

The sound of music at Coventry School

Mark Majewski

A glimmer of sunshine has broken through the overcast saga of the empty Coventry Elementary School. On Dec. 16, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education directed school board staff to enter into lease negotiations with the Cleveland Music School Settlement.

The board's decision followed a very positive recommendation presented by Jayne Geneva on behalf of the Lay Finance Committee. Geneva stated that the committee had voted unanimously in support of the settlement's application. "This was the only application to fully respond," said Geneva. "This organization has the wherewithal to commit to the lease and to make the improvements. This was the most responsible and responsive proposal received."

The committee reviewed three



Coventry Elementary School has been vacant since the CH-UH Board of Education voted to close it after the 2007-08 school year.

applications during a meeting in November. The other applicants were the Intergenerational School and Daycares Are Us LLC. Geneva stated that "there was merit to all the proposals."

The cover letter attached to the settlement's application was written by Charles Lawrence, president and CEO. He stated that the intent is to expand or relocate some programs. "Some of our programs are at capacity or wait-listed, including full day/half day pre-school, early childhood arts classes, and Suzuki music instruction. We consider the property at Coventry to be a natural location for expanded programs and a good fit with the area around Coventry."

Lawrence's letter goes on to explain that potential programs for the site include public performance, orchestra, dance and fitness, and music therapy. He notes that "many families we serve live within a five mile radius of Coventry."

The settlement has operated continuously since 1912. It has been at its current campus on Magnolia Drive in University Circle since 1939.

Board President Michael Cicero thanked Scott Gainer, the school CFO/treasurer, for "staying on top of this and getting it done by the end of the year as encouraged by the board."

In an e-mail "to people who have given their time and energy to help in

the decision of what will become of the Coventry School property," board member Eric Coble expressed his pleasure with the decision. He noted his belief that expansion of the settlement's program means new jobs, rather than moving jobs from Cleveland, plus the potential to serve new families, the potential to feed new students into local public schools, and an artistic/educational anchor for Coventry.

Coble stated that "there are no plans to alter the playground and park."

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

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Ten things Cleveland Heights can do to be a greener suburb on the blue lake

OPINION

Marc Lefkowitz

My day job has me reporting on the many innovative ideas that are finally coalescing into a Cleveland sustainability agenda. It leaves me with little time to write about what's happening in my own backyard. Cleveland Heights has plenty of good people working on these issues. They need support and active engagement from you and me to make us a truly green suburb. Here's my wish list for a Cleveland Heights green agenda:

1. **Adopt policies that will improve energy efficiency, save the city money and reduce its ecological footprint.** For example, mandate that all city buildings and schools

continued on page 2

Cleveland Heights can recycle your techno-trash

Heights Observer staff

Technology changes so rapidly, it makes many computers, cell phones and other gadgets obsolete quickly. What does an ecologically responsible person do with an outdated cell phone? The City of Cleveland Heights can help.

Residents can bring items to special "techno-trash" cans located in the Cleveland Heights City Hall atrium, 40 Severance Circle, and at the Community Center at Monticello Boulevard and Mayfield Road.

Old CDs, DVDs, diskettes, audio and video tapes, cell phones, pagers, PDAs, digital cameras, rechargeable batteries and inkjet and laser cartridges can safely be recycled through the city's techno-trash program.

While many are concerned about private information on electronic media, the recycling service guarantees complete security and keeps the mate-

continued on page 3

Heights communities not leaders in recycling

Heights Observer staff

Cleveland Heights in 2007 was not among the county's top 10 recycling communities, according to the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's newly released 2007 annual report on residential recycling.

While some might expect Cleveland Heights to lead the pack, the city ranks 11th out of 58 communities in the report, which is posted on the county's website www.cuyahogawd.org/pdf/2007ResidentialRecyclingReport.pdf. The report shows Cleveland Heights' recycling rate dropping slightly, from just under 50% in 2006 to about 46% in 2007.

However, there is an error in the county's 2007 figures, according to city officials. When asked to verify the county's totals, the office of Cleveland Heights City Manager sent its own figures, showing that Cleveland Heights actually disposed of 18,289 tons of material, not the 20,000 tons referenced in the county's report. The figure for the amount recycled was the same as the county's: 17,022.26 tons.

With the adjustment, Cleveland Heights' recycling rate becomes 48.2%, moving its ranking up to eighth place.

University Heights recycled much less of its garbage than Cleveland Heights did in 2007. University Heights' total of 2,324.43 tons of recycled materials represents 27.67% of its trash -- an increase of 1.7% over 2006, but not in the top ranks.

So who are the leaders in recycling in Cuyahoga County? Woodmere tops the list with 68.72%, followed by Beachwood at 67.13%, with Pepper Pike third at 61.53%.

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IN THIS ISSUE	
Opinion	2
Heights Library	3
Cleveland Hts. News	4
University Hts. News	5
Heights Schools/Kids	6-8
Heights Sports	9
Heights Shops	10
Sustainability	11-12
Heights Community	13-14
Home and Garden	15

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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ness decisions do not know how to run a business. This is a scam, a hold-up, on their part. They can even jump bail and not be touched by a bounty hunter.

The little shops in Cleveland Heights and University Heights come and go. They only stay if they fill a need we have in our community efficiently. When was the last time you went into that store that sold only igloo making ice saws and gave them bundles of your own money, so they can keep their doors open for business? Yes, you understand the rules.

Anita Kazarian, University Heights

TEN THINGS continued from page 1

are LEED-certified (a standard set by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design created by the U.S. Green Building Council) and all systems are Energy Star rated (a standard created by the United States Environmental Protection Agency).

2. Continue strict housing inspections and maintain high standards for preserving our historic building stock. Donovan Rypkema, director of Place Economics, told an audience at the FutureHeights annual meeting a few years ago that he was surprised Cleveland Heights hasn't listed its commercial districts in the National Register of Historic Places. And, the city will continue to miss the boat on historic preservation funds unless it applies, as Shaker and Cleveland have done, to be a Certified Local Government, a federal-state-local partnership that enables eligible communities to conduct preservation activities in cooperation with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

3. Continue to improve walkability. Cleveland Heights' competitive advantage over outer suburbs is its interesting mix of the suburban and the urban. To maintain that niche, we need planning that improves walkability as we're seeing in the Cedar Fairmount district.

4. Improve bicycling facilities. Place bike racks strategically throughout all commercial districts, schools, community centers and libraries –and in city-owned parking garages. Add "sharrow" pavement markers on Cedar, Mayfield, Lee, and Coventry roads and Euclid Heights Boulevard; these would remind motorists to share the road with cyclists. Hold events like the Ride for Miles, which celebrated the life of Miles Coburn last September and drew together 600 people of all ages and skill levels to ride on the street. Offer bike education courses for adults and kids and create a plan to improve the bicycle connections to University Circle.

5. Don't allow the city to be overrun by chain stores. Support locally owned businesses, which are more sustainable because they locate in existing storefronts and make better use of existing infrastructure.

6. Educate the next generation on how to live green. Introduce a sustainability curriculum starting at the elementary school level with hands-on learning. Be the first in the area to adopt chef Alice Waters' idea of the edible schoolyard.

7. Become a standard-bearer for green infrastructure. That means encouraging gravel driveways, rain gardens, downspout disconnection for rain barrels, tree planting and preservation, replacing tree lawns with green streets, edible yards and more community gardens.

8. Continue to build new housing options. Plan for a post-recession economy with the completion of a mixed-use development at Lee and Meadowbrook roads.

9. I realize this may sound controversial, but think twice before endorsing the Opportunity Corridor, the new highway connecting Cleveland's west side and University Circle. Cleveland Heights' strength is its proximity to University Circle. This highway will only facilitate more sprawl away from the Heights.

10. Form a community green team to help the city increase its recycling rate, improve energy efficiency, and implement a plan that fulfills its commitment to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which Mayor Kelley signed in 2007.

Mark Lefkowitz is the Web editor for the GreenCityBlueLake Institute (gcbi.org) at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. He supports his wife's endeavor's in her Hampshire Road community garden plot, Coventry Road as a member of the SID advisory group, and cannot imagine living anywhere else than Cleveland Heights, the best city in the world.

Helene Morse



Helene Morse Sculpture

I read with interest the December 2008 article about Helene Morse and her craft. Not only does she repair precious items, she creates them! I have included a photo of the piece she created for me. It is quite detailed and enjoyed by everyone who stops by my desk. It is a wonderful personalized gift that I will cherish. Thank you Heights Observer, for profiling a real gem in our community.

Karen Hahn
Office Administrator
Ruffing Montessori School

Kay Heylman

Nancy Dietrich

Cleveland Heights has lost a dear friend. Katherine Heylman, known to her many friends as Kay, died on December 1 at the Washington, DC home of her son Paul, where her family had gathered for Thanksgiving.

Kay was dedicated to her community and active in groups and causes that embodied her humanitarian spirit. She served on the Heights Community Congress board and edited its annual Heritage Home Tour book. The CH Commission on Aging, the local chapter of AARP, and the Reaching Heights Spelling Bee will all miss Kay's participation. She was a frequent writer of letters to the editor in support of community efforts like school levies and the CH domestic partner registry. In 1997 she co-chaired the city's Recreation Bond Issue which resulted in the building of the Community Center with the Senior Activity Center that she so loved.

Intelligent, independent, and always interested, Kay served as a role model for civic engagement. She never retired; in mid-November she was at the Heights Democratic Club meeting and reporting on City Council for the League of Women Voters. Since she couldn't hear well, she re-watched the council meetings on TV so that her reporting would be accurate. Kay liked to be accurate; she could edit anything and catch the most obscure grammar mistake, a skill that her three sons humorously remember her instilling in them right along with her love of waterskiing.

She spent her last evening watching "Jeopardy" with a granddaughter, answering the questions in her usual Kay style, and anticipating a return to Washington in January to attend still another civic event, the inauguration of Barack Obama. She passed away in her sleep at the age of 86.

Nancy Dietrich came here with her husband 34 years ago from New England, raised four children and was active in the public schools. She has been a member of CH City Council for eleven years, was a marathon runner, but now spends her free time with her three grandchildren (all of whom are here in CH), walking and biking with her husband.



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I am a Guitar Hero!

Kris Hickey

My name is Kris Hickey and I am addicted to Guitar Hero. Whew! Now that that's out there, I feel much better. My addiction began when I started playing the game at my brother-in-law's house. We were in the midst of planning our first Guitar Hero Tournament at the Lee Road Library when I realized I'd better do some more research. Young Adult Librarian Sam Lapides and I started playing the game together before the kids arrived and there was no looking back!

I had never worked with teens before this job and was trying to figure out what a 35-year-old mother of two could have in common with today's youth. Surprisingly, it is music! Guitar Hero is mostly based on the music I grew up listening to. Artists like Metallica, Heart, Guns and Roses, Nirvana and the Red Hot Chili Peppers take center stage in this game. I have news for these teens! These bands were cool when I was in high school. I remember being a freshman in high school when "Appetite for Destruction" and "And Justice For All" came out. I was a senior when Kurt Cobain changed the music scene forever with "Nevermind." Kids today still think these bands are cool, they consider them classic rock, but still.

Because of this game I have been able to get to know some spectacular teens that live in our community. At the



Kris rocks out to her favorite songs.

Noble Neighborhood Library I became the person to beat. The kids would say to each other, "I bet you can't beat the library lady." And you know what, they can't! I bet you can't either!

Kris Hickey is a librarian in the Lee Road Library's young adult department.

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Featured Heights Libraries Programs

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road 321.3400

Star Light, Star Bright Storytime:

January 12, 7 p.m.

Sci-Fi Book Club:

January 8, 6 p.m.

NIA Coffeehouse:

January 20, 6 p.m.

Deaf Gatherings:

January 26, 6:30 p.m.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road 932.3600

Twilight Tales:

January 15, 7:15 p.m.

Let It Snow Storytime:

January 21, 7 p.m.

ExploraStory:

Thursdays, January 29 - March 5, 10 a.m.

Hello! Goodbye! Preschool Storytime:

Mondays, January 26 - March 2, 10:30 a.m.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road 291.5665

Mystery Evening:

January 8, 7 p.m.

Youth Production Inc:

January 6 & 27, 6 p.m.

Evening Stay & Play:

January 12 & 26, 7 p.m.

Noble Knitting Circle:

January 15 & 29, 7 p.m.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road 321.4700

Gossip Readers Book Discussion:

January 13, 6 p.m.

Gung Hay Fat Choy:

January 25, 2:30 p.m.

A Brown Cow Storytime:

Tuesdays, January 27 - March 3, 1 p.m.

Senior Spot:

Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

For more information visit www.heightslibrary.org. Or call 216.932.3600.

TECHNO TRASH continued from page 1

rial out of landfills.

Discarded items are collected into large processable batches by the city's contractor, GreenDisk, for recycling. The items are first separated into 'intellectual' materials (hard drives, CDs, tapes) or any material that could contain personal information. These items are degaussed (wiped clean with magnetics) and then separated by primary material.

CDs and DVDs are shredded and sold in large loads to plastic recyclers. The high grade plastic and metals contained in the items are used primarily in the automobile industry.

VCR tapes and audio tapes contain a different type of plastic that is separated from the other materials. The items are then shredded and consolidated into large quantities for recycling.

Precious metals are removed from digital cameras. Metal is separated from plastic and all materials are recycled.

Cell phones are evaluated for reuse. Usable ones are donated to a charity, such as Women in Crisis. Others are sold to a recycler for refurbishing. The

rest are disassembled and the materials recycled.

Inkjet and laser cartridges are evaluated for resale. Toner is removed from those that are unusable and the plastic is recycled.

In 2007, the city of Cleveland Heights collected 35,299.04 tons of waste material. 51.81% was sent to a landfill and the remaining 48.19% was recycled (see related article).

Recycling not only saves material from going to a landfill, it also can be a source of revenue for the city. In 2007, the city earned \$106,879 from the recycling of mixed paper, batteries, used oil and solvents, plastic, cans, glass, scrap metal and techno-trash. While it costs the city to process mixed yard waste, some computer materials and tires (a total of \$10,993 in 2007) and recycled materials prices are going down, the net result remains positive.

If you have a question about a particular item or need more information about recycling, call the city's service department at 216-691-7300.

Check out video games at the Lee Road Library!

Sam Lapides

Do you have an X-BOX 360, Playstation, or Wii at home? If you do, then you know that buying games can be expensive. So check out one of 20 of the latest games for these three consoles at the Lee Road Library.

The games are not reserveable, but are available on a first come first serve basis and can be checked out for one week. Games are limited to one game per card. The selection will refresh every three months, so be sure to check in often.

As we start, for the first time ever, circulating video games, many of you may be asking, "Why is the library circulating video games?" Gaming has become an increasingly popular form of entertainment and a valuable cognitive tool.

We want to do better at serving the gaming enthusiasts in our community, and you may be surprised to learn who these folks are. According to an Entertainment Software Association

survey conducted on July 17, 2008, 65% of American households play computer and video games and 38% of American homes have a video game console. The average game player is 35 years old and one out of four gamers is over age 50. Women age 18 or older represent a significantly greater portion of the game-playing population (33 percent) than boys age 17 or younger (18 percent). And, 41% of Americans expect to purchase one or more games this year.

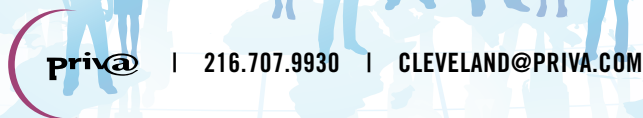
These numbers are very persuasive. That is why we have added gaming into part of our collection. Here's a sampling of the current rotation: "NASCAR 09," "Ghost Recon: Advanced Warfighter 2," "Mario & Sonic at the Olympic Games," "Star Wars: The Complete Saga," "Virtua Fighter 5" and "Resistance: Fall of Man."

Happy gaming to you!

Sam Lapides is the young adult librarian at the Lee Road Library.

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Cleveland Heights City Council

Highlights of November/December meetings

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008
(All Council members present)

Poets Laureate anthologized
Peggy Spaeth, director of Heights Arts, presented to each council member a recently published anthology of the work of the first three poets laureate of Cleveland Heights. Meredith Holmes and Lorne Weiss, two of the poets, read from the anthology.

Water rates announced
As of Jan. 1, the water rates for the fourth year of a five-year agreement with Cleveland will be \$55.53 per 1,000 cubic feet, \$40.47 for customers with homestead exemptions.

Recycling advantageous
Although prices for recycled materials have fallen, recycling is still advantageous because the city does not have to pay landfill costs for recycled waste.

New Song Church at former Severance Athletic Club
The request by New Song Church for a place of worship at the property that was formerly the Severance Athletic Club was approved after provisions regarding traffic, parking, landscaping, windows, and neighborhood concerns were dealt with. The numerous church members in attendance with their minister responded with approval and applause.

Rehabilitation of foreclosed property
Council authorized the sale of city-owned property at 975 Pembroke Road and 1047 Pennfield Road to the nonprofit Cuyahoga Council for Community Urban Redevelopment, which will rehabilitate the houses and resell them to owner-occupants as part of the HUD One Dollar Home Program. These are the 29th and 30th purchases under this program; eight houses have been demolished and 13 sold.

Winter precautions
Drivers were urged to be aware of their

speed and of bikers, especially on side streets, which will not be salted, only plowed, after snowfall. Raked leaves must be bagged after December 1. Hunger centers are in need of additional support.

MLK Day program rescheduled
The annual Martin Luther King Day commemoration will be rescheduled so that it will not conflict with Inauguration Day.

City financial status
As the staff reviews income and expense statements, the city appears to be in the black. Projections indicate that some needs, such as foreclosure relief, street repairs and development, cannot be met with internal funds in 2009. Federal neighborhood stabilization program funds may help. Mayor Kelley stated that the city will be looking to the new administration in Washington for assistance. Councilmember Ken Montlack said that 2009 will be another challenging year but that “we will pull together and show patience.”

LWV observers:
Blanche Valancy and Lisa Peters.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008
(All Council Members present)

Director brings reusable bags
Nancy Levin, the new director of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights library system, introduced herself and was welcomed by the Mayor. Levin brought the councilmembers reusable library bags; the library will no longer be giving out plastic ones.

Zoning resolutions
A Board of Zoning Appeals resolution allowing a six-foot fence to enclose a pool was approved with Councilmember Bonnie Caplan voting no for safety concerns. A second BZA resolution to allow propane outside of a building passed (4-3) with Mayor Ed Kelley, Caplan and Councilmember Mark Tumeo voting no for esthetic and safety concerns.



Land reutilization
Council approved a resolution supporting Ohio state legislation authorizing the creation of countywide land reutilization corporations.

Proposal to rehire city manager
An ordinance to rehire Robert Downey as city manager after his retirement received a first reading. This procedure, which is legal under Ohio law, was believed to be in the best interests of the city.

Summer 2009 in the city
Legislation related to summer activities received first readings. Fees will not be increased for the 2009 programs at Cain Park, but Sunday evening programs will be eliminated and no big musical will be produced; the latter alone will save the city \$130,000. Use regulations and rates for 2009 for Cumberland Swimming Pool and Cain Park Wading Pool will entail no increase in fees.

MLK contest and program
The Martin Luther King Jr. Program will be held Wednesday, Jan. 14. The essay topic is “If Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were alive today, what would he advise young people?”

City finances
Legislation amending the 2008 budget and setting the 2009 budget received first reading.

Kay Heylman
Several council members spoke of Kay Heylman, who died recently and would be missed. Kay was an active citizen who worked on school levies, for human rights, and with the Committee on Aging and the League of Women Voters.

LWV observer: Lisa Peters.

See disclaimer on page 5.

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LEAF POLICY continued from page 1

Several residents called the city in late November asking if the city planned to continue picking up leaves that were raked to tree lawns and were told, “No. Leaves must be bagged after Nov. 30.” Yet, last month, city trucks began picking up piles of leaves on tree lawns and a new message on the city’s refuse and recycling line (216-691-7300) stated that “due to inclement weather, leaf collection has been extended.”

City residents were angry and confused. One resident said that he spent all of Thanksgiving weekend bagging leaves because of the new policy. He was surprised to see the trucks removing his neighbors’ leaves in December.

According to Alex Mannarino, the manager of the city’s division of refuse and recycling, although leaf collection was to take place from Nov. 1 through Nov. 30 and his department borrowed employees from other city departments in order to make it happen, inclement weather made leaf collection impossible.

On Dec. 8, CH City Council approved extending leaf pickup into December.

Local landscapers made out as worried customers asked for extra service. Doug Freer, owner of Lawn Lad, said his company filled 136 Kraft bags for one customer, which took his firm an additional 10 man hours and added \$437 to the customer’s bill. “That’s a cost she should not have had to pay; but, that’s what happened with the city’s policy,” he said.

Council admits that the reduced leaf policy did not work as well as expected this year and there wasn’t adequate time to communicate the new pickup schedule. “In order for the leaf crews to go around the whole city twice in a month,” said Councilwoman Nancy Dietrich, “they would have to start the second (and supposedly final) trip around Nov. 15. People logically thought they had the entire month to put their leaves out, but mid-month was just too early. So of course the crews ended up doing a third sweep of the city, which put off other planned work and also had to be delayed due to snow. We have to re-think it for next fall.”

If you have suggestions on how to improve leaf pickup for next year, contact the City of Cleveland Heights at 216-691-7300 or pwd@clvhts.com.

Deanna Bremer Fisher, a 15-year resident of Cleveland Heights, is the executive director of FutureHeights, a nonprofit dedicated to civic engagement and quality of life in the Heights.

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**CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS
JANUARY 2009 MEETINGS**

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Mon	12	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole/ Municipal Services Committee	Executive Conference Room
Tue	13	6:30 pm	Recreation Advisory Board	Community Center ¹
Wed	14	7:00 pm	Planning Commission	Council Chambers
Wed	14	7:00 pm	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration	Community Center ¹
Fri	16	9:00 am	Commission on Aging	Senior Activity Center ²
Mon	19	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day* – City Hall & the Community Center closed		
Tue	20	4:00 pm	Architectural Board of Review	Council Chambers
Tue	20	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole	Executive Conference Room
Tue	20	7:30 pm	City Council Meeting	Council Chambers
Tue	20	7:30 pm	Citizens Advisory Committee	Executive Conference Room
Wed	21	8:00 am	Financial Institutions Adv. Committee	Executive Conference Room
Wed	21	7:30 pm	Board of Zoning Appeals	Council Chambers
Mon	26	5:45 pm	Council Committee of the Whole	Executive Conference Room

¹ The Community Center is located at Monticello Boulevard & Mayfield Road.
² The Senior Activity Center is located inside the Community Center, Monticello & Mayfield.
*Refuse & recycling collection will be delayed by one day following the holiday.

Visit www.clevelandheights.com for any changes or additions. For more information on the above meetings, call 291-4444.

A Celebration of the Life & Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Wednesday, January 14, 7:00 pm
Cleveland Heights Community Center, Monticello & Mayfield

University Heights City Council

Highlights of November/December meetings



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2008
All Council members present.

Animal control with South Euclid
Council passed a resolution to authorize an Animal Control Services Agreement with South Euclid.

Road salt shortage
Service Superintendent Chris Vild gave an update on the road salt shortage. Although he continues to contact vendors and salt is available, he hasn't yet received a quote for an acceptable price for a reasonable quantity. Cleveland Heights will sell University Heights salt if their supplier, Cargill, will permit it. University Heights is currently considering using a salt-cinder mix. The storage unit in Cleveland Heights is not set up for such a mix. Using this mix also entails an increased cost for cleaning sewers.

University Parkway project
Engineer Joe Ciuni reported that 30 of 59 homes on Silsby Road have been disconnected from the temporary water hoses. Weather permitting; the remaining 29 homes should be disconnected by the end of the week. Ciuni also stated that the University Parkway project was completed on Nov. 10.

Bushnell Road repaving
Community Coordinator Walter Stinson announced that an application for Community Development Block Grant funding had been submitted. If granted, the money would be used to repave Bushnell Road.

Website vendors:
Councilmember Frank Consolo stated that three website vendors had made presentations. A decision will be postponed until 2009 due to budget constraints.

LWV observer: Wendy Duering.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008
Peter R. Bernardo excused.

Charter Review Commission:
Speaking from the audience, resident Kate Uhlir requested a well-publicized town hall meeting, including councilmembers, to discuss the pros and cons of changing the city government and to state the approximate cost of such a change. She requested a citywide mailing in January to inform the community of the meeting.

Concerns about NEO/SO:
Former University Heights councilmember Susan Infeld expressed concerns about hiring NEO/SO (the

Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office) to evaluate the city's efficiency and cost saving process. Her issues included the identification and evaluation of city functions, an efficiency review, a study of fees and service charges, and shared services. Infeld was also concerned that there was no plan to interview residents or John Carroll University community members.

Results of "Voices and Choices" :
Former University Heights Councilman Steve Bennett reported that the agenda for Advance Northeast Ohio focuses on four areas: business growth, talent development, racial and economic inclusion, and government collaboration and efficiency.

UH reaches a milestone:
Mayor Beryl Rothschild announced that University Heights has been a member of the League of Cities for 25 years.

Ochoa to be part-time director
Council reappointed Arman R. Ochoa as director of finance on a part-time basis for 2009. Ochoa will be employed full-time with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District but offered to continue to work part-time for University Heights since the mayor is in the last year of her term. [Ochoa's full time position with the city had included several

roles in addition to finance director]

Road salt
Service Supervisor Chris Vild reported that University Heights had been placed on a list for road salt that ODOT had stockpiled.

Vice Mayor Adele Zucker reported that a policy of "sensible salting" was discussed at the Service and Utilities Committee meeting. Sensible salting means plowing and salting busy intersections and main roads while just plowing side streets. Residents will be informed of this via the City Watch reverse telephone system.

LWV observer: Sue Pardee

Disclaimer:
These reports contain member observation and selected highlights of public meetings and are not official statements of the League of Women Voters-Cuyahoga Area, Heights Chapter. This disclaimer must accompany any redistribution of these reports.

To receive email postings of full reports, send an email to lwv_chubreports-request@chub.net with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

Meeting summaries have been edited and prepared by Charlene Morse, Marilyn McLaughlin and Maryann Barnes.

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Open House at Saint Ann

Stephanie Applegate

Is your child ready for Kindergarten? Are you considering a move to a new school? If so, Saint Ann School cordially invites you to attend one of its January open houses. More than just a striking Cleveland Heights landmark, Saint Ann School is an institution that has effectively and impressively educated the youth of our city for over 90 years.

A diverse community of motivated learners, Saint Ann students are inspired to and regularly meet the challenges of a curriculum that stresses academic, social, and spiritual development. Thousands of commuters pass the imposing granite structure located at the corner of Coventry and Cedar roads everyday and may wonder what this “best kept secret in the Heights” has to offer.

It offers state-of-the-art science labs and a technology center. It provides wireless laptops for students and SMART Board technology in every classroom. It offers an enrichment program and National Honor Societ-

ies for the elementary and junior high grades. It offers proof of its standards of academic excellence with students who consistently score higher on the Iowa Test of basic Skills than students from other Catholic schools in the Diocese of Cleveland. And last, but not least, 92% of its graduating eighth graders are accepted into their first-choice high school, including Saint Ignatius High School, Beaumont School, Gilmour Academy, University School, Laurel School, and Hathaway Brown.

Interested parents and students are encouraged to attend either of the following open houses to learn more about Saint Ann School and its academic excellence: Sunday, Jan. 25, 12:30-2:00 p.m.; and Monday, Jan. 26, 8:30-10:00 a.m. For more information, call 216-932-4177 or go to <http://saintann.us/>.

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.

Ruffing Montessori teaches kids to lead a healthy, green life

Carol Provan

Ruffing Montessori School defines itself as a green school through a comprehensive program that prepares students with an education for life. Located at 3380 Fairmount Boulevard in Cleveland Heights, Ruffing has, over the past few years, undergone a significant physical renewal following LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) guidelines for design, construction and operation of a high-performance green building. Two highlights are the geothermal heating and cooling system and the solar panels connected to an inverter that changes the collected direct current into alternating current for usable electricity—about enough to power the geothermal system.

Guiding principles in the school are Reduce, Recycle and Reuse. This is implemented by many school policies and practices which include green cleaning products for healthier air, green procurement to reduce environmental impact, a no waste lunch program, energy efficiency, extensive use of natural light,

water harvesting for garden maintenance and an extensive recycling program.

What impact does this have on students? In addition to the school's basic curriculum, there is a supplemental green curriculum so that students fully understand, on age appropriate levels, the principles and design for sustainable living that surround them. The youngest students begin with vocabulary and simple ideas, and the sophistication increases to include a student-designed living roof and student-monitored solar power calculations. The student-implemented no waste lunch policy eliminates 14,000 pounds of garbage every school year and the student Recycling Club oversees separation and disposal of classroom and office trash.

Ruffing Montessori School is fully committed to being a green school and to producing citizens who understand and promote a healthy green lifestyle.

Carol Provan is director of development for Ruffing Montessori.

Rox science fair



The Heights Middle schools are preparing for the regional Science Olympiad competitions. Shown here from left to right are: Kayla Poirier, Bryan Kent, Bobby B. Bones, Tommy Pharis, Grace Phillips, and Nathan Friel, who are part of Roxboro Middle School's 'Wright Stuff' event team. Other

event teams (among others) include building robots for a mobility competition and harnessing renewable energy sources, such as wind power. Competition against other local schools begins in January.

Heights Youth Theatre performs Godspell

Susan Lacey Antonelli

Unlike double knit polyester, *Godspell* survived the seventies. First performed in 1971, this joyous musical allegory represents goodness and love, values that never go out of style. Lasting ideals along with *Godspell's* singular hippie happiness and genre-jumping Stephen Schwartz score are why it remains a timeless toe-tapper still today.

Based on the Gospel According to Saint Matthew, *Godspell* aims to change the world one theater-lover at a time, a goal that, in our often uncertain social, political and economic climate, is one of the reasons Heights Youth Theater chose to perform this powerful show. The ebullient cast romps through “Day By Day,” “Save the People,” and “All Good Gifts” while presenting modern day retellings of the parables through pantomime, vaudevillian acrobatics, comedy, song and dance. Innocently fun while at the same time profoundly appropriate, the show's colorful depictions of compassion, forgiveness and generosity illuminate Jesus' eternal teachings by altering the means through which they are normally delivered, making them accessible and real.

Musicals are famous for creating copious good cheer. But *Godspell* takes

that sense of mirth a step further, bolstering both actors and audiences with feelings of friendship, hope and benevolence. HYT's guest director, Sean Szaller, recognized the power and value in these collective emotions and created a momentum-building outlet called “*Godspell Gives Back*,” a community service program for his actors.

Szaller issued a cast call to action, inviting his charismatic ensemble to go off Broadway, HYT style. Groups of actors will take selected song and dance numbers on the road, spreading merriment, infectious enthusiasm, and high-hopes all across Cleveland. They have already entertained audiences at the Cleveland Clinic and Whole Foods, and are preparing to bring down the house at the Hospice of the Western Reserve and the Children's Museum, proving once and for all that actions sing louder than words.

Heights Youth Theater presents *Godspell* on Friday, Jan. 16, 23 and 30 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, 24 and 31 at 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 25 at 2:00 p.m. at Wiley Middle School, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Susan is a freelance writer, the editor of the Web site Ladies Who Launch, and a Heights Youth Theater board member.



Heights Youth Theatre performs “Godspell” starting Jan. 16. See www.heightsobserver.org for dates and times.

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What are they doing now?

Lita Gonzalez

RAJIV JOSEPH '92 is an American playwright. In April 2008, he was awarded the Vineyard Theatre's Paula Vogel Award which is given to emerging playwrights, and his play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* was chosen by the NEA as one of two Outstanding new American plays (which receive grants of \$90,000 each). The Center Theater Group in Los Angeles will produce *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo* as part of its 2009 season. It is a darkly comedic drama, which takes the audience to the streets of Baghdad where the lives of two American soldiers, an Iraqi translator, and a tiger intersect, changing each other's lives forever.

Rajiv received his B.A. in creative writing from Miami University, served in the Peace Corps for three years, and earned a Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 2004. His other plays include *Huck & Holden*, *All This Intimacy* and *Animals Out of Paper*.

DAVID BINNIG '97 is playing with three groups in Portland, Oregon. SubAtomic is a live electronic Improv Quartet that fuses jazz, breakbeat, drum-&-bass, and edgy downtempo grooves. The group started in March 2007. According to the group's web site, www.subatomicpdx.com, "Dave Binning plays trumpet into effects pedals creating on-the-fly loops that weave a smooth ambient texture and will carry you through space and time." David also plays trumpet for Book of Sands, a group whose "improvisations combine the hypnotic textures of early minimalism, the experimentalism of Krautrock, and the cyclical rhythms of Hindustani music with gradually evolving melodies that draw on modal jazz." Visit www.myspace.com/bookofsand.

Violinist **DIANA COHEN '97** is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she was the recipient of the 2000 Jerome Gross Prize in violin and a winner of the Darius Milhaud competition. Her principal teachers were Donald Weilerstein, William Preucil, and Paul Kantor. At the age of 23 she was ap-

pointed concertmaster of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, a position she held for three seasons. Diana performs regularly with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the International Sejong Soloists and is a frequent substitute with the New York Philharmonic. She was concertmaster of the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra. She is a member of the Knights, a fellowship of young musicians of diverse and accomplished backgrounds who come together for the shared joy of musical exploration. They have performed as soloists with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Israel Philharmonic, to name a few, and appeared at the world's most prestigious music festivals, including Marlboro, Tanglewood, Verbier, Stillwater, Lucerne, Salzburg and Mortizburg. Visit www.knightsmusic.net to learn more about the Knights and Diana.

ALEXANDER COHEN '03 is currently a member of CityMusic Cleveland and the West Virginia Symphony, where he holds the position of principal timpanist. Alex is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music, and studied with Paul Yancich, principal timpanist of the Cleveland Orchestra. During the 2007-08 season, Alexander acted as the principal timpanist of the San Diego Symphony and the San Diego Opera. He has also served as timpanist of the Marlboro Festival Orchestra, Mainly Mozart Festival, National Repertory Orchestra, New York String Orchestra and Aspen Festival Orchestra, as well as the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen. He performs regularly with the San Diego Symphony and the Charlotte Symphony and has performed in the Rocky River Chamber Series and at Steinway Hall in New York as a chamber musician. Learn more at www.citymusiccleveland.org.

Keep that information about our Heights graduates coming! Email me at lita@valancy.com.

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

CH-UH Board of Education: Highlights of November/December meetings



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2008
All board members present

Reception for Delisle

A farewell reception was held for Deborah Delisle to honor her before she leaves to become state superintendent. The Heights High School Singers did a take off of "America" from their recent "West Side Story" production. The Singer's Barbershop group, a state award winner, also sang. University Heights Vice-Mayor Adele Zucker, Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelly, union president Tom Schmida, Oxford Elementary School Principal Stacey Stuhldreher, representing the district's principals, board president Michael Cicero, and board member Kal Zucker, also gave tributes. Treasurer Scott Gainer presented Delisle with a plaque from State Representative Barbara Boyd. Lastly, Reaching Heights and the Alumni Association are co-sponsoring a Deborah Delisle annual scholarship.

Comments from Delisle

The superintendent thanked all those who helped her in her administration. During her tenure, the district established a partnership with John Carroll, the creation of small schools at the high school and the beginning of a partnership/exchange with schools in China.

Approved field trips

Three athletic trips were approved: two for the varsity basketball team and one for the swim team. Also approved was a trip for Heights High's choir and a trip for Wiley Middle School's eighth graders.

Agreement with the bargaining unit

The agreement between the CH-UH Board of Education and the bargaining unit effective July 1, 2008 through June 20, 2011 was approved.

21st century

A committee studying how to prepare the school district for the 21st century gave a Powerpoint presentation that

highlighted Ohio Report Card Indicators, strategies for high quality teaching, professional learning committees, mission statements and goals.

LWV observer: Lillian Houser.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2008
All board members present.

Interim superintendent

Associate Superintendent Christine Fowler-Mack was appointed interim superintendent effective immediately. Board member Nancy Pepler stated that, contrary to prior statements regarding the interim appointment, Fowler-Mack would be eligible to apply for the permanent superintendent position.

Carter is new library board member

After interviewing four candidates, the board appointed Cardala Carter to the CH-UH Library Board position vacated by Gerald Blake. Board members praised all four candidates and asked Library Director Nancy Levin, who was in the audience, to keep all of them involved.

Superintendent search

Vice President Kal Zucker and board member Nancy Pepler reported on their meeting with representatives from two superintendent search firms, OSBA (Ohio School Board Association) and Marsick and Associates. The process and expense were discussed, and the estimated cost was \$7,5000 plus or minus \$2,000. The search could be completed in about three months; therefore, if the search began in March, an appointment could be made by the end of the school year. So far, no search firm had presented a formal proposal. These two firms plus two others, Finding Leaders and Hudepohl and Associates would be invited to the January 20 meeting to present their proposals.

LWV observer: Maryann Barnes.

See disclaimer on page 5.

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Second-graders explore nature in the neighborhood

Gabriella Celeste

The sky was ominous, but none of the nearly 40 second-graders in Ms. Siegel's and Mr. Lovett's two classes from Boulevard Elementary were deterred. The children were thrilled to be walking to Forest Hill Park, about half a mile away via Cumberland Park, behind the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center. I was the volunteer parent that afternoon. Despite countless visits to the Rec Center, none of us—adults included—had ever explored the natural wildlife so beautifully preserved right here. Thanks to Barb Holtz, a naturalist with the MetroParks, we all got to experience and learn about nature first hand.

"Learning about the mushrooms was the best," said my seven-year old son Emet and his friends Kae'la and Brittney. "If you push it with your finger," said Charlotte, "a puff of smoke comes out." Julia also loved the "squishy mushrooms . . . the green smoke was really cool." "Actually, the smoke is called spores," corrected Lili. But Sam got the final word: "my favorite part was when [Barb] showed us the mushrooms and told us that spores are really seeds."

All this happened because two teachers and a naturalist took time to bring kids into nature in order to let them take in the wonder around them. Barb had straddled a large log and beckoned the children to all take a look at the small outgrowth of mushroom puffs. She encouraged the children to touch gently, which they did with great care. Among other things, we learned that these mushrooms were really the great recyclers of the forest, and about how each plant and animal and organism in nature has a purpose.

The rain held off and we continued along the nature trail under the canopy of colorful fall foliage, kids oohing and ahing all the way. We learned that this park had been part of the original Rockefeller estate and that "some of the trees were over 100 years old," recalled Adaya. One of the teachers reminded the students that Rockefeller was buried at Lakeview Cemetery down the street, with a tombstone in the shape of an obelisk—one of their enrichment spelling words that week.

Along the way, Barb pulled out two furry friends. "The chipmunk and the squirrel was my favorite part," said Romaine. He was not alone. "Showing us that they lived in different habitats" impressed Glenn. And "that a chipmunk lives underground for home and a squirrel lives in a tree," added James and Ja'Juan.

As our visit came to a close, the rain suddenly poured. Once again, the children made the best out of the day by running, skipping and literally belly laughing all the way back to school. "Thank you for showing us around," said Javan, "and for taking us to the woods," said Tiarra. "It was fun!"

School and community come together. Learning is fun and active and engaging. Experiences like these make me deeply grateful for the Heights and for the thoughtful teachers, and staff and other adult mentors and models in our community.

Gabriella Celeste is a mother of two boys, ages six and seven, residing with husband and family in the Cleveland-Heights Coventry neighborhood.

Heights Youth Club holds Youth of the Year competition

Adrienne Williams

The Youth of the Year program is a Boys and Girls Club of America nationally sponsored event. The competition recognizes extraordinary members who have made worthwhile contributions to their family, school, or community; have shown a dedication to academic excellence; and have risen above personal challenges or obstacles. The program benefits members by helping them to achieve personal growth, developing their leadership skills, strengthening their moral values and building positive self-concepts along with developing healthy attitudes toward home, community, school and their club.

From our local Heights Youth Club, we have five exemplary candidates in Deontae Strickland, Benetta Steward, Brenika Gross, Sapphira Derico, and Clayton Harris. The qualifications for the candidates are: to be at least 14 to 18 years of age, have a record of active and continuing service in the club for at least two years, and have completed a YOY application that entails writing essays

that describe the candidate's personal qualities, experiences and achievements. The actual local competition on January 8 requires that the candidates present their essay to a panel of judges who will then evaluate their qualifications along with their speeches to determine a winner.

The HYC winner will then go on to compete in the overall Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland Youth of the Year competition on January 22 to determine the city's champion. The winner of the local BGCC Youth of the Year will win a total of \$7,500 in scholarship funds to the college of their choice and will have the opportunity to compete on the state level in hopes of going on to the regional and then national level. Each level carries additional scholarship awards and publicity.

Direct questions or comments to Club Director Roscoe Morgan at 216-321-CLUB.

Adrienne Williams is a graduate of Bryant and Stratton College and joined the HYC as teen coordinator in 2008.

Be a garbage hero: pack a no waste lunch

Lisa Flaherty

My sister's children taught me a new phrase, no waste lunches, in discussing how Ruffing Montessori School is quite green—featuring lunches that are entirely consumed or composted.

I'm not an eco-freak, but this is clearly a good, easy green-action you can offer the world.

After monitoring lunch at my children's school, I got fired up and starting reading. According to recycleworks.org, a website about recycling and early education, every kid throws out 4-8 ounces of garbage everyday at lunch (that adds up to about 100 pounds of garbage per kid, per year). That is a LOT of garbage!

Let me repeat: I'm not an eco-freak – but we should TRY to minimize garbage. And while we're at it, we should teach our kids to try, too. "No waste lunches" reduce harm toward the planet – kid by kid, lunch by lunch.

Look, time is valuable and sometimes we buy in to that highly marketed concept, "convenience." But a "no waste lunch" is a very simple way to help the planet and it doesn't take any more time to prepare:

- Use a lunch box or reusable sack (or a Japanese *bento*)
- Pack a cloth napkin and reusable utensils, and
- Use reusable food and drink containers (buy in bulk, it's less expensive)

If you do this for a year, you've saved the planet about 100 pounds of garbage. I would have to call that eco-cool. Just try it. And, get your kids involved. They'll have fun with garbage-saving challenges.

There's nothing eco-freaky about considering your children's future!

Lisa M. Flaherty, Ph.D. attended Fairfax in her youth and now works as a communications consultant for American Greetings.

Funds needed to buy therapy dog for CH girl

Simone Quartell

Eight-year-old Riley O'Neil loves animals and already has three cats of her own. But she needs another pet – a dog to help her deal with her Asperger's syndrome.

Riley's mother, Michelle, says Riley is the "sweetest, most pure heart you'll ever meet." Riley loves her six-year-old brother, Seth, and is "very kind and honest," her mother says. Her anxiety, however, has made social settings difficult for her. Riley will stand outside a group she wants to join, but will be too nervous to ask.

That's just one of the many effects Asperger's, a high-functioning form of Autism, has on Riley's life. Approximately one in 150 children has Autism; one in 84 boys, Michelle says. When Riley was 18 months old, she was having more meltdowns than most kids her age and her parents knew "something was up." After seeing many doctors, it was determined that Riley had Asperger's. She attended a program called DAN (Defeat Autism Now) at age 4, which put her on Methyl B12, and stopped her meltdowns in two weeks. However, she still needs help, despite years of occupational and physical therapy.

Asperger's is characterized by acute forms of all the senses, getting kids overwhelmed more easily. Riley has a lot of anxiety and a lot of fear, which makes emotions more difficult to manage and behavior at school a challenge. After doing research, Michelle discovered that a service dog from 4 Paws for Ability, an organization in Xenia, Ohio, might be able to help her daughter. 4 Paws for Ability provides dogs for people with all sorts of disabilities.

The O'Neils are fund-raising for a dog, which will be highly trained and provide a lot of assistance to Riley. The dog will walk with Riley and help monitor her behavior, aiding her if it notices she is upset and helping her calm down.



Riley O'Neil 8, of Cleveland Heights, is waiting for funds for a therapy dog to help her manage Asperger's syndrome.

It will also help her in her social life, her mother says, as people will see that she has the dog and talk to her about it.

Michelle says that Riley is just starting to realize she's different, and it's just starting to bother her. At school, sometimes the noise disturbs her so much that she needs to go to a quiet space to prevent having a meltdown. She has also missed out on family outings due to sensory overloads.

Those who know Riley are supportive of getting the dog. Her teachers and principal at Canterbury Elementary will allow her to bring the dog to school. Riley needs the Heights community to help her get the dog. 4 Paws for Ability does not allow families to pay the \$11,000 required to buy the dog. A benefit concert will be held in New York in December, but more funds are needed. Michelle says the family will appreciate donations of any amount.

Visit lifeforileyo@gmail.com for information on how to donate.

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

New priorities are taking root under Heights athletic director

Keith Gisser

When Kristin Hughes took on the job of athletic director at Cleveland Heights High School in the fall of 2007, she faced the task of reorganizing a department that had been operating in a vacuum since the resignation of Tom Hill the previous school year. Today, her approach is making a difference.

Before coming to Heights, Hughes coached the Case Western Reserve University women's basketball team from 1993-2004; served as CWRU's interim athletic director that last year; and coached Colgate University's Division I women's basketball team for three years.

"It was an adjustment coming from a college environment," she says. "I was accustomed to having coaches available to me 24/7. Here, many of the coaches are not even in the building. Plus, with so many of our teams playing and practicing at remote facilities, we did not have the kind of school spirit I would like to see. We do not have the kind of facilities I was used to, either."

Hughes would like to renovate Crawford Stadium to include an all-weather turf field, new scoreboard and updated bleachers. A remodeling of the locker room area under the south gym is in progress, and she also would like to expand the weight room.

"Realistically, this is going to have to come from private funding, and it will take a monumental effort, but a school the size of Heights needs to be able to bring its programs back on campus."

Although she has played on and coached many winning programs, winning is not the only measure of success, she says.

"Of course winning is important... that's why we keep score. But as long as kids are having a positive experience,

success can be measured in other ways," Hughes explains. "We have really shifted our focus to preparing kids for college. If a student wants to play in college, there is a program for him or her.... We have under-

taken a number of initiatives to get our student-athletes in front of college coaches...." As an example, she cites Christian Johnson, a cross-country runner who was not being recruited and was not even sure about running in college. "She was seen by Coastal Carolina University and ended up being the Freshman of the Year in the Big South Conference. That's just one example."

The other priority, says Hughes, is a better community connection. "Let's face it: Not very many kids will pick up ice hockey or field hockey or lacrosse through general exposure. We need to connect with the youth leagues. Coach Rotsky and his staff have done a great job of this with the football program and Terry Saylor with girl's lacrosse is another example," according to Hughes. "These coaches are out there in the community, working with young kids and the kids, in turn, are beginning to look up to the high school programs. That is a key to the future."

Keith Gisser is an award winning sports journalist and former standup comic who also serves as head coach of the Heights High Lady Tiger Soccer team.



Cleveland Heights High Athletic Director Kristin Hughes previously coached the Colgate University Women's Basketball Team

Pavilion Skating Club of Cleveland Heights brings awards home from the National Championship in Lake Placid



Pavilion Skating Club Team members traveled to the Junior Nationals in Lake Placid, New York in December 2008.

Susan Jhirad

Members of the Pavilion Skating Club strutted their stuff at the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championship at the Lake Placid Olympic Center in Lake Placid, New York.

Holly Moore and Daniel Klaber took fifth place in the Juvenile Dance competition, while Jacob Jaffe and Greta Riebe took sixth. Hannah Rosinski and Paul Shapiro placed 10th in Intermediate Dance.

Jacob Jaffe also took 18th in the final round for Intermediate Men, while Lexi Petkovic took 12th in the qualifying round for Juvenile Girls.

The competition, which was held in December, featured 300 figure skaters from across the country. The event determined the U.S. champion in ladies, men's, pairs, and ice dancing in the first two levels of the U.S. Figure Skating competitive structure: juvenile and intermediate.

All contestants qualified for the competition by being a top finisher in either their regional championships (ladies and men) or sectional championships (pairs and dance).

Lexi Petkovic earned a spot to compete as a Juvenile Lady at Junior

Nationals with a fourth place finish in the juvenile level at the Eastern Great Lakes Regional (EGLR) Championships in Midland, Michigan. Lexi is 13, and a seventh grade student at Laurel School.

Jacob Jaffe earned his way with a third place finish at the EGLR Championships. Jacob is in ninth grade at Hawken School.

The ice dance teams won their slots by competing at the Midwestern Sectional Championships in Sugarland, Texas. Hannah Rosinski and her partner Paul Shapiro qualified for the national event when they finished fifth place. Hannah is an eighth-grader at Gesu School in University Heights.

Holly Moore and her partner Daniel Klaber qualified for the national event by finishing fifth at the juvenile dance level in Texas. Holly is a seventh-grader at Gilmour Academy, and Daniel is in the ninth grade at Brush High School.

Greta Reibe and Jacob Jaffe became eligible for the national competition when they finished sixth in Texas.

Susan Jhirad is a lifelong Heights resident. Her nine-year-old daughter has been a member of Pavilion Skating Club for several years.

Aikido teaches awareness

Michelle Jacobs-Mucha

Anyone interested in learning martial arts, whether for fitness or for self-defense, can find an excellent training program for adults as well as children at Cleveland Aikikai. Originally founded in 1976 by members of the Oberlin College Aikido Club, the dojo, or school, occupied several locations in and around the Heights area before moving to its present location, 3965 Mayfield Road, in 1993.

Sensei Jim Klar is head of the dojo. He holds a fourth degree black belt and has studied extensively in the United States and Japan. His program offers classes in a number of martial arts styles; however, its main focus is instruction in the art of Aikido. Aikido differs from other martial arts styles in that its basic principle is to blend with, rather than to

oppose, an attack. Its techniques, full of subtle yet powerful circular movements, are distinctive for their elegance and flow. The aim of its philosophy is to resolve conflict constructively, rather than escalating it. Aikido teaches a detailed awareness of oneself and of one's surroundings. It encourages the ability to respond in a calm, controlled manner to all sorts of circumstances, expected or otherwise. Students learn the ability to defend themselves, while causing the least possible harm to anyone else.

The children's Aikido program, for kids ages 7 to 15, is headed by Sensei Tom Krumroy. He holds a third degree black belt and is head instructor of the Case Aikido Club. The children's program focuses on kids using their heads when in a conflict. They are taught to respond to threats using only the minimal force needed to protect themselves. Children



Children's Aikido programs help kids use their heads when they experience conflict.

are all placed in one class, allowing students of all ages and skill levels to learn from and to teach one another. Through their study, students gain self-discipline, self-confidence, and sincere respect for others.

Cleveland Aikikai is a not-for-profit organization. Dues for membership are quite reasonable and include many opportunities to train throughout the

week. Family memberships are also available. Visitors are welcome to stop in and observe during any class or to call 216-382-6060 for more information.

Michelle Jacobs-Mucha has been a Heights resident for 20 years. She is a clinical research coordinator for Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Gwynby Antique & Gifts, a Cleveland Heights treasure!

Kaye Lowe

While many small businesses struggle, close or reinvent themselves, Gwynby Antiques and Gifts remains true to its original mission: to offer the public authentic 18th and 19th century French, American, and English antique furniture, and unique gifts.

"There is always a demand for quality products and customer service," says owner Eleanor Wilkins, "We offer both; and an assurance our antiques are authentic, and gifts of the finest quality. Antiques do not lose their value and are more desirable then ever as an investment!"

Wilkins came to this country from England in the 1960's with a love and vast knowledge of antique furniture, jewelry and porcelains. Her parents were collectors of superior English antiques. They taught her the characteristics and qualifications to look for, as well as what made items unique and valuable. Her thirst for more knowledge led her to take university courses and study at Sotheby of England.

In 1970 she, her husband Del, and friend James Sauers decided to open Gwynby Antiques and Gifts. The partners chose Cedar Fairmount because of its proximity to the prosperous families in the Heights and its unique combination of shops. The store now has two locations, 2482 Fairmount and 2450 Fairmount, on the second level of the Heights Medical Building.

The antiques shop features 18th and 19th Century French, American, and English furniture and fine porcelains, such as Spode, Derby, and Worcester. The current inventory includes Staffordshire Toby Dogs; a rare pair of Staffordshire cats; English, American, and French dining room sets, buffets, and armoires; and a selection of elegant English, French, and Russian sterling silver tableware, tea servers, and trays.

The shop's national and international reputation draws collectors and sellers. "It is more difficult to find genuine antique furniture and silver today," says Wilkins. "The most sought after articles are tables and chairs," she says. "Customers may not want a house filled with antiques furniture, but purchase an antique, to add interest to a room."

Gwynby is coveted as a source by



Gwynby Antiques & Gifts has served the Heights since the 1970s.

local and national decorators, and the store ships to customers from all over the world. Wilkins and partner James Sauers are invited to prominent antique shows, such as the Chicago International Show on the Pier, Three Arts Club in Chicago, the Cincinnati Antique Show, the Western Reserve Antique Show, and the Grosse Pointe Antique Show.

While Gwynby has always carried gifts, the expansion to the mezzanine of the Heights Center Building enabled an expansion into unique greeting cards, Patience Brewster figurines, Cedar Fairmount note cards, crystal vases, handbags, children's items and estate jewelry.

Wilkins prides herself in sourcing a customer's unique request. Her expertise as an appraiser is widely sought, and she reserves Wednesdays for traveling to appraise treasured items.

As Gwynby approaches its 40th anniversary it is still the place to find unusual, moderately priced treasures. See for yourself!

Gwynby Antiques

2482 and 2450 Fairmount Boulevard
Phone: 216-229-2526

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday,
Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Or by appointment

Wednesdays Closed for Appraisals.

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

"Being green" is a journey

Scott Castor

What exactly does it mean to be "green" anyway?

Being green is making conscious decisions that benefit your environment, your health, and your local economy.

Environmental consciousness is awareness of what we put into the air, water, and earth. One way to measure the "greenness" of environmental decisions is to know the size of your "carbon footprint," or the measure of the amount of carbon-based fuels it takes to maintain your lifestyle. A smaller footprint is better.

Health consciousness in the context of "being green" is the concern for what we put into our body and how this affects you and your family. One way to make green health-conscious decisions is to look at how your food is grown—is it organic or is it grown with pesticides and chemical fertilizers?

Economic consciousness is about asking the question "am I keeping my money in my own community for longer term benefit?"

In order to link all three of these green considerations together, consider the phrase, "Think Globally, Act Locally." This is the concept that everything we do individually can have an impact globally. This consciousness begins with the question "how is what I am doing affecting myself, my community, or my world?"

"Being Green" is not a switch that you flip, but a journey you take one step at a time, beginning with asking these questions. Ghandi said "you must be the change you want to see in the world."

It's easy to be green! Start with your own interests. For a healthy home, buy earth-friendly cleaners or make your own (techniques at www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/recipes.cfm). To save energy,

change to energy-efficient light bulbs or hire a local green-conscious contractor to evaluate and update parts of your home. For better health, plant a garden, go to the local farmers market, or join a Community Supported Agriculture group.

Doing all three knocks out several things on the list with one step. For example, eating food that is locally grown reduces your "carbon footprint" because the amount of fossil fuel that it takes to grow the food and then transport the food is greatly reduced. Second, it is healthier. We can find out how "organic" that tomato is because the farmer who grew it is most likely standing there selling it to you. There is a more direct connection to your food. Third, you are keeping your money in the community. It is more likely that that farmer could come into your place of business and spend his money with you sometime in the future.

One common misconception is that being green is expensive. Most everything we can do by making a minor lifestyle adjustment and reprioritizing what is important. In the case of food, buy less food but better quality. Look for the "made in" label to make sure you are buying products made in this country. Buy your electricity through a cooperative that produces "green power." All of the little things add up on the journey to "be green." Don't be overwhelmed. Take the first step.

Scott Castor is an "Eco-preneur" living in Cleveland Heights. He is the Greener Home Handyman and the owner of a new franchise called Greener Home Services, LLC. Scott just planted five fruit trees in his yard, has a vegetable garden, and heats his home and hot water with wood and solar. He can be reached at scottcastor@greenerhomehandyman.com.



The new Heights Center Building Mural East was dedicated in December. From left to right: Bill Doyle; Lee Cavender; artist's assistant, Tatiana Madden; artist Jesse Rhinehart; building owner, Mike Occhinero, and Heights Arts Director, Peggy Spaeth.

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REGREEN your home in the Heights

Chuck Miller

Does the mortgage and economic crisis have you in a dilemma over how to deal with the house you are living in with an expanding family? Are you looking for an environmentally friendly action plan for your remodeling project? Are your energy bills higher than your mortgage?

A new publication from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) may be just what you've been waiting for. REGREEN is a home remodeling guide prepared by the USGBC and ASID (American Society of Interior Designers). The guide is available in print, and online at www.regreenprogram.org.

The online publication links to numerous resources. The guidelines are organized by projects, such as "Kitchens" and "Finished Basement." There's even a "Gut Rehab" category for those taking on a really big renovation.

Each category includes three major discussion points. First, the "Integrated Predesign Issues" section suggests primary decisions that need to be made at the start of the project, including how this project may impact other parts of the house or site.

Next is a "Strategies" checklist of choices and considerations the project may require. For example, electrical,



CHUCK MILLER



CHUCK MILLER

Before: A non-residential building, built in the 1970s, with no wall or roof insulation.

After: The same building with new insulated glass windows and 3" rigid insulation over the roof and outside walls of the building, resulting in a major reduction in energy use.

HVAC and wall construction options are listed and referenced in a strategy library. The library includes a brief description of the pros and cons of the choices, as well as links to more sources of information.

Finally, a "Case Study" illustrates strategies used on an actual construction project.

As detailed as it is, REGREEN is written in understandable language and the format is easy to skim for information. Yet, builders and architects will also find it to be great resource. There are suggested wall construction details and great resources like Building Science Consulting, a useful source for dealing with cold climate construction and moisture control issues.

If your project goal is improved energy efficiency, then take a look at the "Deep Energy Retrofit" project section. This section includes some really interesting new construction ideas that would drive energy consumption to a bare minimum.

This just scratches the surface of

the information that can be found in the REGREEN publication. The world of construction technology is changing rapidly. And with 40 percent of the energy used in the U.S. going towards constructing and operating our buildings, it can't happen soon enough. With predictions that within 30 years we will approximately double the number of buildings in our country, we have to be thinking ahead. How much energy will we use? How many of our natural resources disappear? How big will our landfills become? Learning how to retrofit and remodel the homes we have is just about the greenest decision we can make. Learning how to do it in a sustainable way is the next.

Chuck Miller has lived in Cleveland Heights for 24 years. He is an architect and principal with the sustainable architecture design firm of Doty & Miller Architects. The firm has completed three LEED-certified building and three more certifications are pending final review. They have 16 additional projects registered with the USGBC.

One size smaller going green in winter

Anita Kazarian

Reduce your carbon footprint for one day only. I took the challenge and 24 hours later, ouch! The squeeze into the smaller size was painful. You could turn as nasty as Cinderella's sisters.

Single-digit temperatures with sub-zero wind chills – a real test. The incentive? Reduce my carbon footprint, reduce my utilities bills, save money and feel great. I thawed out only this morning and realized a bunch of facts. Going green in winter is not for sissies.

Saturday night, I set the thermostat at 58. Snuggling under a heavy down comforter was cozy. A hot morning shower steamed up the bathroom and I was on my virtuous first morning of green: coffee, the *Heights Observer*, and the thermostat hiked up to 64.

A bit chilly, a second cup of coffee helped, but not enough. After adding more layers – a long-sleeve turtleneck, a sweatshirt, sweat pants and heavy outdoor hiking socks – I started feeling warm. I looked like the Michelin Man (a warm Michelin Man).

With a dangerous drop in temperature outside, there is an equally dangerous drop in the humidity inside. Human skin needs moisture. You might as well give away hundreds of dollars of moisturizing effort when the house gets this dry in the winter. But, you couldn't pay me to take off my layers to slather on cream.

However, there is always a load of laundry waiting for me. I did a load, but

stopped the spin cycle mid-way on the final rinse. I just hung up the wet wash, dripping wet. Most Heights homes have a drain on the floor in the basement. If you don't, just finish the spin cycle before hanging.

The clothesline helped me get an upper arm workout, added humidity without using the humidifier, and saved energy by not using the dryer.

That was Sunday morning. By lunchtime, I caved in. I turned the thermostat to 66. It was either that or pay the doctor. Great rationalization, right? Closing off a small room was my next creative solution. Live in a smaller space. By mid-afternoon, I was ready to throw in the towel and turned it up to 68. One more idea struck, go visit friends or go to the movies. I did.

I managed to reduce my carbon shoe size only a little over the 24 hours. But every bit helps. Right?

Anita Kazarian is a resident of University Heights and enjoys being an active citizen.

Calculate your appliance energy usage

Anita Kazarian

Do you want a car that gets 10 miles per gallon of gasoline or one that gets 49 miles per gallon? Easy enough. But how do you figure out how much it costs you in electricity to run your computer? Your dishwasher? Your clothes dryer?

There is a simple formula: wattage x hours used a day x days used a year ÷ 1,000 = kilowatt-hour (kWh) used a year. Example: a personal computer uses 120 watts (you will find this stamped

somewhere on any appliance) + monitor uses 150 watts x 4 hours a day x 365 days a year ÷ 1,000 = 394 kWh/year.

What does this cost you? Assume the price of one kWh is \$0.104. 394 kWh x \$0.104 = \$40.98 a year to run your computer and monitor. But, did you know the U.S. Department of Energy launched Energy Savers in 1998? Go to their web page at www.eere.energy.gov and get useful tips to help save energy and money. You can also download a 36-page Energy Savers booklet (in English or Spanish).

And, did you know that a clothes washer uses only 350 to 500 watts, but a clothes dryer uses about 800 to 5,000 watts? Where is that clothesline!?

Anita Kazarian is a resident of University Heights and enjoys being an active citizen.

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Save energy right now

Michael Wellman

Like many of you, I live in a drafty old Cleveland Heights house. But, I dream of shiny, true divided-lite, Argon filled, insulated windows, eight-inch thick, super-insulated walls bursting with R-30 recycled cotton and sealed tight with a spray-applied air/water barrier.

I have come to accept that I will probably never live in the super-efficient house of my dreams. I do, however, spend lots of time trying to make my charming old energy hog a little more efficient and environmentally friendly without destroying its historic character.

Below are eight things you can do right now that will reduce energy use. Most of them require a trip to your locally-owned hardware store and some elbow grease (or a handy-man). All of them will save you money well beyond your initial investment and will prevent some carbon from entering the atmosphere.

Install a programmable thermostat. If you have an old, dial-type thermostat or even a digital that is not programmable, you're simply wasting money. You can easily save 15-30% on your heating bill by installing a \$60-80 programmable thermostat. Each degree below 68°F during colder weather saves 3-5% more heating energy. A programmable thermostat will make changes automatically, letting the temperature fall at night or while you're at work, and raising it when you require. If you do nothing else, do this right now!

Three changes to your hot wa-



An efficient, tankless water heater, like the one shown here can be installed in your old house and save you money now.

MICHAEL WELLMAN

ter system: Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120°F. This costs nothing, but will save you money. And you probably won't notice the difference. Insulate your water heater. Americans spend \$15 billion a year to heat water. Some simple measures could save about two-thirds of that cost. You can cut the amount of fuel you use to heat water (and save \$30 a year) by in-

sulating your water heater with a simple jacket (about \$20).

Better yet, replace your old tank with an efficient, on-demand, tankless water heater. Models vary from direct to indirect vented, electric or gas fired. They can be mounted on a wall or sit on a floor and are much smaller than tank heaters. They ignite on demand; no constant heating or pilot light is needed.

And, they can be connected to one sink or the whole house.

Two changes to your drafty old windows: Caulk windows and gaps with seal-and-strip caulk. The gap between a window and its frame can be large. Seal it for winter; peel it off in the spring. Apply a window film. Apply foam two-sided tape around the window. Stretch the window film across, keeping it relatively flat and even. Use a hair dryer to shrink the plastic. It goes completely flat and you won't even know it's there.

Change your incandescent light bulbs: Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 66% less energy than a standard incandescent and last up to 10 times longer. Replacing a 100-watt incandescent with a 32-watt CFL can save \$30 in energy costs over the life of the bulb. Replacing just six incandescent bulbs will trim your electric bill by as much as \$35 each year.

Use power strips: Many appliances and electronics use power even when turned off (LED's are lit, power adapters are warm). By using power strips, and turning them off when not in use, you can save money on your electric bill.

Here are several websites for additional tips:

Environmental Building News
<http://www.buildinggreen.com/>

Rocky Mountain Institute's Cool Citizen Guide
http://www.rmi.org/images/other/Climate/C02-12_CoolCitizensBrief.pdf

The Green Building Initiative
<http://www.thegbi.org/home.asp>

Michael Wellman, an architect and Future-Heights board member, lives in Cleveland Heights.

CH activist promotes wind power

Phillip Taylor

One day, back in the early 1970s, the telephone rang at Sarah Taylor's Meadowbrook Boulevard home in Cleveland Heights. A *Plain Dealer* reporter was on the line asking, "What is your reaction to being sued for a million dollars?"

It was one of the more memorable moments in the energetic redhead's 35 years of activism. At the time, Taylor was a member of the Open Housing Task Force of the Heights Community Congress, which was spearheading an effort to maintain a racially integrated community. She had agreed to a visit to her house by one particularly aggressive realtor who had been calling the Taylors, urging them to sell their home.

When the agent arrived, Taylor had prepared a welcoming committee of task force members who tried, over coffee, to educate the agent on the error of her block-busting ways. The agent's boss claimed that she had been psychologically damaged by the experience, and filed the lawsuit, which was later dismissed with the help of a lawyer who worked pro bono in Taylor's defense.

In 1976, Sarah committed to the struggle to bring public radio to Cleveland, which at the time was the largest metropolitan area in the U.S. without a public radio station. Having grown up in England listening to the BBC, she knew the value of high-quality broadcast news and information. After meeting

with officials from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in Washington, she invited all of the most influential people she knew to a meeting in her Cleveland Heights living room. From this small group, Cleveland Public Radio was born, with Taylor one of the four founding trustees. Eight years later, WCPN took to the air.

Not every cause she has promoted has achieved victory, but she is fiercely optimistic about the current one, which she feels is vitally important for the economic health of Northeast Ohio. She is doing all she can to encourage the region to profit from its greatest unused resource, namely, the strong, steady winds that blow across Lake Erie. Her husband Phillip, a physicist at Case Western Reserve University, pointed out that Cleveland could build the world's first freshwater wind farm, since all existing offshore wind turbines are on seas and oceans. What an opportunity this would be for the city, she thought -- one which could inspire headlines around the globe, in addition to creating new businesses and jobs.

Thus, Taylor set out vigorously to spread the word to city leaders, companies, organizations and individuals. Coining the slogan "Windustrious Cleveland," she commissioned designer Dennis Yurich to make a brief movie to illustrate Cleveland's progression from industrial eminence to its current cultural and technological expertise, and

on to its re-invigorated manufacturing future.

The city's potential to move from "industrious to illustrious to windustrious" is described in more detail on the web site <http://windustrious.org> Cleveland Heights composer Jeff Moyer has contributed his creativity to the site with his song "Wind on the Water."

Taylor encourages all who want to help build this momentum to visit the site and sign up to become champions of Cleveland's "Windustrious" future.

Philip Taylor is a professor of physics at CWRU. When he first arrived in the U.S. in 1962 he found lodging in a tiny room above a garage on Derbyshire Road. The noise of the door opener was too much, and he now



CAMILA TAYLOR

Sarah Taylor promotes "Windustrious Cleveland."

has his own house in Cleveland Heights. He shares it with the subject of this biographical note, who happens to have been his wife for the past 42 years.

And the Big (Bad) Footprint Award goes to...

Anita Kazarian

What is a carbon footprint? Let's put aside the complex scientific definition. Let's go with the simple one, because that is the one we can do something about today. My carbon footprint is the total amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) I generate because of my energy use over a period of one year.

My direct carbon footprint comes from energy I use in my home, my car, the airplane flights I take, etc. It also includes indirect emissions of CO₂ from the goods and services I consume.

OK, here is the deal: we agree going green (less CO₂ creation) is what we want. Send us an e-mail, 25 words or

less on what gets the Big (Bad) Footprint Award. Rules are simple, the Big (Bad) Footprint Award will go to the biggest needless waste of energy leading to increased CO₂ in the Heights area.

Judging will be arbitrary and, in the event of ties, the winner will be drawn from a hat. The top ten entires will be published in the next issue of the *Heights Observer*. The winner will receive a 50 foot (energy friendly) clothesline. We want to hear from you. E-mail your nominee to info@heightsobserver.org. Deadline for submission is January 19, 2009.

Anita Kazarian is a resident of University Heights and enjoys being an active citizen.

Heights Writes: Poem for January 2009

Meredith Holmes

HeightsArts and the *Heights Observer* are reviving the tradition of publishing poetry in the newspaper. In the early twentieth century, poetry was a very popular feature in both small-town and big-city newspapers. Newspaper poems were read and reread, enclosed in letters, and saved in family bibles and photo albums. People turn to poetry in good times and bad, so we hope, no matter what the new year brings, that you are comforted, elated, inspired, and provoked by the poems you read here.

The poet for January gives us some pointers on “deep ecology,” the spiritual aspect of green living. A profound union with the natural world does not come without commitment – even sacrifice – she warns, but the rewards are beyond compare.

Meredith Holmes is the Cleveland Heights Poet Laureate, 2005-2006

Advice to Myself, Lesson One

by Darlene Montonaro

First make a home in the forest
with air as your door frame and birds
your only companions. Bathe
in a cold mountain stream, your hair
the ripple and roll, your mind as loose
as the current. Learn the color
of birdsong, the smell of thunder,
and the way to tell time
with shadows and trees. In gratitude
spill wine from your glass, share
watermelon with raccoons. Let inchworms
make their slow, painful way
up your arm as a lesson
in patience. Eat silence
for breakfast and penance
as your evening meal. Read
the letters delivered by the leaves
and the cursive of stars in the night sky.
Go to bed smelling of pine tar, camp smoke,
and rain under the night sky
beside the fire pit
where all your memories burn.

Darlene Montonaro lives in Lakewood and was, for 13 years, executive director of the Poets' and Writers' League of Greater Cleveland (now The Lit). She is a member of the Take Nine poets.

Local church sponsors school in Liberia



Isaac Monah educates children in his native Liberia.

John Luttermoser

Noble Road Presbyterian Church is working on a mission for rural Africa, the result of a call felt by Isaac Monah, one of the church's elders.

Monah left Liberia as a refugee from civil war in 1990. In the summer of 2007 he went home to Grand Gedeh County in eastern Liberia for the first time in 17 years. On that visit, he says, he was moved to action by the local children who had no opportunity to get an education and thereby craft a more promising future for themselves.

Monah is familiar with the children's plight. There was no local school for him either, when he was growing up in Grand Gadeh. He left home three times to attend schools in different areas of Liberia, but at age 18 he had only reached the sixth grade. That was partly because at age 12, he had voluntarily dropped out of his school in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia, and returned to

Grand Gedeh because he believed his absence put too much economic strain on his uncle's family. His uncle later died in the war. Monah finally managed to graduate from high school in Ghana.

When the civil war forced Monah to leave Liberia for good, he found jobs in Ivory Coast, studying deer and later, tracking monkeys. It was while working on research projects like this that he met Scott McGraw, an Ohio State anthropology professor who helped Monah to come to the United States in 2002.

Monah now lives in South Euclid with his wife, Mazo, and three sons, Tom, Scott and Matthew.

When Monah visited his home village in Liberia in 2007, he was distressed to find that the children of Grand Gedeh still face the same situation he faced in the 1980s. He says he believes that education is the key to opportunity for those children and greater prosperity for the region. He is determined to make that happen, and has gathered a group of people who

share his dream and his determination.

Momentum for the project is building. The group has decided to build a school. It will be called the Dougbe River Presbyterian School, Monah said, because the river belongs to all of the people in that region — not just to one town — and the group wants residents to understand that the school does, too.

The school and its affiliated church will be built on 150 acres of land donated to the project by local leaders. Noble Road Presbyterian Church will handle finances for the school and oversee the school's General Board, which has been formed. It is chaired by Monah and includes church colleagues, other Liberians living in America, and McGraw from Ohio State University.

There will also be a Local Board in Liberia, with representatives from each of the 12 towns in the area, that will handle day-to-day operations.

The church has been raising money and plans now call for construction to begin in 2009. It is expected to cost about \$235,000 — perhaps less — to drive the project through its first year. That includes construction costs and staff salaries.

The project is making friends, but it needs more. The church is looking for help, especially with fund-raising and web site management. Learn more at noblechurch.wordpress.com, or by contacting Monah at monahisaac2008@yahoo.com.

John Luttermoser is clerk of session at Noble Road Presbyterian Church and secretary of the General Board for the Dougbe River Presbyterian School project.

Fantasy Illustrations on Lee Road

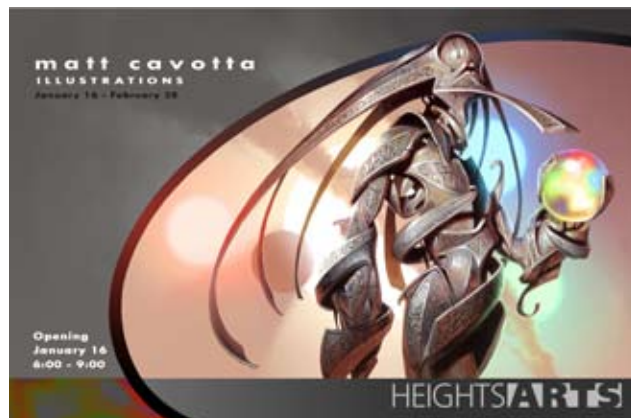
Heights Arts

While it can be said that most artists live in a fantasyland, for Matt Cavotta this is a statement that can be taken literally. Matt has been working as a fantasy illustrator for 13 years. Books, magazines, role-playing games, video games, card games and collectibles that appeal to dragon-loving dreamers, would-be wizards, and escapists of all ages—this is where you will find Matt's artwork.

Matt has loved these books and games since he was a 9-year-old would-be-wizard himself, reading about the Hobbit and playing Dungeons and

Dragons. At the Columbus College of Art & Design he studied art history, color theory, and higher design principles so he could draw better zombies and monsters. After college, it only seemed natural to try and contribute to the artwork of the games and books he loves. With a lot of practice and perseverance, Matt cracked into the "biz" and now his work and play are nearly one and the same.

Matt's work is all over the globe,



but he lives in University Heights, Ohio with his wife Kylie and their two fairy princesses, Grace and Greta. Visit www.cavotta.com for more information.

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Concert to honor Klaus George Roy

Eric Kisch

A concert in honor of Klaus George Roy's 85th birthday will take place at St. Paul's Church, 2747 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland, on Jan. 25 at 2 p.m. The concert has been organized by Karel Paukert, organist at St. Paul's Church, and Eric Kisch, host of "Musical Passions" broadcast on WCLV-FM, who will act as master of ceremonies.

The concert will feature compositions by Klaus George Roy, who in addition to being a prolific and widely performed composer, was the former editor and program note annotator of the Cleveland Orchestra for 30 years. Roy has conducted hundreds of radio interviews with noted performers and has lectured widely on musical topics. A published author and poet, Roy also has an estimable reputation as a witty raconteur. He has graciously agreed to introduce each composition.

The compositions will be performed by leading Cleveland artists who are friends of Roy's and who are donating their services. The concert will encompass instrumental and vocal selections. The first half will take place in Tucker Hall and the second half in the main church. A reception will follow the concert and all are invited to attend. Admission is free.

Musicians who will be participating include sopranos Noriko Fujii and Natasha Ospina; Sean Gabriel, flute, Margi Griebeling-Haigh and Danna Sun-



Klaus George Roy will celebrate 85 years with friends at St. Paul's Church.

det, oboe; Carolyn and Stephen Warner, violin; Marsha Ferrito, viola; Diane Mather, cello; and Karel Paukert, organ. In addition, the vocal ensemble of St. Paul's Church, led by Steven Plank, will perform.

Eric Kisch, producer and host of the classical weekly program Musical Passions, broadcast over WCLV-FM for the last five years, has been an avid music lover and recording collector for over 50 years.

Gesu's Service Day draws 950 volunteers

Ashley Bauer

The holidays are known as a time of giving. For many people this means a time of exchanging gifts and visiting families. At Gesu Catholic Church in University Heights, the holidays are a time of service.

The parish held its third annual Service Day on Saturday, December 6. Gesu assigned approximately 950 parishioners to volunteer at 52 locations around the Greater Cleveland area, including nursing homes, shelters, churches, social service agencies, and neighborhood centers.

Service Day Coordinator Meg Wilson says, "Part of the Jesuit mission is to be 'men and women for others' and at Gesu, we try to live that by reaching out to others in the community and helping where we can."

Parishioners were responsible for cleaning, painting, decorating for Christmas, hosting children's parties, visiting with senior citizens, and playing bingo with residents. The parishioners also served four community meals: breakfast at the Catholic Worker Storefront, brunch at Famicos, breakfast at Brooklyn Memorial United Methodist Church, and lunch at the men's shelter at 2100 Lakeside.

Throughout the day Reverend Lorn Snow, S.J., Pastor of Gesu Church, Reverend Paul Panaretos, S.J., and Wilson visited multiple locations to check on the progress and thank volunteers. Later in the day, parishioners returned to Gesu Church for Mass, which was followed by a spaghetti dinner at the Gesu Family Center sponsored by Zagara's in Cleveland Heights.

Service Day was initiated three years ago by Fr. Snow. He chose the beginning of December to celebrate Saint Francis Xavier's feast day (December 3) with a project showing the parish's commitment to the community. Participation has grown steadily, with about 500 volunteer parishioners the first year and 770 the second.

"We have had tremendous feedback. People hear about the positive experiences from others, and as a result they volunteer," says Wilson. "The volunteers enjoy working with other parishioners they may not have met before Service Day. It's great to see families and volunteers of different ages working together and becoming more familiar with the work of social service organizations in the community."

John Carroll University sophomore Ashley Bauer is an intern with Patton Public Relations in University Heights.

Heights seniors hum and strum



December's concert by the Hum & Strum group is enjoyed by all at the Cleveland Heights Senior Activity Center. This month the Hum & Strum group begins their fourth year of fun together.

Home help for seniors project

Judith VanKleef

A local group is exploring the possibility of setting up a system that would help senior citizens stay in their homes as long as possible. It is the kind of thing that has been done successfully in a number of communities. First of all, they need to know what services senior citizens in our community might need. To this end they have prepared a questionnaire

that is available at the Senior Activity Center, area libraries, and in this article at www.heightsobserver.org. You do not have to sign it, but please take the time to fill it out in order to give them the information they need.

Judith VanKleef is a 45-year resident of Cleveland Heights and an active community volunteer who currently serves on the Cleveland Heights Commission on Aging.

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Stan Soble



Top: A record number of pancake eaters raised \$5,700 with the help of generous tippers. Bottom: Flower the Clown entertains at the 9th Annual Tommy's New Year's Day Pancake Breakfast to support HeightsArts.



Volunteers who served at Rosemary Center on Dec. 6 included: Gesu staff members Pauline Orel and Joanne Schneider joined by University Heights parishioners Rick Hamilton, Pierce Hamilton, Jeremy Mannella and Jackie Mannella.

Looking for a few good women



Diana Woods and Gail Elder show off the toolboxes they made as part of the Home How-To program.



REBECCA STAGER

Rebecca Stager

It's usually little boys who follow their dads around, learning home repair skills. That's probably one of the reasons women can feel so intimidated when trying to fix things around the house. Home Repair Resource Center has the answer. Women heads of house in Cleve-

land Heights are encouraged to call now about the next offering of HHRC's repair education series, "Home How-To." During this intensive, six-month program, women homeowners will work together to master basic carpentry, electrical and plumbing skills. Absolutely no previous experience is required! Program participants will benefit

from personalized instruction and will have ample opportunity for "hands-on" practice with tools and repair techniques. By the end of the program, women will have gained the confidence and experience to complete a variety of home repairs themselves, saving money that can be put toward materials or "bigger" contracted projects. There are two additional benefits: each participant will receive an in-home consultation with HHRC's repair instructor to identify needed repairs, and each will have one repair accomplished by the class at her house.

Most of the classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7 to about 9:30 p.m., but a few workshops – those involving more extensive repairs, as well as "rain dates" for exterior projects – will be held on Saturdays. The series will run from late April through October. Because the goal is small-group

learning, enrollment will be limited to 18 women who meet the following criteria:

- Woman owner/occupant of a house in Cleveland Heights
- Sole head of house
- Income within program guidelines (call for information)
- Willing and able to make six-month commitment (one 2 1/2 hour class per week; each participant to attend at least 16 of the 25 classes)

A \$25 program supply fee is charged, and each participant pays for materials installed during the class at her home. If interested, call Becky at 216-381-9560.

Becky Stager has been the repair education programs coordinator for Home Repair Resource Center since 1989.

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Eat NEO

Greg Donley

Every September, Mantua, Ohio, has a potato festival. The town of about 1,000 residents used to be the capital of a thriving mini-region of potato-growing, but now only a few active farms remain. And a short drive away in Cleveland, people walk into grocery stores and buy bags of potatoes that come from 2,000 miles away.

Many urban dwellers would rather eat food produced closer to home, especially if it helps the regional economy and preserves our beautiful countryside. The farmer needs a market and Heights residents are hungry for good local food. How do they find each other? Well, where do you find anything these days? The Internet! Numerous area groups are aggressively taking advantage of its potential to put local consumers in touch with local farmers.

For example, Abbe Turner and her husband moved to an old farmstead on Hankee Road, outside of Garrettsville, five years ago because "we wanted our children to understand that our food comes from the land, not from the grocery store." But a working farm with 40 goats produces more than a small family can consume, so Lucky Penny Farm now has a website (www.luckypennyfarm.com), produces goat's milk soap, and will be certified to sell artisan cheeses this spring. "Our website helps people find us," says Turner, "but it also helps people sense that connection with the land."

That connection is a key point behind the local food movement: By living off land that's close to home, we not only save resources, reduce pollution and eat better; we also help sustain a mutually beneficial relation-

ship that preserves working farmland and enhances the quality of life in the city. Below are a few resources that can help Heights residents connect with regional farms. More are showing up all the time, so keep looking, and when you find something great, tell your friends and neighbors – and your local grocer.

www.cvcountryside.org
This series of downloadable guides was developed by the Cuyahoga Valley-based Countryside Conservancy. Find guides to and directories of such things as regional producers of fruit, vegetables, meat, poultry, dairy products, honey and eggs; restaurants, grocers and caterers who use local farms and producers; and farmers' markets.

www.localfoodcleveland.org
An online social network for everyone who is passionate about growing a sustainable local food economy and culture.

www.cityfresh.org
This nonprofit program of the New Agrarian Center (NAC) is a volunteer-driven organization that improves access to fresh, locally grown food and increases marketing opportunities in the city for local farmers.

www.freshforkmarket.com
Fresh Fork Market provides a supply chain for restaurants to purchase directly from local farmers. The website offers a list of most recent customers, so people dining out can see which restaurants are relying on local farmers. See our web site at www.heightsobserver.org for direct links to these and other regional farming resources.

Greg Donley is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights.



An artisan lavender goat cheese with cherries.



Lucky Penny Farm in Portage County.

"Green" wines?

Loren Sonkin

It is getting easier to find affordable green wines, and these are nice:

2007 Green Bridge Zinfandel
This red wine from Paso Robles (halfway between L.A. and San Francisco), is one of the growing numbers of organic wines available. Zinfandel is an all American grape. While DNA studies suggest it has roots in Croatia, the grape was brought over in the 1800's by Italian immigrants and planted heavily in California. Its name is now synonymous with the golden state. Zinfandels come in many styles, from extreme fruit bombs to those that have more balance. Green Bridge is in the second category. While it has plenty of fruit the overall experience is more restrained. It is an inoffensive wine that would be great at parties as it would entertain a majority of red wine drinkers. From its pretty purple and ruby coloring to the cherry fruit flavors, it provides a nice, easy drink that can be sipped alone or with food. It's not a wine that is going to impress anyone, but then again at \$9 a bottle (at Whole Foods) it isn't going to hurt your wallet too badly either.

2007 Pircas Negras Torrontes
This organic wine is grown at 3,500 foot elevations in Argentina. The grape is Torrontès, which will become more popular in the next few years. Buy one now and impress your friends when they start seeing them everywhere. The wine is slightly sweet in nature. Perhaps it is just the fruit (it may have been vinified dry). The wine sips easily by itself or can be served with lighter foods. There are lovely peach and floral flavors, but also a bit of acidity which allows it to stand up to some food. Your white wine-loving friends will want to know where you bought it. This was \$10 at Whole Foods.

Loren Sonkin is an attorney in private practice and dreams of traveling the world visiting wineries. He lives and works in Cleveland Heights and is a regular contributor to www.IntoWine.com.



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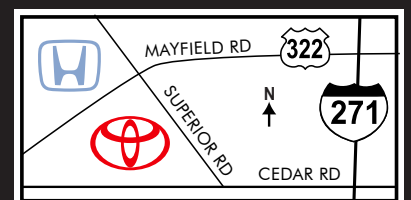
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