented to owners whose property has been meticulously maintained. To nominate a property, call 216-291-2323.



# Weeks Automotive, the new face of auto repair

Neil Weeks

Weeks Automotive, a new auto repair shop, has taken the place of Quick Copy at 1503 Warrenville Center Road. Weeks Automotive repairs both foreign and domestic vehicles, offering fair, competitive prices and service that sets a new benchmark for the auto repair industry. Tim Weeks, owner and active manager, has 35 years of experience. Working at a wide range of auto repair shops, from places like Sohio and Dowd Oldsmobile to his latest residence at Alternative Solutions, Tim has gained a name for himself both in the Heights and neighboring communities. He has helped to pioneer the repair of many automotive makes and models.

Weeks Automotive is a family operated business with a focus on meeting the needs of the local community. The Weeks family decided to locate their business in the Heights because of their passion and love for the neighborhood. Both Tim and his wife Deidre grew up in the Heights, and it was only natural for them to continue in the area that means so much to them. From the arts to beautiful homes, friendly people, and a thriving local economy, Cleveland Heights is the ideal place to start a business. Tim knows this first hand, having worked in the Heights for many years, and understands the loyalty and diversity that comes through such a strong clientele base.

From one generation to another Tim is carrying out the rich history of



Weeks Automotive, 1503 Warrenville Center Road, is family operated and committed to the Heights.

the Weeks name and legacy. His great grandfather, Harry F. Weeks, was a principal in the famous Walker and Weeks architectural firm, which designed places like Severance Hall and Cleveland Municipal Stadium. Walker and Weeks helped to revolutionize Cleveland and its surrounding communities, both with their designs and their ideas of progress. Tim's late father, Richard Weeks, continued the Weeks name as a mechanical engineer at National Copper, a backbone of Cleveland's industry at the

time. Tim brings both worlds together in his mechanical abilities and desire to help bring progress to Cleveland and surrounding communities. The Weeks legacy is continued in the quality of craftsmanship, service, and community. Several of the Weeks' seven children work in the business.

With a clean and inviting shop you are guaranteed to be comfortable as you wait for your vehicle to be serviced. Weeks Automotive's friendly service and expert knowledge, will leave you

with a sense of satisfaction and a better understanding of your vehicle and the repairs that were made to it. The Weeks family look forward to welcoming you and your family on your next visit. (See ad on page 15).

*Neil Weeks is Tim Weeks' son and a student at Cleveland State University, majoring in communications and journalism and minoring in international politics. Upon completing his studies he plans to write on an international level.*

## Former Beaumont School leaders launch SDG Advisors

Mary Patton

Integrating business principles is essential for Catholic schools to operate successfully today. To guide schools and nonprofits with this integration process, former Beaumont School leaders Sister Ritamary Welsh, OSU and Stacey Picard have launched SDG Advisors LLC, a consulting firm that works primarily with Catholic K-12 schools, to help them strengthen their infrastructure so they can better fulfill their mission.

Based in the historic Rockefeller Building in Cleveland Heights, SDG Advisors provides professional guidance in all areas of administration, including board governance, planning, resource development, financial management and marketing.

The firm is a unique partnership of forward-thinking women with complementary strengths. Serving as co-founders and partners, Sister Ritamary and Ms. Picard have more than 50 years of combined experience in these areas.

Sister Ritamary said, "Catholic schools have long been the most effective source of quality education in our communities. Today, Catholic education is in transition. Demographics are changing, and schools are reorganizing. We are committed to creative, inspired responses to these changes so our children are best served."

"Catholic schools that have had professional guidance have benefited greatly, but there has been an unmet demand for these services," Ms. Picard added. With the launch of SDG Advisors, school

administrators now have greater access to this kind of expertise.

Anne Unverzagt, director of The Edward and Betty Sloat Foundation based in Cleveland Heights, said, "This is a phenomenal combination of experience and expertise. They have the complete picture of the educational and business aspects of running a school, plus the faith. They firmly believe in Catholic education and know it can work. They offer an outstanding range of services."

A resident of Cleveland Heights, Stacey Picard brings more than 15 years of senior level management experience in both the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. Most recently, she served as the finance director at Beaumont School in Cleveland Heights. She has served on the boards of numerous schools and other organizations throughout the Cleveland Diocese in the areas of strategic planning, fund advisory and board governance. She earned a B.A. from Notre Dame College, an M.B.A. from John Carroll University, and a C.N.M. from Case Western Reserve University.

Sister Ritamary Welsh, OSU of University Heights brings more than 40 years of experience to Catholic education. As president of Beaumont School, Sister Ritamary grew the school's enrollment, increased annual giving, doubled the size of the endowment, and successfully completed a number of capital fundraising initiatives that resulted from her comprehensive planning with the school's board. She has

served Cleveland diocesan schools as the superintendent of the urban region and as a teacher and principal at various schools. Sister Ritamary earned a B.S.E. from St. John College of Cleveland and an M. Ed. from the University of Akron. She is a 1999 graduate of Leadership Cleveland.

Peggy Connell, principal of Beaumont School remarked, "Sr. Ritamary and Stacey view issues and problems from various perspectives. They can walk in someone else's shoes and think from another's perspective. They are honest, respectful and mission-driven."

For more information, visit [www.sdgadvisors.org](http://www.sdgadvisors.org).



Sister Ritamary Welsh, OSU (left) and Stacey Picard (right) have formed a Cleveland Heights-based consulting firm called SDG Advisors.

*Mary Patton is a public relations consultant and a longtime resident of the Heights. She currently lives in University Heights with her husband and daughter.*



## FutureHeights gift certificates, keep wealth local

Greg Coleridge

What is money? It's a ridiculous question. Right? It's the bills and coins in our pocket.

Money has many functions. It's a medium of exchange, dollars in the US, and euros, yen or other currencies elsewhere. Money is a means of transferring value from place to place, replacing the need to lug a bag of rice to the local hardware store to trade for a gallon of paint.

An economically healthy community is not defined simply by how much money is present within it, but how often that money circulates. The more times a unit of currency is exchanged before leaving a community, the more people are employed and the more confidence and faith its residents possess. For every \$100 spent at a locally owned business, \$68 goes back into the community, strengthening the tax base. For every \$100 spent at a chain store, only \$43 returns to that community. (Learn more at [newrules.org](http://newrules.org).)

Current economic conditions are causing great hardship to many individuals, families and communities. Less money is being circulated. Much of what is spent goes to large chain stores, a portion of which ends up as profits to out-of-town, if not out-of-country, shareholders or CEOs.

If keeping wealth local is an important step to keeping local communities vibrant, then one action we can all take is to buy and use gift certificates from FutureHeights. These certificates are "money," an accepted currency by over 100 local businesses offering a variety of goods and services.

By converting dollars to FutureHeights certificates, you're rooting money in our community. FutureHeights certificates are perfect for shopping locally, which helps our economy. They are also the perfect gift for a teenager, parent, coworker, friend, or teacher. Giving a FutureHeights gift certificate keeps money circulating at the local level twice: for the gift giver, and again as the recipient redeems the certificate.

FutureHeights certificates are available in \$5, \$10, \$25, and \$50 denominations. They are treated just like traveler's checks by merchants, with change given when the purchase is less than the face amount. Certificates may be purchased at Mac's Backs Paperbacks, Zagara's, and FutureHeights. In 2007 sales of certificates were \$11,000, all of which was spent in the Heights supporting local businesses.

During the Great Depression, Cleveland, East Cleveland, Maple Heights, Shaker Heights, University Heights and many other Ohio communities issued their own currencies, or "script," to facilitate transactions when dollars were in short supply. Many communities today are once more issuing their own script.

It may be soon time again for community script in our area. In the meantime, we can do our part to help our local economy by buying and using FutureHeights certificates.

*Greg Coleridge lives in Cleveland Heights and works for the Northeast Ohio American Friends Service Committee.*

## Join your Cleveland Heights neighbors in celebrating fair trade

Manjula Boyina

It's early fall and time for a celebration of culture and color! Ten Thousand Villages Cleveland (TTVC) is celebrating its five-year anniversary by throwing "One Fabulous Fiesta," a birthday party at Trinity Cathedral in downtown Cleveland from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday September 19. TTVC is an independently operated nonprofit organization and a member of the oldest and largest fair trade organization in the world, located in the beautiful Trinity Commons. The nonprofit store features unique handicrafts from 36 different developing countries, including jewelry, home décor, stationery, musical instruments, toys, garden accessories and more. It also offers stories of the artisans' lives and the hidden spirit with which they manifest their hardships into something that vivifies our lives.

When asked how fair trade has improved her life, Maya Halder, a woman who lives in Agailjhara, Bangladesh and makes palm leaf star garlands for TTVC said: "We are poor distressed women working at Keya Palm to build our lives. By working together we are able to overcome our problems. We become



Dorothy Nabakiibi at her craft.

united in one mind. We will send our children to school with our earnings. From our profits, we plow our gardens and cultivate crops, we repair our houses and plant trees."

Cleveland Heights resident and TTVC Director Julie Verdon, said, "Ten Thousand Villages Cleveland depends on operational support from volunteers, many of whom are Cleveland Heights residents. The volunteer board and staff care about the welfare of people and fairness in business practice."

Peruse artisans' spirited creations during the celebration. The event will feature Reggae music by Carlos Jones along with international music, Bhan-

## Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Cleanup October 4

Joanne Campbell

The Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Garden and Playground needs volunteers to help with the fall clean-up of the gardens and repair of the equipment on Saturday, October 4, beginning at 9 a.m.

This has been a community and Coventry PTA (in virtual existence only now) project since 1993.

Join your friends, neighbors and others in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights community who gather to work, eat and catch up on the news while pulling weeds or fixing equipment.

Don't worry about not being a gardener or a hammerer. We will have leaders available to help you identify what is a flower and what needs to be pulled. There are other tasks also.

Sign-in is at the top of the hill by the big slide. Coffee and munchies will be available.

Every little bit of help keeps this a sparkling place to be.

*Joanne Campbell has been a Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Garden and Playground participant for the last 12-plus years.*

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gra dance, and other entertainment provided by Passport project. Event proceeds and product sales help pay for food, education, healthcare, and housing for artisan partners in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed.

Advance tickets are available for \$35 at TTVC or by calling 216-575-1058. Free event parking is available in the Trinity Cathedral Lot. For more information, contact Julie Verdon, at 216-575-1058 or visit [www.cleveland.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.cleveland.tenthousandvillages.com).

*Manjula Boyina is a Cleveland Heights resident who works as an urban planner with D.B. Hartt, Inc. and volunteers for Ten Thousand Villages Cleveland.*

## Breast cancer walkers on a personal journey



Michael and Molly Radke, with their daughter Fiona, of University Heights and Patricia Preisel cheer on walkers.

Lita Gonzalez

Supporters lined Coventry Road Friday, August 22 cheering on participants in the nationally sponsored Breast Cancer 3-Day walk to benefit the Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Michael and Molly Radke, their baby daughter Fiona, and their friend Patricia Preisel were there to support Patricia's daughter Connie, a speech pathologist who had once worked at Oxford Elementary School and Roxboro Middle School. Connie was walking for her cousin.

Cleveland was one of 14 cities across the country hosting the three day walk this year. Participants, many of them sporting pink hats, scarves or tee shirts, started their 60-mile journey at 6 a.m. with an opening ceremony at Thistle-down Race Track in North Randall and slept in tents at the Cuyahoga County Airport that evening.

Patricia handed out candy to the smiling walkers while Michael and Molly cheered.

As the walkers waved to Fiona she raised her little arm. Tied around it was a satin pink ribbon.

To learn more about what you can do to save lives and end breast cancer forever, go to [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org). Donations support breast cancer research, education, and community outreach.

*Lita Gonzalez is a community volunteer.*



# Cyclists learn to share the road

Joy Henderson

I have been riding my bike for over 30 years – commuting, touring and even a brief stint as a racer. In July, I joined six other people for an eight-hour cycling class. The class was taught by League of American Bicyclist certified instructors Ann Whalen and Mike Sherman. The course included classroom instruction, bike skills in a closed parking lot and road riding.

I was not sure if I would learn anything new; but, I did, including confirmation that Ohio law gives cyclists the right to ride on the road. The law strongly supports bicycles as vehicles on the road. For adults, riding on the road, with an established set of rules is usually the safest place to ride.

Our instructors used the phrase “driving your bike,” creating the image of bicycle as vehicle. Ohio law provides cyclists with the same rights as other vehicles on the road.

Most people who don’t ride their bike cite fear of traffic as the main reason. Taking a cycling class can give cyclists the confidence and skills needed to ride a bike more often.

Cleveland Heights resident Linda Rasmussen took the class with her new bike. “The instruction made me much more confident on my bike,” she said. “I’ve been riding more already.”

Statistics about frequency of bicycle accidents reflect a common sense fact:



Instructor Ann Whalen tells students about the importance of bike handling skills.

Educated, experienced cyclists are the safest. Children, especially those who have had no instruction, have the most accidents.

The League of American Bicyclists offers classes for adults and children. For more information about classes, sharing the road, and safe bicycling, see the League of American Bicyclists website: [www.bikeleague.org/](http://www.bikeleague.org/) and Ohio

Bike Laws at <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/Local/Projects/bicycle/Pages/BikeLaws.aspx>

*Joy Henderson is an avid cyclist who rides for fitness and is trying to change her habits to include cycling for transportation. She dedicates this article to the late Miles Coburn, cyclist, educator and advocate for reducing our carbon footprint.*

**BICYCLING TIPS**

**For Cyclists:**

- Ride with the flow of traffic.
- Ride 2-3 feet from the curb leaving room to maneuver away from hazards such as glass, potholes, gravel, and grates.
- Use secondary roads when possible.
- Purchase NOACA bike route maps for Northeast Ohio counties, available at local bike shops.
- On narrow roads or lanes, ride in the right tire track or near the center of the lane. This will prevent cars from passing too close.
- Signal when you plan to turn.

**For Motorists**

- Leave at least three feet of space when passing a bicyclist.
- Reduce speed when passing.
- When turning left at an intersection, yield to an oncoming bicyclist, as with any vehicle.
- When turning right, do not turn in front of a cyclist who is on your right.
- Do not honk your horn at cyclists.
- Look for cyclists before opening your car door.
- Don't underestimate the speed that bicycles can travel. Most riders travel at 10-20 mph.
- Ohio law allows cyclists to ride two abreast.

# Open Doors Academy students make a difference for the poor in Harlan, KY

Annemarie Grassi

It has become an annual tradition for the alumni of Open Doors Academy to leave behind their televisions, cell phones, and video games and give up a week of their summer to venture down into the heart of the Appalachian Mountains to Harlan, Kentucky. There they spend a week working long hours in the hot sun, helping people less fortunate than they are.

This year, Open Doors took 14 of its alumni (now freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors in high school) down to Harlan, where they worked for a week from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., rehabbing a damaged roof, digging trenching for new plumbing and tyveking (sheet that is laid on the outside walls before siding is placed up) a new home.

For many of the students, this was their fourth year in what many of them call “their favorite place in the world.” Maybe it is the small town feel, or the beautiful mountains, or maybe it is being able to step out of a world that is so familiar, into one that is so different. With Wal-Mart as the central hang out for the people of Harlan, and a trip to the movies costing \$3, there is a sense of simplicity that can bring peace to a 16 year-old from a busy urban environment.

But the primary purpose of this service learning trip is to expose stu-



Open Doors Crew after finishing rehabbing a roof

dents to rural poverty and help them understand a different culture. In our week in Harlan, students talked openly about their reactions to seeing people live in these conditions. The collection of materials on people’s property, the physical living conditions, the hoarding and neglect of pets, the lack of racial diversity, the limited resources, and some apparent complacency were some of the issues the students struggled with.

This year the teens returned to Cleveland proud of their hard work and committed to learning more about the greater Appalachian community.

Open Doors Academy, a Cleveland

Heights middle school enrichment program, seeks to nurture, protect, inspire and challenge adolescents to reach their full potential. Open Doors Academy receives funds from the city of Cleveland Heights via Community Development Block Grant funds, private foundations (including the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation) and private contributors. To learn more, contact us at 216-229-1900 or visit [www.opendoorsacademy.org](http://www.opendoorsacademy.org).

*Annemarie M. Grassi is the executive director of Open Doors Academy, enjoying her 5th year traveling to Harlan with the alumni of Open Doors Academy.*

# Summer festivals make us smile



Coventry Street Arts Festival.

Heights Observer Staff

During the summer Heights residents hit the streets to celebrate. This year, seven street festivals were hosted by the commercial districts of Cedar-Fairmount, Cedar-Lee, Coventry and Noble-Nela. Each fair showcased the unique character and style of its neighborhood and attracted a multi-cultural, multi-age audience to enjoy free entertainment just a short walk from many of their homes. From sidewalk sales to culinary treats, from local bands to area nonprofits, from a pet parade to a fire juggler, Heights summer festivals offered an authentic experience like no other.

Says Myra Orenstein, executive director of the Coventry SID, “the street arts fairs are proof positive that multi-cultural neighborhoods can and do work...that people of different races, creeds and colors can come together and enjoy each other and have a fabulous time.”

Thanks for making us smile!

See many more photographs online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

# Disciples Christian Church Celebrates New Name

Ronald Werman

Disciples Christian Church is celebrating its name change and a bright vision for the future. The church, at 3663 Mayfield Road (corner of Yellowstone) in Cleveland Heights, is celebrating its new name with a Transformation Celebration on Sunday, September 14. The community is invited. Worship will be at 11 a.m. (music prelude at 10:30) followed by barbeque and entertainment from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

There will be food and fun for all. The fun will include live music, face painting, carnival games, tall puppets and a bounce house. There will also be tours of the church’s new fireside library as well as a display of historical memorabilia to celebrate the church’s past as Euclid Avenue Christian Church.

For more information, contact Disciples Christian Church at 216-382-5344.

*Ron Werman is a Cleveland Heights resident and member, elder, choir member and communications chairperson of Disciples Christian Church.*



# What happened to my lawn this summer?

Douglas Freer

This is the time of year that the true health of a lawn is exposed. If your lawn is a little sadder than you want it to be, fear not! Fall is the ideal time to rejuvenate it. Heights' yards are often saddled with shade from mature trees. However, turf grass needs at least four hours of sunlight to be healthy. Shade also impacts available moisture, generally contributing to increased drought conditions. In the long run, proper cultural practices will have the biggest impact on the health of your lawn. Here are some tips to keep in mind.

## Mowing

Mow your grass tall. Raise the mowing height to three inches or taller. Skip a mowing or two if the lawn doesn't need it. Don't cut the lawn too short. This only encourages weeds and reduces the health of your existing grass. Sharpen your mower blades at least twice a year, if not more.

## Aerating

Lawns benefit tremendously from aeration at least once per year in spring or fall. Aeration is the process of removing cores of soil allowing air to get to the roots. It helps to alleviate compacted soil and encourages better surface drainage. You can rent an aerator or hire a service provider to do it for you. Shady lawns that have moss, or those that have not been aerated recently, will benefit tremendously from aeration twice a year. The soil should be slightly moist for good penetration. Aerating the lawn twice in two directions will not hurt it.

## De-Thatching

Thatch is a layer of dead bio-mass that has not decomposed between the turf grass plant and the soil. It occurs in lawns that are actively growing or have been undermaintained over the years. It builds up and creates an impermeable layer that prevents moisture and fertilizer from getting to the soil and roots. Some thatch is good as it helps to stabilize and cool the soil, but more



DOUG FREER

than one-half inch of thatch is problematic. To remove thatch, simply use a rake and lots of effort or rent a power de-thatcher or verti-cutter. Aggressively removing thatch may require some spot seeding in areas that become thin. Not all lawns need to be de-thatched, so check it first.

## Top Dressing

Healthy soil is the building block for a lush, full lawn. Any lawn can be improved by top dressing with materials like compost or leaf humus. Since area lawns have heavy clay with little organic matter in the soil, adding organic matter like compost improves the soil composition, which results in healthier grass. Over application will smother the grass. When top dressing, a little bit goes a long way. Plan to buy material in bulk quantity if possible. Measure your lawn area and determine the square footage (length x width = square feet). One quarter inch of compost spread out over 3,000 square feet will require approximately three cubic yards of material (or about 45 two cubic foot bags of product).

Instant cures are for late night infomercials. Please remember, good maintenance practices applied over time will provide the best results. The work you put into your lawn this fall will pay big dividends next year and help your lawn survive next summer's heat. For fact sheets on lawn care, visit <http://webgarden.osu.edu>.

*Douglas Freer is a Cleveland Heights native and is the owner of Lawn Lad, Inc. which provides residential landscape services in the Heights area. Find him at 216-371-1935 or [www.lawnlad.com](http://www.lawnlad.com).*

# HRRC provides money management resources

Gail Jackson

"Penny pinching" and "dollar stretching" are terms once often laughed at. But, now as daily expenses are rising, many are taking these sayings to heart and putting them into practice. Most residents are concerned with expected increases in food, transportation, home heating, mortgage/rent payments and other expenses. Are you prepared?

The Home Repair Resource Center (HRRC) offers monthly classes on budgeting to help you develop a monthly spending plan and find ways to save for unexpected expenses. Having a budget will also help you identify whether your income is sufficient to cover all of your expenses. If not, you can learn to develop a plan to reduce expenses and/or increase your income.

Improving Your Credit is a class that will help position you to be a preferred customer. Preferred customers often receive the best services from lenders, as well as lower interest rates on car and home loans. This two-hour class is jammed packed with information you probably don't know about the credit industry. The next class is scheduled

for Tuesday, September 16 at the HRRC, 2520 Noble Road in Cleveland Heights, 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

If you find that it may be difficult to make upcoming mortgage payments call the Home Repair Resource Center and inquire about our Foreclosure Intervention Program. Homes can be saved from foreclosure with early intervention strategies and communication with your lender. Don't hesitate, call the HRRC for this confidential service.

Having healthy finances may mean putting penny pinching and dollar stretching strategies into practice. Results may vary; however, doing nothing will keep you just where you are now. HRRC provides confidential one-on-one financial counseling to Cleveland Heights residents free of charge, call 216-381-6100 to schedule your appointment or sign-up for classes.

*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](http://www.hrrc-ch.org) or call 381-6100 for more information on programs and services.*

# Cedar-Fairmount sports new street sign design

Michael Weil

The elegant Tudor architecture of the Cedar-Fairmount retail neighborhood is a welcoming signpost into Cleveland Heights. It is also among the most recognizable aspects of the unique and vibrant collection of stores, restaurants, galleries, and offices. To further enhance and celebrate this one-of-a-kind neighborhood, Friends of Cedar-Fairmount, the Cedar-Fairmount Special Improvement District (SID), and Heights Arts have combined forces to create elegant new street signs that



celebrate the area's distinct beauty and more clearly designate to visitors their arrival in the neighborhood.

The signs were designed by Cleveland Heights artist Raymond Bugelski and inspired by the graphic motifs of yet another renowned Heights artist, Cathie Bleck. Friends of Cedar-Fairmount hopes to place the signs along Cedar Road from the top of Cedar Hill at Harcourt Road to the beginning of Fairmount Boulevard. A fundraising campaign is underway to secure the \$7,500 needed to produce the 20 signs. The Cedar-Fairmount SID paid for the signs' design.

Friends of Cedar-Fairmount is asking neighbors to sponsor their street's sign, at a cost of \$250 each, or to spearhead street-wide campaigns to raise the money. Donations, payable to Friends of Cedar-Fairmount, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, are tax deductible. To support the Cedar-Fairmount street sign initiative, send a check, made out to Friends of Cedar-Fairmount, to Michael Weil, 2301 Chatfield Dr. Cleveland Heights, OH 44106. For more information, contact Michael at 932-4956.

*Michael Weil has lived in the Cedar-Fairmount district for nearly four decades. He misses Baskin-Robbins, but loves La Gelateria.*

# Free High Definition TV! (almost)

Mace Mentch

Beginning February 9, 2009, all local television stations must broadcast exclusively in high definition (HD). This will cause problems for many people who do not have an HD television, tuner, or converter box. To make the changeover more palatable, you can apply for a \$40 coupon for up to two analog televisions that don't have digital capability. The converter boxes will retail for about \$50-70, so getting the coupon is worthwhile. If you have cable or satellite, or even an analog TV, you will not need a converter box. (Check with your provider for details.)

However, as broadcasters are making the transition to HDTV you can receive it over the air on a regular antenna. You can do this whether or not

you have cable or satellite as you can access both.

What are the advantages of getting HD over the air? First, even if you have cable or satellite, the HD signal is being compressed so that it can be transmitted more efficiently. This means the signal is somewhat degraded. Over the air, on an antenna, the signal is full strength, so that you are receiving full HD. Second, while cable and satellite provide HD, they do not provide all local channels in HD all the time.

You can get HD off the air right now with a regular UHF/VHF antenna, which costs around \$25. If you already have one, and your TV has an HD tuner in it, you're all set. Caution: Some places will try to sell you a special HD-enabled antenna, when any UHF/VHF antenna will work. The best place for an antenna

is on the roof, but some people get excellent reception with an attic antenna or even "rabbit ears." Most local broadcasters in Cleveland transmit from the southwest, so you will need to point your antenna in that direction.

Right now I get 17 HD channels off the air using my \$25 antenna. The picture is excellent and it works with my satellite DVR. Yours can, too.

*Mace Mentch is a 20-year resident of Cleveland Heights who assesses, evaluates, and researches learning technologies for Case Western Reserve University.*

Advertise in the Heights Observer  
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# CityMusic: Homegrown in the Heights

Laura Taxel

CityMusic Cleveland, a professional chamber orchestra that gives free concerts in communities around Northeast Ohio, has deep roots in the Heights. The idea of taking classical music to people where they live, dispensing with all the formality usually associated with it, and eliminating the ticket price that keeps many away began as a conversation in a Fairfax Road backyard. Many of the fast growing organization's participants, founders, musicians, members of the board, artistic advisory council, community outreach committee, host families, volunteers, and donors, are Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights residents. Fairmount Presbyterian Church, a neighborhood landmark for more than 30 years, provides rehearsal space, and the spare but elegant stone sanctuary known for its concert hall acoustics, is one of CityMusic's regular performance venues. Locals fill the pews and shout "Bravo! Bravo!" every time they play there.

This traveling orchestra has gotten the same enthusiastic response in Slavic Village, Elyria, Willoughby, and all the other places they perform. Critics and experts have been equally impressed. The *Plain Dealer's* Donald Rosenberg typically has high praise, writing that the group delivers "music-making of delightful verve and sensitivity," and "ultra-articulate and smoothly integrated playing." Peter Salaff, director of String Chamber Music Studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music, says, "Not only does this group of talented musicians play at a very high technical level; but, in part thanks to conductor James Gaffigan, they communicate with inspiration. In my opinion, CityMusic is competitive with the best chamber orchestras around today." Reviewing one of the group's CDs for *Fanfare*, Steven Ritter called their interpretation of Mozart's *Symphony No. 39* "breathtaking," their sound "full and robust," and an original piece written for CityMusic by composer Margaret Brouwer, who lives in Cleveland Heights, "a marvel to hear."

From the start, the creation and operation of CityMusic has been a team effort. Executive Director Eugenia Strauss credits the passionate commitment and relentless hard work of "a quintet of women" as the driving force. The mission, to nurture and expand audiences for classical music while contributing to community vitality and development, took shape around the dining room table in the Heights home Eugenia shares with her husband Dr. Ronald Strauss, who serves as board president. Their house continues to serve as command central for the organization, and

each performance season ends with a celebratory gathering there. Until now, the core administrative staff has worked pro bono. Two will be compensated in the coming year. The musicians have always been paid with money from private foundations, individual contributors, and each host city, which becomes not merely a venue but a full-fledged partner.

"We're proud to be their host," says Robert Moncrief, minister of music at Fairmount Presbyterian, "and think of them as our own orchestra-in-residence. And we truly believe in their outreach efforts to open hearts and minds to this music by presenting it in a relaxed, accessible, informal, audience friendly way."

Although Cleveland is a town rich in musical talent, no other group can claim the same reach or impact. CityMusic launched their first season with eight concerts. In 2008-09, their fifth anniversary, the orchestra will give 27 performances.

While major musical institutions in Northeast Ohio and around the country wonder how to attract audiences, CityMusic Cleveland has found the answer. Based on past attendance records, they expect near capacity crowds for every one, and more communities are interested in working with them.

*Laura Taxel, local journalist and the author of Cleveland Ethnic Eats has been a Heights resident for 35 years and a CityMusic supporter since the group played their first concert.*



James Gaffigan (front center) leads CityMusic Cleveland in free concerts throughout northeast Ohio.

**2008-09 Fifth Anniversary Season**  
*As always- It's Free For All! Children are welcome at all performances, and childcare is also provided.*

**September 2008 Performances:**

Danail Rachev, guest conductor

- Richard Strauss: Prelude to "Capriccio"
- Franz Joseph Haydn: Symphony No. 101 in D Major 9 ("The Clock")
- Johannes Brahms: Double Concerto for Violin & Violoncello with Kyung Sun Lee (violin) and Edward Arron (cello)

**Tuesday, September 23, 7:30 p.m.,** Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Cleveland Heights

**Wednesday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.,** Elyria First United Methodist Church, Elyria

**Thursday, September 25, 7:30 p.m.,** Rocky River United Methodist Church, Rocky River

**Friday, September 26, 8 p.m.,** St. Noel Church, Willoughby Hills

**Saturday, September 27, 7:30 p.m.,** Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus, Cleveland

**Sunday, September 28, 7 p.m.,** St. Joseph Catholic Church, Strongsville

For more information visit [www.citymusiccleveland.org](http://www.citymusiccleveland.org).

## Oddy Festival brings new, original theatre to Cleveland each month

Matt Greenfield

On Wednesday, September 3, "The Oddy Festival" premiered to Cleveland Heights audiences in Coventry's Historic Centrum Theater. The play was "Vestibule," written, directed, produced by, and starring Cleveland native Matt Greenfield. The plot and set-up of the play was appropriate for Oddy Fest: one man, alone, waiting for a blind date to show up. Just like in "Young Man," in "Vestibule" Greenfield and other members of the new Oddy troupe (Peter Nalepa, Justin Walters, LaJuan Foust and others) have searched and waited for theatrical opportunities outside Cleveland, only to return to their hometown. After three years in South Florida, Greenfield returned this summer to tap into Cleveland Heights' burgeoning theatre scene and produce his own work.

"The Oddy Festival" is a troupe

named after the Greek wanderer Odysseus, and re-unites "Oddys" returning back home after a few years off the literal or artistic map. Their goal is to produce odd theatre every odd Wednesday at different venues throughout Cleveland. On Wednesday, September 17, Greenfield and the Oddys take "Vestibule" to Cleveland Public Theatre Church on West 65th Street and Detroit Avenue, Cleveland.

The goal of Oddy Festival is not to produce just one show, but, as the name suggests, a whole series of original works, written by Greenfield and others. October's feature stars Greenfield and Peter Nalepa (who just returned from the bustling Chicago theatre scene) in the former's play, "Coffee, Tea, Tepid Interlocutor." On October 1, the group plans to premiere "Coffee, Tea, Tepid Interlocutor" on their return to the Historic Centrum. Every first Wednesday of the month will feature a premiere, with the group producing a brand new play every time.

The schedule not only keeps the troupe on its toes, Greenfield says, but serves as a TV-esque schedule for theatre-goers, as opposed to the traditional theatre season of half a dozen or so shows a year. "To my knowledge, nothing like this has been done in the Cleveland area, taking a brand new script and pulling off a full-fledged production every month," said Greenfield.

"I'm just grateful to the Historic Centrum and the community of Cleveland Heights for giving us the space to do this bold theatrical experiment. Now all we need are the test subjects coming back again and again!"

All shows cost \$10 and start at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.).

**Show schedules:**

"Vestibule": Wednesday, September 17 at Cleveland Public Theatre Church (6415 Detroit Ave.)

"Coffee, Tea, Tepid Interlocutor": Wednesday, October 1 (tentative), Historic Centrum Theater, 2nd floor (2781 Euclid Heights Blvd.)

"Klutz": Wednesday, November 5 (tentative), Historic Centrum Theater

Please call Oddy Festival at 216-926-8641 to confirm dates and times. Visit [oddyfestival.com](http://oddyfestival.com) or email: [oddyfest@gmail.com](mailto:oddyfest@gmail.com).

*Matt Greenfield, born and raised in Cleveland, attended Solon High School, Case Western Reserve University (major: history), John Carroll University (M.Ed.), and then moved on to a three-year teaching stint in South Florida where he started the Boca Rats Theatre Troupe. He now teaches 10th grade English and history, in addition to founding*



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# Toy Lending Library shares the fun

Lynn Grimm

It was April of 1998 when I discovered Heights Parent Center (HPC). My daughter, Erin, was eight months old and we attended the Baby & Me group. By November of that year, I was asked to join HPC's Toy Lending Library (TLL) as a volunteer.

I wasn't quite sure what to expect. TLL is a program run only by volunteers; dedicated parents who count, clean and care for hundreds of toys. Instead of finding chaos, I found a well oiled machine. Each toy being checked in or out gets counted, every toy gets washed upon return, and volunteers keep tedious track of the broken and missing pieces. Amazing!

Well, it's ten years later and I'm still working at the Toy Lending Library and still loving it!

The TLL stocks old and new toys, either donated or purchased, carrying all of the popular toy brands. Because of our unique storage arrangement, we have created catalogs that are organized and designed by children's ages and interests. Much thought and care has gone into our toy selection and program. My family's personal favorites are the Fisher Price Little People sets.

Several years ago a couple of moms created "play kits." Play kits were developed to add a literacy dimension to the TLL collection. The themed kits might include: toys, puzzles, costumes, books, and play pointers. Play pointers give parents and caregivers extra ideas about how to play around the theme expressed in the kit, including activities, songs and crafts that incorporate skills learned through play. Currently we are

expanding our play kits selection.

Parents who participate in the TLL program find that it provides a very important opportunity to teach children about caring for toys and sharing with others, practicing an environmentally friendly approach to toy selection and recognizing that a wide range of borrowed toys can provide just as much fun as the bright shiny toys advertised in the media.

Last month we celebrated Toy Lending Library's 25th anniversary! TLL has undergone physical changes and has seen many families come and go, but our heart is still strong thanks to participants, volunteers and a generous community. Come check us out!

Hours: first and third full week of each month - Tuesdays 6:30 - 8 p.m. and Fridays 10 - 11:30 a.m. For the full

schedule, please visit our website at [www.heightsparentcenter.org](http://www.heightsparentcenter.org).

The Toy Lending Library is located in the Activity Center in the CH-UH Main Library on Lee Road (across the bridge in the "West Wing").

Annual membership fee: \$40. Members can borrow up to three toys for a two week lending period and take advantage of the Stay & Play Program during each session. This provides an opportunity to interact with other families and to see and play with additional TLL toys from our inventory.

TLL is in need of volunteers and volunteers get a free membership! Call us at 216-321-0079 and ask for Lynn if you are interested.

*Lynn Grimm is a program assistant at Heights Parent Center and oversees the operations for the Toy Lending Library. Lynn lives in Cleveland Heights with her two children, Erin and Jack.*

# Judson Choristers Sing for the soul



TAXEL IMAGE GROUP

(L to R): Judson residents Wilmah Lapham, Ilse Strnisha, chorister director, Judith Ryder, and Mary Fuerst, join students from Cleveland's H. Barbara Booker Academy in a performance of the opera "Carmen" for classmates, teachers, parents and friends.

Judith Ryder

Music lifts the spirit and brings people together. But for some Judson Park residents, listening to music and reminiscing was not enough to express their passion for opera and operetta. So, they began to learn choruses from some of the world's most famous works, including "The Barber of Seville," "Die Fledermaus," "The Pirates of Penzance," and "Carmen." "It's a joyous thing. Singing together has become an essential part of our lives at Judson," said residents Ilse Strnisha and Wilmah Lapham, who with others have been participating in the Judson Chorister program for more than five years.

Dedicated and diligent, the Judson singers enjoy rehearsing together. They listen to recordings to understand each piece's musical shape and become comfortable with the words—some of which move along at a furious pace! Chorister opera rehearsals culminate in exciting performances with elementary students at Judson and in area schools. Judson's resident life director, Lin Bartel and founder and former director of Cleveland Opera on Tour, Judith Ryder, guide the program.

The school performances are a



TAXEL IMAGE GROUP

Judson resident Jay Calabretta, who sings with the Judson Choristers, mingles with students from the H. Barbara Booker Academy in Cleveland during a break between performances of "Carmen."

highlight and residents heartily participate in a full day of rehearsals and performances. Their reward is seeing the youngsters sing complex music and execute intricate staging with conviction and vigor, while classmates and families cheer. The residents see firsthand, how dramatically music and the arts contribute to education. "(I'm) amazed that the young students sing everything so well, and from memory!" says Barbara Dennison, past member of both the Cleveland Orchestra and Cleveland Opera choruses. New friendships are forged as Judson singers lunch with students and teachers between rehearsals and performances, often play-

ing games or simply chatting.

The activities of the group continue to grow, as does the range of music; from classical opera and concert music traditions, to favorite popular tunes from every corner of American music. Singing with the Choristers inspired Jay Calabretta to lead a series of opera information sessions open to all Judson residents, many of whom attend Metropolitan Opera simulcasts and other University Circle performances. Martin Simon, former cellist with the Cleveland Orchestra, joined Ms. Ryder for Beethoven's charming "Magic Flute Variations for Cello and Piano," as the chorus learned the opera in preparation to see a Cleveland Institute of Music performance of it and the Ingmar Bergman film.

In other sessions, Ilse Strnisha and others join in to many songs with their harmonicas; songs like "Over the Rainbow" and "We Shall Overcome," which was part of the group's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. Planning for next season's repertoire and partnerships has already begun as the Choristers learn music from Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" before observing a Blossom Chorus rehearsal and preparing a special Judson Chorister program for Cleveland Cerebral Palsy Center students. So, if you find yourself at Judson Park on a Monday morning at 11, come to the auditorium and join the merriment. You're guaranteed to leave with a smile.

*Judith Ryder, musician and longtime resident of Cleveland Heights, was the award-winning director of Cleveland Opera on Tour for 31 years and is the new manager of the Cleveland Arts Education Consortium.*

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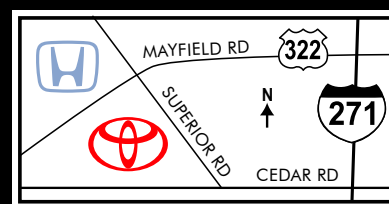
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