

## Heights houses are at risk Demolition requires no review

Hugh Fisher

The street is typical of Cleveland Heights: tree-lined, picturesque, with beautiful houses built at the turn of the last century. This one happens to be in one of the city's more upscale neighborhoods, but the story could play out anywhere in our city: A house is in foreclosure and neighbors worry that a purchaser could demolish it without notifying or consulting the community.

An investigation of city ordinances reveals that obtaining permission to demolish a building is as simple as obtaining permission to put up a fence. It requires only a \$100 permit. There is no review by city planners. No notification to the neighbors. No opportunity for comment. No consideration of the impact on the neighborhood, either aesthetically or on property values.

Richard Wong, director of planning and development for the City of Cleveland Heights, confirmed that city ordinances do not require a formal review of a demolition request.

"Certainly one of the issues with demolition would be the long-term impact on a neighborhood, but it is not regulated and not addressed by our ordinances," Wong said.

There are a variety of property-related activities that fall under the auspices of the Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Board of Control, and thus require an official review, complete with public notification and official approval. A plan to join two properties, or lot re-subdivision, for example, would require Planning Commission approval, and thus a review.

Moreover, any new construction or an alteration of any kind to an existing build-



The house in the center of this photo has just been purchased from JP Morgan Chase Bank by its neighbor for \$211,500. No demolition permit has been filed, however, some neighbors have expressed concern that this could happen without their knowledge.

ing – for example, an addition – requires going before the Architectural Board of Review. This too would require a review.

But a demolition would not be subject to this public process, Wong confirmed.

"Recently, when Zagara's wanted to tear down a house to expand their parking lot, we notified 350 people in the immedi-

ate neighborhood," said Wong, "but not because of the teardown. Zagara's wanted to change the use of the property for parking and, under zoning appeals regulations, we were required to make notification."

Even at that, the city received complaints that more people should have been

*continued on page 3*

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## FutureHeights to host State of the City

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley will give his annual State of the City address on Thursday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at the Cleveland Heights Community Center, 1 Monticello Blvd. (corner of Monticello and Mayfield roads).

Since 2006, FutureHeights, an organization dedicated to quality of life and civic engagement has sponsored the address as part of its annual speaker series. "This is a unique opportunity to hear the mayor's plans for how we will move forward through these tumultuous times. It also gives the mayor a chance to hear what's on the minds of residents," said Gina Cheverine, president of the board of trustees for FutureHeights.

"These are tough economic times, on a state and national, as well as a regional level," said Mayor Kelley, "the foreclosure crisis, development in our community, quality of life, public health and safety, senior and recreational programs – all of these areas are impacted by necessary budget cuts and we need to figure out how to do things differently. I'll talk about partnerships we



Mayor Edward J. Kelley

are developing with the Home Repair Resource Center and other nonprofits, with University Circle and its institutions, our neighboring cities, and the county's new land-banking program."

Residents will have an opportunity to pose questions to the mayor after his talk. Questions can also be submitted in advance by posting them online at [www.heightsobserver.org/deck](http://www.heightsobserver.org/deck) or sending them to [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org). The talk will be taped and aired on Channel 20.

For more information, contact FutureHeights at 216-320-1423.

*Deanna Bremer Fisher is the executive director of FutureHeights and a 15-year Heights resident.*

## Brunner to make area appearance

Jeff Coryell

Heights-area residents will have the opportunity to hear and ask questions of Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner on Wednesday, March 11.

Secretary Brunner, who is running for the U. S. Senate seat



Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner.

of retiring incumbent Sen. George Voinovich, will speak on "Free, Fair, Open, and Honest Elections in Ohio: Building on the Success of 2008" at the D'Amico Community Center, 1370 Victory Drive in South Euclid (behind the Giant Eagle on Mayfield near Green) at 7 p.m.

*Jeff Coryell is president of the Cleveland Heights Democrats. For more information visit [ClevelandHeightsDems.com](http://ClevelandHeightsDems.com).*

## UH Mayor wants citizens to know city governance may "be dismantled"

Anita Kazarian

University Heights Mayor Beryl Rothschild called a town hall meeting on Feb. 23 at Gearity School to alert citizens to what she says will lead to the elimination of checks and balances if the Charter Review Commission proposal for a city manager system of government replaces the current federal system.

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## Roxboro Middle School magazine ban sparks debate

Jay Levan

A magazine's removal from Roxboro Middle School's library has sparked a debate over school district policies.

In September 2008, Roxboro Middle School Principal Brian Sharosky directed Amy Bloomberg, the school's library media specialist, to remove the November issue of *Nintendo Power* from the library, saying he found the cover picture inappropriate. The cover depicts an Asian woman about to load a clip into a large gun.

Bloomberg contacted the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union to object. This launched a series of discussions that have focused more on procedure than on the magazine's content.

It also prompted a two-page letter from Angela Maycock, assistant director of the American Library Association, expressing the association's concern over the publication's removal.

Locally, two sides have faced off on the issue: one represented by the Cleveland Heights Teachers Union and the other by the school district's administration and board of education. Each has cited board policies, to support its position.

Cleveland Heights Teachers Union

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# HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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PUBLISHER  
Deanna Bremer Fisher

ADVERTISING  
216.320.1423  
advertising@heightsobserver.org

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Dan Ott

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION  
Temma Collins and Ruth D'Emilia

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Jane Flaherty

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Stephanie Applegate, Deanna Bremer Fisher, Adele Cohen, Jeff Coryell, Barbara Danforth, Kathy Dawson, Wendy Deuring, Jeanne Diamond, Michael Dougherty, Jared Earley, Matthew Feldt, Hugh Fisher, Douglas Freer, Tonya Gibson, Lita Gonzalez, Jeff Haynes, Meredith Holmes, Lillian Houser, Jason Jaffery, Susie Kaeser, Anita Kazarian, Rev. Donald King, Bill Kushner, Jay Levan, Anne McFarland, Fran Mentch, Thomas Naypauer, John Panza, Sue Pardee, Mary Patton, Joanne Poderis, Carol Provan, Simone Quartell, Sarah Routh, Katherine Solender, Ralph Solonitz, Peggy Spaeth, Rebecca Stager, Kim Steigerwald, Cindy Straffon, Blanche Valancy, Erica Wareham, Ronald Werman, T.J. Wright, Barry Zucker

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## Heights Community Congress still fighting

Stephanie Applegate, Jeanne Diamond and Thomas Naypauer

Heights Community Congress was founded more than 35 years ago to fight discrimination in the housing and real estate market of Cleveland Heights. And today, thanks to a recent report highlighting how severe the problem still is, the organization's mission is more important than ever.

The organization took root in 1972, when a small group of residents began to respond to inequities that new homebuyers frequently encountered. This group tackled such real estate practices as steering minority homebuyers away from "more desirable" neighborhoods. At the time, as Sven Dubie notes in *The Struggle for Fair Housing in Cleveland Heights*, this moment proved "to be one of the most important, if at times unsettling, exercises in social justice in the history of our community." (For more on this, read "View from the Overlook," Cleveland Heights Historical Society Newsletter, Spring 2009, at: [www.chhistory.org/FeatureStories.php?Story=StruggleForFairHousing](http://www.chhistory.org/FeatureStories.php?Story=StruggleForFairHousing).)

And now, more than 35 years later, current homebuyers in Cleveland Heights and the surrounding area are again encountering disparities in mortgage lending, housing purchases and housing rentals. According to "Persisting Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Ohio Mortgage Lending"—a study published last month by the Housing Research and Advocacy Center (HRAC), the Cleveland Metropolitan area—including Cleveland Heights and University Heights—has the highest racial disparities in sub-prime mortgage lending

in Ohio, with upper income African-Americans receiving high-cost loans at nearly two-and-a-half times the rate of low-income whites.

That's why Heights Community Congress — in an effort to maintain the diverse neighborhoods that have become the hallmark of the Heights — continues to monitor local home sales and rentals through various testing techniques. HCC, and its partnership with HRAC, provides training on fair-housing law and investigates instances of discrimination in buying, renting or lending. These are pursued by HCC and HRAC through legal professionals and other community organizations. In addition, HCC holds workshops and forums that seek to encourage the communal conversation on diversity and its benefits for our citizenry.

HCC has always been there for the community. And now, in this time of change and economic stress, it's more important than ever to consider becoming a community organizer and "friend" of HCC. The success of a community organization depends on its commitment, membership, leadership and dedication to its original purpose. HCC continues to be an advocate of social justice, a monitor of fair housing and a facilitator in building the community.

To donate or find out more visit [www.HeightsCongress.org](http://www.HeightsCongress.org) or call 216-321-6775.

*Stephanie Applegate, Thomas Naypauer and Jeanne Diamond are members of the board of directors for Heights Community Congress.*



## Obama inauguration shows how far America has come

Simone Quartell

Shortly before Barack Obama's inauguration, I was asked, "What does this inauguration mean to you?" The inauguration means so much to so many — but to me, it proves not only that anything is possible, but that no matter how bleak things look, things can get better. As a high school senior, I recognized the need for change and devoted my spare time to volunteering for the Obama campaign this summer and fall. Obama was someone who had done things I could admire. He is an inspiration and role model for me and all other Americans.

During the campaign, in addition to volunteering, I attended two rallies, one about an hour away in Canton and one here in Cleveland. I spent hours in line, standing in less than stellar spots, only to see Obama on a screen. But none of that bothered me. Both times were truly indescribable. It felt unreal. To see Obama speaking on TV always inspired me, but for me to be there was amazing.

During the final days of the campaign, someone said to me, "Why are you canvassing for him? You're white and Catholic and the daughter of a lawyer. You should be a Republican." I thought about that. Even though Obama hadn't won yet, he'd proved something. Although he didn't look like other presidents, had only been in D.C. for three and a half years and had a difficult youth, he could overcome all that. Even if he didn't win, he had come so far.

On Nov. 4, when I woke up after about a half hour of sleep the entire night, I told myself that regardless of the turnout, this had been the best experience of my life, and I'd always remember it.

That night, I was terrified as results came in. But then, at about 11 p.m. came the news I'd been waiting so long to hear. After a remarkably gracious speech from Senator McCain came President-elect Obama's victory speech. "Thank you to the best team ever assembled in the history of politics, you made this happen," he said. "Never forget who this victory belongs to. It belongs to you." That was me. There were so many others involved, but I was among the people he was referring to. I received a thank you card from the Obama campaign. I knew that, although they probably sent millions of those cards, they wanted me to feel special and like I was a part of it.

On Jan. 20, as I sat in my living room watching President Obama take the oath of office, I thought about how far America has come. It wasn't just that we now have a black president, it was that 53 percent of Americans had moved past decades of racism. It was that so many people recognized the need for change and reform. As Obama said that day, the challenges will take time to overcome, but they will be met. It would be overoptimistic to think they'll all be met right away. But if we all work together, as we did to get Obama elected, they will be met.

*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.*

ROXBORO continued from page 1

President Thomas Schmida cites board policy number 6730, which states that the "professional media specialist" is responsible for the selection of library materials, and "there shall be a procedure by which citizens, staff or pupils may challenge materials."

The board's written response to the union's position paper, signed Dec. 19 by then-president Michael Cicero, contends that there was no violation of board policy. It says the union omitted the fundamental premise that, legally, the board is ultimately responsible for selecting materials for the schools' media centers. "The board empowers the administration to make educational decisions ... including the ability to remove or 'weed' materials that are of doubtful literary quality."

In the same letter, the board states that policy number 1340 (which governs objections or challenges to library materials by students, citizens, or staff) applies only to patrons, and was never intended to limit the actions and responsibilities of school administrators.

Schmida continues to contend that the removal did not follow board policy. He suggests that board policy number 6730 calls for "a kind of due process and review by the board, to ensure that personal opinion doesn't trump the First Amendment."

Schmida said a further meeting is scheduled between himself and the district superintendent, Christine Fowler-Mack, to discuss the matter. Stay tuned.

*Jay Levan is the father of three girls who attend Heights schools. He is a Web designer and photographer whose photos appear at [www.phodoz.com](http://www.phodoz.com).*

## The University Square garage is nearing repair completion—will you feel safe?

Ralph Solonitz

The site has been reviewed by the University Heights City Engineer Joseph Ciuni, and his project manager, Edward Franks. They report a Dec. 18, visit with engineering consultants Rath's, Rath's & Johnson for the owner of the property, Inland Management Company of Chicago.

The review concluded that reinforcement, supplemental steel supports, painting, waterproofing the top deck and on and on ... all will result in a safely restored structure.

Knowing that I'm safe is different than feeling safe in a specific space.

I drove over to the University Square site.

My 1998 Olds Aurora, triple black beauty had no problem maneuvering up the ramp to the top level, past the areas that were repaired and upward towards the birds eye view where the sky meets neighborhood rooftops ... a beautiful view if you take the time to simply look up instead of searching for that close parking space.

My thoughts drifted off to a time when the "Old May Company on the Heights," held Rock 'n' Roll record hops on the parking lot grounds. They were complete with 45 rpm records and free IFIC buttons. Google that.

Let's have a rock concert on the rooftop. Wow, what a great way to replace fear and darkness with fun festival memories. Perception is reality. Beams, waterproofing and structural integrity are important. Dancing, music, food and joy are what memories should be made of.

University Square can be Hip! Bring on the garage bands! Rock on, Ralphy.

*Cleveland Heights resident Ralph Solonitz (artist/writer) was born in 1947 in Munich, Germany, the son of Holocaust survivors. He began doodling very early on...first in German and a few years later in his new language English. His father gave him motivational advice..."Stop your doodling, you are wasting time and will amount to nothing." Fast forward 55 years, thousands of dollars in therapy and he still can't stop doodling.*









# Cleveland Heights City Council

## Highlights of January/February meetings

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009  
Council members Mark Tumeo and Dennis Wilcox were excused.



### Walk+Roll

Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of Future Heights, urged Council to consider having a Walk+Roll event in July. The event encourages people to walk and bicycle in their daily lives. Essentially big block parties on closed streets, such events have been planned in several places in the Cleveland area. Lois Moss, executive director of Walk+Roll Cleveland, explained that the event is inexpensive, with the main costs relating to security and traffic control. Fisher and Moss were encouraged to consult with the assistant city manager.

### Doan Brook watershed plan

Council authorized an agreement with the Doan Brook Watershed Foundation to pay \$18,000 of the organization's operating expenses as it develops and implements a watershed management plan for the preservation and improvement of Doan Brook.

### Community Emergency Response

Citizen volunteers were invited to join the Cleveland Heights Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations. For more information, residents can call Community Relations at 216-291-2323.

### Money woes

With the decline in city income tax revenues and other poor economic news, the city's balance at the close of 2008 now appears to be \$1,574,543, instead of the \$2 million projected a month before. The 2009 budget stands at \$42.5 million with some general fund increases but static or even decreased funding in some areas – a cause for concern and caution.

### Inspection of culverts and bridges

Council approved an agreement with Mackay Engineering and Surveying Company for inspection of city culverts and bridges, as required every two years by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

### Inauguration Day accolades

All council members expressed positive feelings about this historic and hopeful day. Mayor Kelley likened the new spirit in Washington to the spirit we have here in Cleveland Heights, and predicted great progress. Residents were urged to look at their responsibilities as citizens and to participate in civic life and public service.

LWV Observers: Katherine Solender and Blanche Valancy.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009  
All council members present.

### Restoration Society consultations

Kathleen Crowther, executive director of the Cleveland Restoration Society, reported that, based on consultations done for Cleveland Heights residents, 116 Heritage Program home improvement loans have been made to city residents and, it is believed, over \$9 million invested in homes. Crowther added that people who take the loans tend to stay in their homes longer and properties near them have a higher appreciation. Residents interested in a free consultation should call 216-426-1000.

### Concern over child maltreatment

Resident Fran Mentch expressed concern about child maltreatment in Cleveland Heights and felt that city residents should consciously work toward making the city a "child-friendly" community. Council members Bonnie Caplan and Mark Tumeo mentioned that Cleveland Heights is very supportive of its families and children. Tumeo added that, given the current economic stresses, the city needs to be conscious about how the community's children and families are being affected. He would like to discuss Mentch's ideas with her.

### Regionalism important

Council member Ken Montlack said he was impressed by a recent *Plain Dealer* article about regionalism and regional revenue sharing but found *Cleveland Magazine's* rating the suburbs issue to be divisive. He believes that honest dialog

about regional issues is important in this economic climate.

### Saturday garbage collection

As a cost saving measure, Saturday garbage pick-ups will be eliminated. When collection is delayed due to a holiday, garbage normally picked up on Thursday or Friday will be picked up on Friday.

### Contract for home loan program

A resolution extending the contract period of the agreement with the Cuyahoga Housing Consortium for funding of the city's no-interest and deferred loan programs through the consortium's HOME program met with approval.

### Solar panels power garage lights

The Cedar Lee parking garage solar panels, which were funded as part of the bond issue for the garage, as well as a grant from the state, have been installed and activated to power the garage's lights.

### Budget cuts pinching

Council member Nancy Dietrich commented that city residents are beginning to feel the effects of the cost cutting necessary to balance the budget. Every expense, however small, was scrutinized and all needed cuts made.

LWV observers: Lisa Peters and Blanche Valancy.  
See disclaimer on page 3.

## Community Emergency Response Training



Cleveland Heights residents listen intently as Fire Chief Kevin Mohr explains the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program at City Hall. The city is seeking volunteers for training (eight classes, each two hours in length). For more information, call Community Relations, 216-291-2323. To download an application, visit [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com) or the city link on [www.heightsobserver.com](http://www.heightsobserver.com).

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# University Heights City Council

## Highlights of January/February meetings

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009

Councilman Steven Bullock was excused.



### Sewer work contracting

Council passed two motions: one to advertise for bids for the 2009 catch basin, inlet and main line sewer cleaning and filming; and another to advertise for bids for contractor services for emergency sewer repairs in 2009. The second motion would ensure that someone would be on hand if emergencies occurred during weekends or when the city's crew was already busy.

### University Square

Gary Mehl, building commissioner, reported that some stores were moving out of the shopping center, but that property managers were working to bring in new businesses and were optimistic that the spaces would be filled.

### Rental signs

Councilman Peter Bernardo reported that the Building Committee was considering changes in rules regarding rental signs to allow them to be posted in front yards, but they must be standardized.

### JCU's five-year plan

Councilman Frank Consolo reported that the University Affairs Committee

would be posting John Carroll University's five-year plan on the University Heights Web site.

### Operational regionalism

Councilman Kevin Patrick Murphy announced that the Governmental Affairs Committee was working on submitting a joint application – along with Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights and related school boards – to the Fund for Our Economic Future. This proposal would be a step toward operational regionalism and could be replicated in other communities.

### New areas of responsibility

Mayor Rothschild reported that the Committee of the Whole would evaluate both the needs assessment study regarding the City Hall complex, prepared by architect David Siebold of Herman, Gibans, Fedor, Inc., and the proposal presented by David B. Hartt of David B. Hartt, Inc. to update the city's zoning code.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Councilmen Steve Bullock and Kevin Patrick Murphy were excused.

### International soccer event at JCU

Council approved a request from the Cleveland Sports Commission to hold the AC Milan Continental Cup at John Carroll University, including fireworks. This will be the third year for this event; last year 96 teams participated. The fireworks will be held July 2. Fire Chief Pitchler has approved this. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and admission is free.

The request to hold the World School Games at JCU was tabled because the date of July 17 for fireworks and show conflicted with observance of the Jewish Sabbath.

### Road improvements

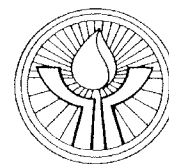
Council authorized joint bidding with Shaker Heights for 2009 road improvements. Shaker has a \$1 million road program and has allowed University Heights to bid with them for a cost savings. The city will bid to improve Edgerton Road between Silsby and Washington roads and Silsby Road between Edgerton and Fenwick roads for an estimated cost of \$58,000 per street.

Council also approved joint bidding with Cleveland Heights to resurface South Taylor Road at a cost of \$54,000. University Heights' portion will extend from Cedar Road to Silsby Road.

LWV observer: Sue Pardee.

See disclaimer on page 3.

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## Search firm for CH-UH superintendent selected based on approach, not cost

Simone Quartell

Hudepohl and Associates, the same search firm that recruited Deb Delisle as the Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction, has been retained to find her replacement as superintendent of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school system.

At its Feb. 3 meeting, the board voted 4-1 to hire Hudepohl. Three other search firms were considered: the Ohio School Board Association, Finding Leaders and Marsich & Associates.

Board Member Ron Register voted for the association due to the lower potential cost for its work. While Hudepohl's contract is for \$42,500, the association charges by the hour — estimating a \$30,000 cost for the project (\$125 an hour for 240 hours of on-site work).

Zucker countered that quality is more important than cost. Further, the search is being underwritten by city and county funds — not district funds.

The board interviewed the association, Finding Leaders and Hudepohl at its Jan. 20 meeting. A session with Marsick was scheduled at the Jan. 26 meeting, which was canceled due to a winter storm. That meeting wasn't rescheduled, said Board President Kal Zucker because "it's important to get to work right away" on finding a new superintendent.

Zucker described Hudepohl as "aggressive and pro-active; they go out of their way to find candidates rather than advertising." They were also the only search firm that provided a comprehensive plan for a high-quality background check.

Board Member Mike Cicero said Hudepohl gives all candidates an equal chance, whereas Finding Leaders' ap-

proach tends to give internal candidates an advantage. "All candidates need to compete equally," he said.

Board Member Eric Coble said he liked the fact that Hudepohl was clear about staying in touch with the board, and seeks out people who "think they don't want the job, but may be more qualified than those who think they do."

And Board Member Nancy Peppler said she appreciated how Hudepohl "encourages candidates to do all they can to make themselves a strong contender."

Since December, Christine Fowler-Mack, assistant superintendent under Delisle, has been serving as interim superintendent. Three other candidates were considered for the interim role, and Fowler-Mack can apply for the permanent job.

If Fowler-Mack doesn't get the job, she will continue on as assistant superintendent. The board's goal is to hire a new superintendent by the end of this school year, Zucker said.

Zucker declined to talk about qualities the board is looking for in a new superintendent; that's a topic for the board's next public meeting. Meetings with Hudepohl to discuss candidates and what it will take to bring on the right person will also be public.

"We want to preserve the integrity of the process, and find a strong leader for our district," Zucker said.

*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.*

## Heights High student honored for community service

Michael Dougherty

Cleveland Heights High School senior Howard Johnson was recently honored by the Cleveland Orchestra and the Greater Cleveland Partnership for his diligent service to improve the lives of others. Howard received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award for his commitment to volunteering. As president of the Youth Council of the NAACP, Howard worked to organize a voter registration drive and a food drive for area homeless people. At Heights High, Howard is a member of the band, Spanish Club, a special education aide, and a member of the R.E.A.L. School shared governance team. He enjoys studying math, science, and Arabic, the latter a course he takes at Cleveland State University through the Post Secondary Enrollment Option program.

Howard also understands the importance of being a global citizen and reaching out to those less fortunate in other countries. He worked abroad to help build a library and a school in Mexico. As a member of Amigos de las Americas, Howard traveled to Panama to assist in the construction of a latrine, a road and a roof for a school.

Continuing his education is a priority, and Howard is considering studying international relations or translation of Spanish or Arabic. Alliant International University (Mexico City); Kent State University; and University of California, Sacramento, are among the colleges he may choose to attend.

*Michael Dougherty is the coordinator of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.*



Cleveland Heights High School senior Howard Johnson.

## Heights High to host annual Northeast Suburban College Fair

Michael Dougherty

It's never too early to start planning a post secondary education. Cleveland Heights High School (13263 Cedar Road) will host the 15th Annual Cleveland Northeast Suburban College Fair on Thursday, March 12, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to meet guidance staff, college admissions officers and alumni representatives from over 140 colleges, universities and technical schools. Students and their families are invited to gain information about a wide variety of schools, specifics about student life on campus, programs and majors, admissions and financial aid.

"The college fair gives students a chance to begin the very important task of planning their futures," Career Education Coordinator Michelle Phelps said. "The college fair is an important planning tool and the perfect opportunity for students and parents to talk

one-on-one with college representatives at one location. Students are given a list of suggested questions to ask representatives to help jump start the conversation and information gathering."

The college fair is open to all local public, private, and parochial students and admission is free. Additional parking will be available in the municipal lot next to Wendy's, off Cedar Road, across from Heights High.

The 2009 Cleveland Northeast Suburban College Fair is sponsored by: the Tri-Heights Career Development Program of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

For additional information, please contact Michelle Phelps, career education coordinator, Cleveland Heights High School, at 216-371-7149, or <http://resources.chuh.org/Careerdev>.

*Michael Dougherty is the coordinator of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.*



Heights High athletes sign letters of intent

Top Row (left to right): Alfred Sharp (Iowa Western University), Michael Danziger (Kenyon College), Quenton Scott (Ashland University), Olabode Agaja (University of Charleston). Bottom Row (left to right): Alan Owens (Tiffin University), Jeffrey Bryant (Kentucky State University), Bryan Underwood (North Carolina State University), Aric Jones (University of Findlay).

Michael Dougherty

Eight Cleveland Heights High School football players signed letters of intent on Feb. 4 to continue playing the sport they love at the collegiate level next year. Presentations were made by Athletic Director Kristin Hughes and Coach Jeff Rotsky. Je'Rod Cherry, three-time Super Bowl Champion with the New

England Patriots, was present for the signing celebration and shared words of encouragement and the importance of maintaining a strong academic focus during college.

*Michael Dougherty is the coordinator of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.*

## Kindergarten information night welcomes new families

Michael Dougherty

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District will host its annual Kindergarten Information Night Thursday, March 19, at Noble Elementary School (1293 Ardoon Street) from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This informational evening is an opportunity for parents to meet CH-UH kindergarten teachers and to have questions answered about the kindergarten program and the school district. Topics to be discussed include kindergarten readiness, curriculum, and related services. Parents will learn more about the before after-school program, student services, food service, transportation and more.

Due to the format and time of the meeting, attendance is limited to adults only. Registration will not occur at this event, but parents will have the opportunity to make a registration appointment. For more information, contact the Early Childhood Center at 216-371-7356.

*Michael Dougherty is the coordinator of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.*

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# CH-UH Board of Education: Highlights of January/February meetings

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009  
All board members present.

## Superintendent search

The board interviewed three superintendent search firms:

- Ohio School Boards Association has done over 800 searches and has a comprehensive database. Services included brochures, mailing contract, fee, mileage, posting, paper screenings, and interview coaching. The firm would narrow the search to three candidates and guarantees a match. The cost was under \$10,000 (\$6,400 plus expenses) and the search would take about three months.
- Hudepohl and Associates had recruited former Cleveland Heights-University Heights Superintendent, Deborah Delisle, for the state superintendent position. They are a Columbus-based firm that began in 1994. They actively recruit and sell opportunities to the best talent. Their fees would be 33 percent of the candidate's base salary. The search would take about three months.
- Finding Leaders/ Ohio Schools Council provides leadership searches, transition planning, temporary administrative services, board retreats and planning, executive coaching, succession planning, and personality profiling. They would conduct community focus groups and actively recruit candidates. The total cost would be under \$10,000 and the search would take nine months including a transition period.

A fourth firm was scheduled for an interview on January 28.

## Hiring a search firm

The board debated whether to spend the money for a search firm, but felt it was the right thing to do to get the best candidate. Treasurer Scott Gainer noted that restrictive dollars were available for



these kinds of services.

*LWV observer: Lillian Houser.*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2009  
All board members present.

## Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference in Washington, D.C.

Interim Superintendent Christine Fowler-Mack introduced five students, representing Cleveland Heights High School, Monticello Middle School, and Oxford Elementary School, who attended the Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference in Washington, D.C. for the presidential inauguration.

## Field trips

The board approved field trips for the High School Girls Track team and the College Tour.

## Superintendent search

After a lengthy discussion the board approved hiring Hudepohl and Associates to search for a new superintendent. Vice President Ron Register voted 'no' due to the cost. The money will come not from instructional funds, but from city and county money that can be used for consultants. Weather caused a cancellation of the planned Jan. 28 interview of a fourth firm. Timely rescheduling was not possible and Board Member Eric Coble was unable to reach the firm by phone. Therefore, given the need for a quick decision, the board chose to make the hire based on the three interviews completed and written information from the fourth.

*LWV observer: Adele Cohn.*

*See disclaimer page 3.*

# Heights High students invite community to share experiences for student film project

Michael Dougherty

Cleveland Heights High School students are reaching out to the community to collect residents' stories, contributions, and recollections about the wars of the 20th and 21st centuries. The project has students working together to write, edit, interview, and produce a documentary to be entitled "Everyone Has a Story: Student Led Documentaries."

Students from TV Production class, AP Literature and Composition classes, and AP United States History class are working together to complete the documentary. The project will span all three subjects as well as teach the students interpersonal skills they can use outside the classroom.

"Our students are very excited to begin this project, and we hope they will gain a further understanding of the subjects they are studying in the classroom and about their community," TV Production Teacher Jeff Glass said. "It is a great blend of history, literature, and

technology, and we are fortunate to offer that opportunity to our students."

Community members and their stories are needed. Any Cleveland Heights or University Heights residents who would like to share their experiences should contact Jeff Glass at 216-371-7101 ext. 81116 or J\_Glass@chuh.org by March 15.

"We really hope that this becomes an ongoing relationship between the students and the community," Glass said. "This is a great learning experience and it will provide a unique look at the history of our community for years to come."

To fund this project, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District received a grant from the Reaching Heights Foundation and Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation. The finished project will be shared with the community this spring on Channel 22.

*Michael Dougherty is the coordinator of communications for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.*

# Ruffing teacher masters art of teaching science

Carol Provan

For 40 years Cary Seidman has taught science, almost exclusively to middle school students. He exudes enthusiasm—for his subject and his students. Cary was honored recently by the National Science Teacher's Association for Excellence in Inquiry Based Science.

"I still enjoy helping kids discover how the world works and I especially like this age, when they are developing skills, like the ability to apply abstractions to real life situations," he said.

Cary helps students succeed in understanding complex scientific concepts with a lab-based approach. The two-year curriculum he developed has students investigate topics exclusively in a lab setting

"My method of teaching science reaps the benefits of the skills and work habits, independence and curiosity that begin in Montessori Preschool," said Cary.

Prior to coming to Ruffing in 1998, Cary taught in the East Cleveland Schools for 30 years. By 2000, he had reshaped Ruffing's science program to engage students in activity-based science using their research abilities, mathematical proficiencies and writ-

ing skills. This is effective with this age group because, as he states, "science de-mystifies the world for them."

Cary continues to find ways to make the study of science more relevant, exciting and engaging, and has received grants for equipment to augment his modern lab classroom. The McGinty Family Foundation has awarded grants for a light emitting diode color mixing apparatus for improved study of visible light and the spectrum of colors without distortion and for a Video Flex camera to enhance images viewed in a compound microscope for display on a computer monitor or SmartBoard.

Cary also has received a FirstEnergy Mathematics, Science & Technology Education Grant to obtain working models of fuel cell operated devices to expand the study of renewable energy sources.

Cary and his wife Karen have lived in Cleveland Heights for over 30 years. He holds a BA from Oberlin College and an MA from John Carroll University.

*Carol Provan is director of development at Ruffing Montessori School.*

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# Saint Ann School and Parish to host a Magical Evening

Stephanie Applegate

Do you believe in magic?

The students of Saint Ann School and the parishioners of Saint Ann Parish do. They believe in the magic of friends, parents, and alumni who come together every year for their benefit. Well...for the benefit of a benefit, actually.

On Saturday, March 14 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Saint Ann School and Parish will host its annual charity event, "This Magic Moment," to benefit student scholarships and parish operations. And you're invited to be a part of the magic act.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres begin at 6:30 p.m. As harpist Jocelyn Chang and flutist Michael Leese provide a tranquil backdrop, magician Rick Smith will circulate throughout the crowd performing tricks and illusions. But it's the silent auction and raffles that will truly enchant:

- Ultimate Book Club (dinner, book-signing, and discussion with a nationally-known author)
- Drive a convertible for the summer
- Ohio State University/University of

- Michigan Football package
- Pamper Yourself Makeover Package

And while the live-auction items offered during dinner may seem like a sleight of hand trick, trust us – they're entirely real. Up for auction is a trip to New York City and a tour of MSNBC, and a week at Saddlebrook Golf and Tennis Club in Florida. And to top it all off, the final act of the evening's magical performance will be the induction of all Saint Ann School alumni in attendance into the Father John Mary Powers Alumni Society. So, if you're a Saint Ann School alum reading this now, here's a chance to be a part of history.

Tickets for the dinner are \$125 per person. For more information contact the Saint Ann Parish Rectory at 216-321-0024. Be a part of the magic – conjure up capital for Saint Ann School and Saint Ann Parish!

*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.*

## Get summer off to a beautiful start Heights Summer Music Camp, June 8-12

Susie Kaeser

Reaching Heights is now accepting applications to the Heights Summer Music Camp to be held June 8 to 12 at Wiley Middle School in University Heights. Students currently enrolled in fifth to eighth grades who reside in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district and have two years of experience in their school's instrumental music program are invited to participate.

This is the fifth year that Reaching Heights, a citizen support organization for the Heights schools, has partnered with the schools to give students this summer music opportunity. Heights High Instrumental Music Director Scott Astey is the music director for the camp. District music teachers and local professionals, Heights High alumni and current music students work with campers in orchestra and sectional rehearsals, chamber groups, music theory, and in

workshops focused on jazz, guitar and choral music. Camp hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily.

The public is invited to the finale concert on June 12 when campers demonstrate the musical skills that they've honed during a week of concentrated instruction, practice and exploration.

The fee for the one week camp is \$130. Financial assistance is available. Applications are due May 15 and are available at [www.reachingheights.org](http://www.reachingheights.org). Space is limited. Call camp coordinator, Betsy Neylon at 440-725-6845 for more information.

*Susie Kaeser is an advocate for public education. She founded Reaching Heights, a citizen advocacy organization for the CH-UH schools, in 1989 and retired as executive director in December 2007. She is a resident of Cleveland Heights and her two adult children are graduates of the Heights schools.*

## Heights Youth Club receives awards!



Showing off Heights Youth Center's unique programming after an event are (from left) Miriam Ampiere, Karlissa Kidd, Shameeka Walker and Benetta Steward.

Jeff Haynes

The Heights Youth Club, now in its third year, was recently honored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland with the 2009 Club of the Year Award. Dawn Parker, a parent volunteer who serves on the club's board of directors won the organization's Parent of the Year Award.

In its pioneering role as the first suburban Boys and Girls Club in Cuyahoga County, the Heights Youth Club is showing the need for youth clubs in the suburbs and the effectiveness of its programming in a suburban setting.

It is the newest club in Cleveland and also its fastest growing: In 2008 the club had a 32 percent increase in membership, averaging 71 youth per day, and offered more than 50 programs.

The winning club must excel in four areas: membership growth, program implementation, facility management and administrative organization.

"The club is an outstanding example

of the power of partnership to effectively address community needs," said Louise Westfall, president of the club's board of directors.

"Engaged citizens, city officials, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland, the CH-UH City School District, faith communities, businesses — it took all of these to build an award-winning club that directly benefits Heights youth and their families. We're grateful for the community's continued support."

Boys and Girls Clubs offer structured academic support as well as physical, life skills and social opportunities for children and youth in a safe, well-supervised place where they can go after school and during the summer. Programming is provided in five major focus areas: character and leadership development; education and career development; health and life skills; the arts; and sports, fitness and recreation.

*Jeff Haynes is the Heights Youth Club's assistant club director.*

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# It's a wonderful bank



U.S. bank employees l. to r. Eureka Herd, Jennifer Stansell, Diana Rodriques and Dyan Coutee.

Lita Gonzalez

Every year around the holidays I watch the 1946 film “It’s a Wonderful Life.” It’s comforting wrapping myself in nostalgia; reintroducing myself to the Bailey Savings & Loan. In today’s world, do banks like Bailey’s still exist?

The interior of the U.S. Bank on Lee Road looks like 2009, but there is a warmth about it that feels more like 1946. Walk inside and you are greeted with a welcoming wave, nod or smile. I sat down with Eureka Herd, the branch manager, who said: “U.S. Bank is in the business of serving the community, and we pride ourselves on customer service. Our bankers address customers by name and customers feel a connection with the bankers. Some of our customers grew up in families that banked with us and now their own children are coming in.”

Dyan Coutee, assistant manager of customer service, points out that the bank is a welcoming place for children. She told me about the family of eight that comes in regularly. “The children have their own accounts and they are learning from their parents how to manage their own money.” Herd agreed that it’s important that families begin teaching children how to bank at an early age. Here are some steps families can follow to assure that children grow up making responsible financial decisions:

- Children are bright enough to learn how to save, so starting in elementary school, have them make a deposit into a custodial savings account every time they get birthday or holiday money. Parents can help them go on the Internet, log on to their account and watch their money grow. Herd points out that this can help children develop a

sense of pride and accomplishment.

- At 18, children can get a debit card and a checking account. They can learn to use online bill paying for their cell phone, for instance, and they can monitor their spending habits. “Students need to learn how to budget their money so they don’t get overdrawn and how to consistently pay on time,” said Herd, “so they can build a sense of independence and a strong credit rating.”
- Parents also can help their children save for big-ticket items – their first car, their first apartment, or college.

Jimmy O’Neill from Jimmy O’Neill’s Tavern on Lee Road happened to be in the bank that day and I asked him what he liked about this branch. “It’s my neighborhood bank. Everyone knows you, he said. He added that he followed many of Herd’s recommendations to teach his own daughter sound financial decision-making. “Now that she’s turning 18, we’re converting the custodial account into her own account with a debit card,” O’Neill said. “She’ll be learning how to use the debit card before she graduates from high school.”

U.S. Bank’s slogan is: “We put the power of US to work for YOU.” But Eureka said that’s more than just words at her branch. “We give 5-Star Service Guaranteed, and by giving great service, our customers, whether businesses or individuals, come to rely on us as part of their ‘family.’” It’s a sentiment that would make George Bailey proud.

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

# NeuroWave Systems Inc. relocates to Rockefeller Pointe

Kim Steigerwald

NeuroWave Systems Inc., a spinoff of Cleveland Medical Devices (CleveMed), relocated to the Rockefeller Pointe building at the end of 2008. CleveMed was founded in 1990 to develop innovative biomedical signal processing and instrumentation devices and has since become a leader in miniaturized wireless telemetry, physiological monitoring and rehabilitation devices. Through innovation, CleveMed has developed a growing range of products to address the needs of the medical, research and academic communities.

NeuroWave was established as a division of CleveMed in 2004 to focus on developing applications and monitoring technologies based on advanced signal processing of biosignals, such as brain waves. NeuroWave Systems became a separate corporation in 2007 and is at the leading edge for design of EEG systems with high signal quality and real-time processing capabilities for medical applications. NeuroWave focuses on brain monitoring technologies for uses such as: depth of consciousness monitoring during anesthesia procedures, detection of seizures and other brain

dysfunctions, and psychiatric applications such as screening and treatment follow-up for ADHD and depression.

NeuroWave’s anesthesia monitor, NeuroSENSE, is in the final stages of clinical validation in seven hospitals in the U.S., Canada, France and Belgium. NeuroSENSE, launched in October, will provide the company entry to a \$600 million market in the U.S. and \$1 billion worldwide. NeuroWave has contracts with several governmental agencies.

NeuroWave worked with building owner Charles Zuchowski and city staff to complete the move. The City of Cleveland Heights provided a loan from its commercial revolving loan fund towards the relocation and renovation of the 6,000 sq. ft. office space. NeuroWave brings 21 existing jobs to the city and committed to an additional 23 new jobs in the next five years. Rockefeller Pointe is centrally located along the Mayfield Road corridor, just minutes from University Circle’s major institutions including University Hospital and Case Western Reserve University.

*Kim Steigerwald is the assistant director of planning and development for the city of Cleveland Heights.*

# Cleveland Heights: a brown perspective

T.J. Wright

The flowers were gone. The sky was gray. The leaves were brown and falling to the ground. This was my first day ever in Cleveland Heights and my first day on my new route as a UPS driver. I wasn’t quite sure what to expect, and have been pleasantly surprised.

Even with the gloomy weather, one of the first things I noticed were the nice, sometimes majestic, homes on Fairmont Boulevard. To this day, whenever I have a helper or a supervisor ride along with me, they comment on the homes in the area. Some even use their camera phones to take pictures!

When spring arrived I truly began to see the beauty of the city. The flowers, cherry trees and dogwoods were blossoming, and the yards were neatly manicured. The Heights in the spring time is definitely a beautiful place to be.

Another appealing aspect is the plethora of family owned and small businesses. Some have been around for generations, some are newer, and all take great pride in being part of the Heights. It’s been a pleasure getting to know the business owners and their employees. It’s much nicer than talking to someone hiding behind a tie. Also, the choices of restaurants are endless. It doesn’t matter what you prefer -Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, or Turkish- nearly every ethnic group is represented.

This is a fascinating city. Every street I turn down has a different story to tell: the gentleman on Essex Drive, who clears the snow off his driveway in shorts; the Lee Road library, which is busy enough to be a city itself; or the teenagers walking down the street rapping with their favorite songs, oblivious to the fact that other people around can hear them.



T.J. Wright in his portable office.

The aesthetic beauty and unique business districts aside, the Heights’ greatest gem is its people.

The people are very creative. I have observed on more than one occasion a gentleman riding a bicycle powered with an engine from a lawnmower. I’ve seen a young boy riding his bike with two husky breed dogs pulling it like an Alaskan dogsled team.

Heights residents are some of the kindest people I have ever met. Almost daily, I experience this kindness first hand. People who barely know me offer me cold drinks on a hot day or someplace warm to get a break from the cold. One day I was caught in a torrential down pour, and a lady and her daughter brought me a towel.

Cleveland Heights is a good size city with a small town feel. I’ve enjoyed getting to know it and look forward to many more years of service.

*T.J. Wright has worked with UPS for 19 years. Happily married for 14 years, his favorite hobbies are watching the Cleveland Browns and woodworking.*

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# Vixseboxse prints on sale to benefit Heights Arts

Peggy Spaeth

American and European 19th and 20th century prints from Vixseboxse Art Gallery will be on sale at the Heights Arts Gallery from March 7-April 18.

Peruse engravings, etchings, color lithographs, mezzotints, Nast and Homer wood block engravings from *Harper's Weekly*, and more. Subjects include botanicals, birds, civil war, hunting, lawyers, maps, Appleton, Cadart and more.

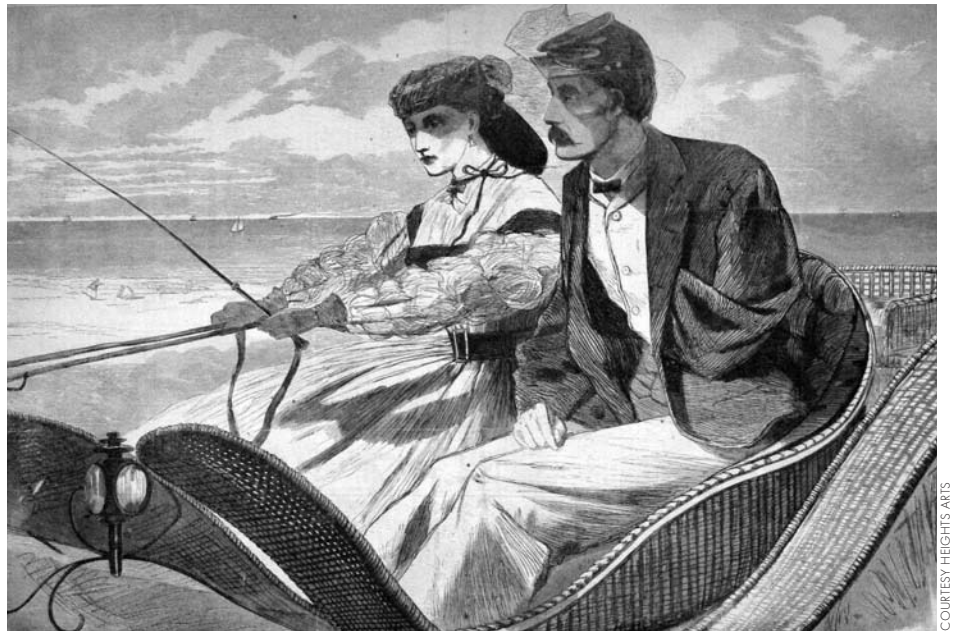
We are extremely grateful to Vixseboxse Art Gallery for the opportunity to offer these prints to our community. The collection assembled over three generations provides a rare opportunity to see and buy prints not offered elsewhere, and a fascinating glimpse into times and places that chronicle political, social, and scientific history and art.

The prints cover a wide expanse of time, geography, subject matter and media. Today prints are valued for their artistic value. But many of them were originally mass media, such as the Winslow Homer wood engravings from *Harper's Weekly*, one of the first illustrated newspapers. Illustrated newspapers were a new medium during the Civil War, bringing the war home in

much the same way as television did for the Vietnam War. And the illustrations were enabled by an advance in technology: engravings on hard wood were able to be set with metal type and printed in the tens of thousands of copies.

Artists were more often than not skilled craftsmen assigned to record something. Some, like Winslow Homer, honed their drawing skills on assignments and later evolved into artists of the more modern definition, who express their personal vision through art. Artists were also sent on expeditions to document foreign flora and fauna, resulting in botanical illustrations valued today for their graceful lines and beautiful color. Engravers copied famous paintings so that people could own a copy. Today we treasure the engravings over the paintings, some of which have vanished. Some types of prints, such as mezzotints and aquatints, endeavored to look like watercolors. And some techniques were quickly supplanted by others in rapidly evolving print technology.

The Gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday from 1:30-9:30 p.m. and is located at 2173 Lee Road, just a few doors down from the Cedar Lee Theatre. All proceeds from the sale will benefit Heights Arts. Dr. Jane Glaubinger,



Our Watering-Places-The Empty Sleeve at Newport, wood engraving by Winslow Homer from *Harper's Weekly*, August 26, 1865

Cleveland Museum of Art curator of prints, will be on hand to answer questions at the Members Only preview on Friday, March 6. She will give a Gallery Talk about the prints on March 14 at 2 p.m. Reservations are suggested as seating is limited: 216-371-3457 or heightsarts@heightsarts.org; Free will donation at the door.

*Peggy Spaeth is executive director of Heights Arts.*

## Heights Writes Poem

Meredith Holmes

Poets in Cleveland Heights are staunch, even fierce, supporters of their public libraries. Poet John Panza imagines what it might have been like if his Cedar Lee neighbors had run amok when the Main Library closed for renovations a few years ago.

### My Neighborhood

by John Panza

The library closes  
For at least a year,  
And the locals revolt  
As I write this. I see  
Them. The neighbors  
Must walk an extra half  
Mile to temporary digs.  
Still, the disoriented  
Librarians and the books  
Wait for the first  
Slam of the sycamore log,  
Then another. Doors  
Splinter. A rush.  
An impending crisis  
At hand, torches flaming,  
Pitchforks, the lot.  
Just now, the mobs  
Converge at Lee and Cedar.  
The kids are tearing  
Up some cars behind  
The theater, setting  
To work on the drugstore,  
Five coffeeshops,  
All six bars. Deafening.  
I stand in the window  
Of the sidewalk gallery,  
Consider the scene  
Worthy of pen and ink,  
Of hyperbole, of time,  
And know this will end,  
And the neighborhood  
Will be the neighborhood's  
Again.

*John Panza produces a weekly Heights Arts podcast at heightsartsradio.blogspot.com and serves as a trustee for Heights Arts. He is Assistant Professor of English at Cuyaboga Community College's Eastern Campus and is drummer for the band Chief Bromide.*

*Meredith Holmes was Poet Laureate of Cleveland Heights 2005-2006.*

*Heights Writes is the literary committee of Heights Arts (www.heightsarts.org) and works to bring poetry to public life in Cleveland Heights.*

## Apollo's Fire performs "Virtuoso Fire: Italian Concertos by Vivaldi & Rivals"

Erica Wareham

During the Baroque era, Venice was home to numerous composers, all competing fiercely for fame and recognition.

"Several ambitious composers vied for attention," said Jeannette Sorrell, music director of Apollo's Fire. "Between 1715 and 1740, Italy, and Venice in particular, reigned as the musical capitals of Europe."

Antonio Vivaldi was a violin star and Thomas Albinoni was the diva of the oboe. In *Virtuoso Fire*, Grammy award-winning oboist Alex Klein performs the virtuosic oboe concertos of both composers, while Apollo's Fire principal players rival for the audiences' attention in Vivaldi concertos for two, three and four soloists. Cleveland Heights performances are Friday, March 6 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 7 at 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2747 Fairmount Blvd.

Klein will give a pre-concert lecture one hour before each performance, sponsored by the Friends of Apollo's Fire.

Tickets range from \$20 to \$60, with discounts for students, seniors and adults under 30. For more information and additional performance dates, visit [www.apollosfire.org](http://www.apollosfire.org) or call 216-320-0012.

*Erica Wareham is the marketing coordinator for Apollo's Fire, The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra, and is a resident of Cleveland Heights.*



Apollo's Fire, The Cleveland Baroque Orchestra

## Heights History: Picture This!



Remember Chin's Pagoda restaurant, which stood on the west side of Lee Road between Washington and Derbyshire? The restaurant stood in the area of 2100 Lee Road from 1941 to about 1970. Find out more great Cleveland Heights history at [www.chhistory.org](http://www.chhistory.org). The Cleveland Heights Historical Society promotes the history of our community through public programs, an informative Web site and fact-filled newsletters. Join today!

## Western Reserve Choral to present All Haydn concert

Joanne Poderis

In observance of the 200th anniversary of Franz Joseph Haydn's death in 1809, the Western Reserve Chorale, under the artistic direction of Dr. J.D. Goddard, will present an all-Haydn concert with orchestra and soloists on March 8 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 13001 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights. Admission is free and there will be a meet-the-artists reception immediately following.

The chorale will perform works including "Praise We Sing To Thee;" "Come Gentle Spring," from the oratorio *The Seasons*; "The Heavens Are Telling," from the oratorio *The Creation*; and the orchestra will perform the first movement, vivace assai, from the *Bear Symphony No. 82*. The evening's major work will be Haydn's dramatic and timpani inspired, *Mass in Time of War*.

Now in its 17th season, the Western Reserve Chorale is a nonprofit group composed of both amateur and professional singers. The chorale's mission is to present free, high quality performances of choral music to the residents of Northeast Ohio. The concert will be conducted by artistic director Dr. J.D. Goddard. Guest soloists will be soprano Andrea Chenoweth, alto Joanne Uniatowski, tenor J.R. Fralick, and baritone Brian Johnson.

*Joanne Poderis is the executive director of the Western Reserve Chorale, a Cleveland Heights based adult community choir.*

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# Cleveland Carbon Fund to support local carbon reduction projects

Mary Patton

With Americans annually emitting more than 7.5 billion tons of carbon that contribute to a global increase in temperature, rise in sea level and dramatic changes in climate and weather patterns, the need for reduction in carbon output is drastically important.

Recently, a group of innovative founding partners organized a fund for the public to play a role in eliminating carbon emissions. The Cleveland Carbon Fund is the first community-based, open-access carbon reduction fund in the United States with a mission to sponsor the formation and implementation of local carbon reduction projects that help foster economic development, social well-being and environmental stewardship in Cleveland.

The City of Cleveland, Cleveland Clinic, the Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the George Gund Foundation make up the collaborative group of the Cleveland Carbon Fund's Founding Partners.

"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. Have fun being a friend of the planet. Ride a bike and walk places, recycle and compost, and cut back on meat and corn-based

food. If you think about it, our modern lives depend on burning a lot of fossil fuels," said Cleveland Heights resident Marc Lefkowitz of the Green-CityBlueLake Institute at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. "Science is telling us that climate change from the burning of carbon-based fossil fuels poses a grave threat to the stability of human civilization and to the survival of millions of other species. We all have a responsibility to act."

Individuals and companies in Northeast Ohio are able to reduce their own carbon footprint by buying into the fund. The money collected by the fund will support nonprofit organizations to promote sustainability in the region. It will also support projects such as tree planting, home weatherization, and compact fluorescent light bulb replacement initiatives.

As a result of the Cleveland Carbon Fund, the Cleveland community will gain many benefits. The projects supported by the fund will not only improve the community's environmental health, but also encourage economic development and new jobs.

"By investing in the Cleveland Carbon Fund, you are investing in your local community in ways that not only



reduce carbon emissions but also help create green collar jobs," said Andrew Watterson, program director for the City of Cleveland's Office of Sustainability. "This is a great alternative to the traditional carbon reduction options available today."

The group's Web site, [www.clevelandcarbonfund.org](http://www.clevelandcarbonfund.org), has a personal calculator to determine your footprint. A donation to the fund is tax-deductible and donors will receive notification of how much carbon will be removed from the atmosphere as a result of his or her donation.

To calculate your carbon footprint, to donate or to find out more, visit [www.clevelandcarbonfund.org](http://www.clevelandcarbonfund.org).

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

# It's never too late to date your mate

Kathy Dawson

Dating is at risk of becoming extinct, especially between spouses and lifelong mates. Before you catch yourself saying, "That's not true, my partner and I date each other all the time," read the following true definition of dating:

Dating means spending time together without running errands, without spending an evening with another couple, or without eating out with the kids; spending at least two hours with your mate doing something interesting and fun; creating a memory together.

Research shows that when you and your mate spend time together doing something new and different, you change your brain chemistry. When you make a conscious effort to get out of a dating rut and experience life in an out-of-the-ordinary way, your body secretes the adrenaline-like chemicals, dopamine and norepinephrine, that make you feel light on your feet and as if butterflies are doing an air show in your stomach. In short, when you and your mate really date one another, you don't feel bored.

Boredom creeps up on you. It hides behind the excuse of feeling "comfortable." That comfortable feeling of continually dining at the same restaurant or going to see a movie time after time is what prevents you and your mate from living a life built on creating memories. At the end of the day, those memories play an important role in your relationship. They keep you talking; they keep you laughing. Your job ... is simply to make them.

*Kathy Dawson is a Cleveland Heights-based relationship coach who has written an ebook, 104 Dates In and Around Cleveland. To learn more about Dawson and her book, visit [www.kathythecoach.com](http://www.kathythecoach.com).*

# Meeting to discuss crime in Severance neighborhood

Fran Mentch

A meeting to talk about neighborhood crime in the Severance neighborhood, and what to do about it, will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 7 p.m. at Cleveland Heights City Hall. A Cleveland Heights police officer, a member of City Council and Jim Chriss, Cleveland State University sociology professor and expert on policing, will meet with residents, answer questions and address neighborhood concerns. Police Chief Martin Lentz was invited to attend but at press time had not replied.

Severance Neighborhood Organization, a new Cleveland Heights nonprofit dedicated to advocacy and building community for the residents and merchants in the northeast section of the city initiated this program by contacting the Cleveland Heights Community Relations Department. All are welcome, but the discussion will focus on issues in the Severance area.

Questions? Contact Fran Mentch at 216-381-5356 or [franmentch@yahoo.com](mailto:franmentch@yahoo.com).

*Fran Mentch is a resident of the Severance neighborhood in Cleveland Heights.*

# Heights Observer to participate in "citizen journalism" forum

Heights Observer Staff

You, the reader, might not have realized this but the *Heights Observer* is part of a new phenomenon called "citizen journalism."

Written and edited by its readers, the *Heights Observer* is published by FutureHeights, an organization dedicated to "a vibrant and sustainable future for Cleveland Heights through innovative ideas and civic engagement." This publication, and particularly the way it is produced, fits the definition of citizen

journalism coined by media analyst Jay Rosen, professor at New York University and author of the blog Press Think:

"When the people formerly known as the audience employ the press tools they have in their possession to inform one another, that's citizen journalism."

On Sunday, March 15, the First Unitarian Church of Cleveland will host a forum on citizen journalism, using the *Heights Observer* as its chief example. Publisher Deanna Bremer Fisher will be on the panel, as will Journalism Professor Richard Hendrickson of John

Carroll University, also a member of the *Heights Observer's* advisory board. Moderating the panel and participating in the discussion will be Carrie Buchanan, a journalist and journalism educator who is on the *Heights Observer's* advisory and editorial boards.

The forum will be held at the First Unitarian Church, 21600 Shaker Blvd. in Shaker Heights, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. on Sunday, March 15. Following a presentation by the panel there will be a question and answer period. The public is invited to attend. There is no admission charge.

# Community Calendar

As many of you know, the *Heights Observer* is also an interactive Web site:[www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org). Anyone may post an event happening in the Heights on the Community Calendar, located on the right side of the site. Check in often to post events and to learn about events in our neighborhoods, like these:

**Friday, March 6:** RoxArts "Don't Worry, Be Happy" benefit and auction. Heights Rockefeller Building at 7 p.m.

**Saturday, March 7:** Noble Elementary hosts "March Madness Family Fun Night" to benefit playground renovation. Community Center Gym 6 to 8 p.m.

**Monday, March 9:** Yale Gospel Choir. At Ruffing Montessori School at 10:30 a.m. and at the Church of the Savior at 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 25:** Cedar Lee Theatre hosts the 33rd Cleveland International Film Festival's special screening of "Dean Spanley" at 7:15 p.m. Attend a pre-film reception at Nighttown at 5 p.m. and take advantage of dinner specials from 9 p.m. to midnight.

**Friday, April 3:** Application deadline for Cleveland Bridge Builders leadership development program. Visit [www.clevelandbridgebuilders.org](http://www.clevelandbridgebuilders.org) for more information and an application.

Visit [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org) for more information about these and other events.



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# Cross-racial socializing builds new friendships in the Heights

Barbara Danforth

When was the last time you had someone in your home that did not look like you? That is the challenging question that forms the foundation of the book *Racing Across the Lines: Changing Race Relations Through Friendship* by Dr. Deborah L. Plummer.

As the president and CEO of the YWCA of Greater Cleveland, whose mission it is to eliminate racism and empower women, I was embarrassed to admit my difficulty in answering that question. I work in a very diverse professional world but I socialize and worship in same-race communities. This book challenged me to consider the patterns of my social interactions.

As part of the YWCA commitment to re-engage in our mission work of racial justice, I decided to explore this notion of cross-racial socializing. I gathered a group of 18 women – Asian-Chinese, Indian, Korean, Latino-Mexican, Puerto Rican, Guatemalan, African American and Caucasian – for a series of five dialogue and dinner parties in my home. The women who were invited

were intentionally similar in socio-economic and professional status, age and education. Geographically, they live in Cleveland Heights, University Heights, suburbs further east as well as from several west side communities. The primary point of difference, however, was race or ethnicity. The objectives of these gatherings were to raise awareness about other racial/ethnic backgrounds, increase the social network of the participants and, for those interested, to replicate this dialogue model.

We were very fortunate to have Dr. Plummer, a Cleveland Heights resident, to facilitate the dialogues. We began with “cultural introductions,” an exercise in which we introduced ourselves with several specific criteria and explored our differences and similarities. In preparation for the next session, we completed an “adaptability assessment,” which raised awareness about our individual reactions and responses to differences. An “action plan” was included with strategies to enhance our adaptability. This session was shortly after the presidential election and we considered what the campaign and

election meant to each of us. In the next session we examined our patterns of friendship as young children, adolescents and adults. With another tool we identified the dominant race and ethnicity of our current circle of friends and considered whether we wanted to choose to be more inclusive in developing new friendships.

In our next session we will consider how our choices of social and leisure-time activities affect our cross-racial socializing. And finally, we will decide where we go from here individually and collectively.

When I decided several years ago to move into University Heights and then Cleveland Heights, I was particularly drawn to its racial and ethnic diversity. And yet as a resident I have done very little to expand the diversity of my social network. This project has raised my awareness about the value of friends who look different and it has enabled me to begin building new friendships.

These dialogues have been rich and stimulating; they have been enlightening and have challenged some of our assumptions. As this nation collectively

## Disciples Christian Church hosts community meal

Ronald Werman

Disciples Christian Church has hosted seven “Meet the Neighbors” free community meals, and Pastor Kristine Egert is always thrilled to see returning guests and meet new ones.

“Meet the Neighbors” is held the last Thursday of every month from 5-6:30 p.m. and consistently serves about 100 people. All are welcome at the next meal on Thursday, March 26.

For more information, contact Disciples Christian Church, 3663 Mayfield Road (at Yellowstone), 216-382-5344.

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

ushers in a commitment to change, each of us in our communities has an opportunity to be an intentional participant in that change.

*Barbara Danforth has resided in the Heights for over a decade. She is president and CEO of the YWCA of Greater Cleveland, whose mission is to eliminate racism and empower women.*

## Whole Foods 5% Days

Jared Earley

Whole Foods Market has established itself as a community supporter. The store's quarterly Community 5% Days are one example. On designated days, 5 percent of the store's sales are donated to an area nonprofit organization. Past beneficiaries have been Reaching Heights, Friends of Cain Park, Heights Youth Theatre, and the Cleveland International Film Festival. For more information, visit [wholefoodsmarket.com/cleveland](http://wholefoodsmarket.com/cleveland).

*Jared Earley serves as the marketing specialist and community liaison for Whole Foods Market in University Heights.*



Members of Heights Youth Theatre perform to promote their Community 5% Day at Whole Foods Market in University Heights

## Hope Lutheran celebrates ordination

Rev. Donald King

Kimberly Vaughn was ordained into the Christian ministry at Hope Lutheran Church in January, becoming one of a handful of African American women ministers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Vaughn grew up in Cleveland's Mount Pleasant neighborhood. Early in her studies at Cleveland State University, she attended the Lutheran Student Movement national gathering in Atlanta, GA, and became involved in Lutheran Campus Ministry. Vaughn served in many lay ministry positions throughout Ohio before her decision

to enter seminary. Upon her return to Cleveland in 2000, she joined Hope Lutheran Church, eventually serving as president of council.

Vaughn earned her Master of Divinity degree at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, focusing on urban ministry.

Vaughn will serve as director of youth ministry for the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA and pastor of Genesis Lutheran Church.

*Rev. Donald King is Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church on North Taylor Road and an active participant in the Heights InterFaith Council. He has lived in Cleveland Heights since 1985.*

## Heights community joins in the battle against cancer



Get involved with the Cancer Society Relay for Life hosted by Case Western Reserve University April 17 to 19. Go to [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org) for more information, or contact Hilary Michel at 330-323-8301.

Free online classifieds and more stories at  
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# Planning a Heights 'staycation' this spring

Sarah Routh

Disney is offering an unprecedented “kids stay and eat free” rate this Spring Break season. But there’s a new trend that’s an even better deal: the “staycation.” That is, stay right here and take advantage of what the Heights have to offer. On top of substantial savings and unbeatable logistics, with the right itinerary a staycation can equal a traditional vacation for memory-making potential.

If you stay home this month, here are suggestions for a week-long Heights staycation.

**Heights History:** The Superior Schoolhouse, home to the Cleveland Heights Historical Center, lets children experience school life in the late 1800s. My third-grade daughter loved hearing about what kids wore, their lunchboxes and their ink. Free admission. The public season begins in April; March tours are available by appointment. Check the history/architecture link at [www.clevelandheights.com](http://www.clevelandheights.com).

Garfield Monument at Lakeview

Cemetery opens April 1. Climb the staircase to the observation deck and discover one of the best views of Cleveland’s east side. Pamphlets detailing self-guided walking tours of the cemetery are available in the monument office. Free admission.

**Public Art:** Start on Cedar Hill, with the murals on either end of the Heights Center Building (home to Starbucks and Howard Hanna). These painted “windows” offer a unique view of the city as a street-car suburb.

Severance Town Center has eight outdoor sculptures. Begin outside City Hall with *Tree Cozy* and continue around the circle to discover the other installations. For more information, visit [www.heightsarts.org](http://www.heightsarts.org).

Next, head to Boulevard Elementary’s playground and find the reading garden mural – a tile mosaic with bright colors and a garden theme. With a crayon and paper, kids can make a souvenir rubbing of their favorite tile.

**Coventry:** The Coventry Peace Park (playground) is a popular spot for downhill fun. If there’s snow, bring sleds

and enjoy one of the city’s best slopes. In better weather, enjoy the giant slide instead. Need an afternoon snack? There are too many options to name. Then visit Big Fun, the aptly named toy store, and other fun-to-explore shops.

**Spring Break on Ice:** Skating at the Pavilion is one of the area’s best deals. Admission is just \$5, less with your recreation ID. Skates are \$2. The rink offers skating “walkers” for first-timers. Twice-daily public skate sessions are the norm, but call ahead to be sure, 691.7373. The annual Ice Show, March 28-29, showcases local skating talent and will inspire new skaters.

**Lee Road Library:** With its creative programming, the Main Library dominates the local family entertainment market. March 23-27, the library will host a free anime film festival. *Spirited Away*, a 2001 Oscar winner, is one of five scheduled films (ratings range from G to PG13). Free pizza and popcorn offered during the 4-6:30 p.m. screenings. Trent Maverick, festival organizer, recommends families with small children see *My Neighbor Tortoro* and *Kiki’s*

*Delivery Service*. For more information, visit [www.heightslibrary.org](http://www.heightslibrary.org).

**Hikes in the Heights:** Hiking can be the perfect antidote to spring fever. The Shaker Lakes Nature Center offers effortless family fun including scavenger hunts and naturalist-guided weekend walks. Newly renovated Horseshoe Lake Park has a boardwalk, paved trails, a fireplace, picnic shelters and creative climbing structures. More ambitious hikers can head east from Horseshoe Lake along Doan Brook, to the edge of Cleveland Heights (nearly four miles round-trip).

**Entertainment:** See ‘tween favorite *High School Musical 2* at Wiley Middle School, which runs the first three weekends in March. Check [heightsyouth-theater.com](http://heightsyouth-theater.com) for ticket information. For inexpensive sporting events, try John Carroll and Heights High. Both schools’ spring seasons start in late March.

*Sarah Routh is a Cleveland Heights lifer, freelance writer, blogger, and mother of three.*

## Fitness instructor develops the right fit

Cindy Traffon

How often do you reach someone’s voicemail and they promise to get back to you as soon as they’ve completed their last rep? Well that’s the case when you call Mark Katrinak, a certified personal trainer who resides in Cleveland Heights with his wife and three-year-old son.

A dedicated professional, Mark has been employed as a fitness instructor by the Cleveland Skating Club since 2004. In addition to working with clients at the club, Mark offers the flexibility of training clients either in his home or in the comfort of their own. His previous training experience includes working at the Jewish Community Center in Beachwood, Kings Gym in Bedford Heights and Fitworks.

Mark bases his training programs on compound, functional exercises and core strengthening. “Every client I work with has a program tailored to his or her specific needs,” Mark explains. “Clients will find that each training session varies from workout to workout. I believe this approach allows people to obtain their greatest potential and prevents the monotony of having to perform the same

workout over and over.”

This adaptability enables Mark to work with those in good health looking to improve their fitness levels, as well as those who face special challenges and physical disabilities such as Parkinson’s disease, blindness, osteoporosis and back pain. Mark has helped clients hasten their recovery from injuries and joint replacements. Student athletes also benefit from Mark’s expertise, including those who participate in soccer, track and field, baseball, ice skating, horseback riding and sculling.

Mark’s easy-going demeanor is paired with a serious commitment to meeting fitness goals. He inspires clients to take their training to a higher level by providing the gentle encouragement and knowledge required to adhere safely to a challenging exercise program.

“Although I have been training with weights for over 30 years,” says Mark, “I can still recall what really motivated me to begin exercising with weights in high school – being the weakest boy in my physical education class.”

To look at Mark now that seems hard to believe, but it is clear to see that he has developed a training program

that is highly effective over a long period of time.

Like so many other Heights residents, Mark has a variety of interests. Another talent about which he is equally passionate is poetry. As a published poet he has read from his work at various Heights venues including Mac’s Backs and Ruffing Montessori School. Then there is the organic vegetable garden he carefully tends in his backyard that

yields bountiful amounts of fresh kale and tomatoes.

To find out more, reach Mark at [trainermarkk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:trainermarkk@sbcglobal.net) or 216-262-5626. And, just in case he is unavailable to take your call, be sure to leave a message. He’ll get right back to you – as soon as he finishes his last rep, that is.

Cindy Traffon grew up in the Cedar Fairmount neighborhood of Cleveland Heights.

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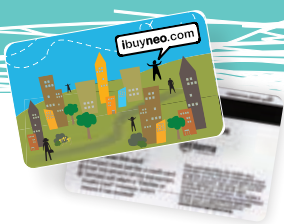
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# Save time and money: Hire a reputable contractor

Douglas Freer

Spring time means home improvements and yard projects, which may mean hiring a contractor to help. Hiring a contractor can cause fear, anxiety and increase stress. Who can you trust to do a good job, stand behind their work and do it at a fair price?

The process of hiring a contractor for a project varies on the type and scope of work, as well as the budget. With a deepening recession, homeowners will likely see more offers from unfamiliar individuals and companies. Many unemployed or laid off workers have started entrepreneurial ventures with the hopes of making ends meet. Don't rule out these newer contractors who may be qualified for your job, but consider the risks. Taking the time to select a reputable and professional contractor may save you time, money, emotional energy, and will dramatically increase your odds for a positive outcome.

Three key points to consider when hiring a contractor:

1) Use your gut instinct to determine if you like the personality, style and professionalism of the contractor. If it feels like a good fit, take the next step before you enter a business relationship

that has financial consequences. Be sure to interview at least two or three contractors and get several quotes. Be leery of claims from contractors that simply state they can do the same job for less.

2) Does the contractor carry the proper insurance including both general liability and Workers' Compensation coverage? Business insurance is one way to help legitimize a company, and provide essential protection for the homeowner from certain liabilities.

- General liability coverage protects the homeowner should an accident occur and there is property damage or a personal injury. It also increases the chance of recovering any claims should a law suit be necessary from a project that fails to perform.

- Workers' Compensation coverage protects the contractor's employees, and potentially the homeowner, if the employee is injured on the owner's property. An injured worker who does not have Workers' Comp coverage through the contractor may have expenses that they seek to recover. The homeowner's policy may not provide coverage, leaving the homeowner exposed to the liability. Workers paid under the table or paid as "contractors" are really considered employees by the IRS, and often are not



Special equipment and skilled craftsmanship were necessary to complete the site work and installation of this custom patio, retaining wall and water feature project.

covered by Workers' Compensation.

3) Does the contractor put the quote or bid in writing? Verbal agreements are the root cause for many problems between contractors and homeowners. A written agreement, or contract, should detail the scope of service, timeframe for the job, agreed upon price and the terms. A fixed cost contract prevents escalating costs that are common in time and material bids. Change orders to the original agreement and warranties should also be in writing,

to minimize forgotten commitments.

In a depressed economy homeowners can't afford to gamble unnecessarily. For a free list of tips on how to safely select a contractor and what questions to ask, send an e-mail to [info@lawnlad.com](mailto:info@lawnlad.com).

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

## Heights homes risk foreclosure

Bill Kushner

Many Heights area homes have adjustable loans that make them a foreclosure risk, according to a project initiated by the nonprofit organization Neighborhood Progress Inc.

The organization took information provided by a title company database to create a list of all adjustable rate mortgage loans in Cuyahoga County that would reset to a higher rate between July 2008 and August 2010. Over 1,000 of these loans are on homes in Cleveland Heights and University Heights, according to the database. Historically, these types of loans have a much higher foreclosure rate, as homeowners often default after the loan resets and payments increase.

Paul Bellamy of the Cuyahoga County Foreclosure Prevention Pro-

gram says that homeowners often wait until very late in the process to take action but are better off taking action "sooner rather than later."

Homeowners can be referred to one of four nonprofit agencies that will contact the company servicing the mortgage. Bellamy says that these agencies "have had success in preventing a rate increase for a set period of time or in forgoing a rate increase altogether, depending on the situation." Residents can call the Cuyahoga County Foreclosure Prevention Program/First Call for Help at 216-436-2000. Heights residents can also contact the Home Repair Resource Center on Noble Road at 216-381-6100,

*Bill Kushner, formerly of Los Angeles, CA, has lived in Cleveland Heights with his wife and six children for the last 20 years.*

## Condition Outsells Price

In a tough market, buyers will pay a premium for a house in top condition

Matthew Feldt

In the spring of 2005 we put our Cleveland Heights house on the market. No part of the consultation with our realtor prepared us for the market slowdown that was just beginning in Cleveland, or gave us any hint that we might have trouble selling. By the end of summer we had less than a handful of showings. Eventually, three years of few showings, two more realtors, and a bad experience with renters (who stopped paying rent and trashed the place before we could evict them) convinced us that we needed a new approach.

We found an agent who could oversee repairing the property and getting it rented or sold. We selected Olsen Ziegler Realty because they provided a detailed plan for repairing and marketing the house along with a comprehensive market analysis.

Olsen Ziegler proposed a variety of options, from investing nothing in the property and listing the house at a rock bottom price to a complete renovation that would increase the initial asking price by at least \$75,000. We elected to invest \$40,000 to repair and renovate the property over an eight week period. Olsen Ziegler managed all aspects of

the project, from material selection to coordinating contractors and laborers, and provided me final approval. We completely renovated the kitchen with new cabinets, appliances and granite counter tops, renovated two bathrooms, waterproofed and renovated a finished basement, sanded and coated all hardwood floors, painted throughout, spruced up the yard, staged furniture and decorated the empty house.

"Condition will outsell price nine times out of 10," says Olsen Ziegler broker and owner Chris Olsen. "In a strong buyers' market, where sellers are competing against so many other properties, buyers will pay a premium for a house in top condition."

After the renovation, just weeks after the banking collapse of 2008, we put the house back on the market. And 78 days later we were rewarded with two offers at 95 percent of our listing price.

Even in the worst economy in generations, if you have the right information and a clear strategy properly executed, it's possible to sell a home.

*Matthew Feldt and his wife lived in Cleveland Heights while his wife attended residency at Metro Health Medical Center. In 2005 they moved to the Southern U.S. and then moved ever further south to New Zealand. Now back in the Southern U.S. they are contemplating their next move.*



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# Bug of the month: Moths

Barry Zucker

My good friend Raoul found himself in an elevator stuck between two people wearing wool sweaters. He almost passed out. Why? Because the two people used an outdated and dangerous method to repel moths: they stored the sweaters in mothballs.

You may not know that mothballs contain incredibly toxic carcinogens, such as paradichlorobenzene and naphthalene, that can damage the kidneys, liver, eyes and nervous system. Children and adults have been poisoned just by wearing clothes treated with mothballs, and children have ingested mothballs, mistaking them for candy.

**Here are safer ways to repel moths:**

- Use oil of cedar wood around clothing to work wonders: The Greeks and Romans used it on the backs of parchment manuscripts to prevent insects from eating them;
- Clean your woollens regularly: Moths themselves don't actually bother your clothes – it is their barely visible larvae

that do the damage by feeding on food, sweat and urine stains in fur and wool clothing. You should also shake your woollens outside to disturb any leftover larvae in the clothing;

- Expose infested items to sunlight, which is the enemy of clothes moths;
- Iron clothing to kill the larvae;
- Place infested items in a freezer for a few days to kill the larvae; and
- Regularly vacuum to eliminate hair and fur that larvae feed on.

Mothballs and the toxins they contain have no place in your home or on your clothes. By using the safe and effective alternatives listed above, you can repel moths without putting your family's health in jeopardy.

For more information contact Beyond Pesticides Ohio at 216-291-3424 or visit [www.beyondpesticidesohio.org](http://www.beyondpesticidesohio.org).

*Barry Zucker is executive director of Beyond Pesticides Ohio, a nonprofit organization that promotes the safer, more cost-effective pest control practices of Integrated Pest Management.*

## Home Repair Resource Center offers classes

Rebecca Stager

As winter turns to spring, free workshops the Home Repair Resource Center will move from interior to exterior repairs. Classes teach participants what goes into a good quality job, whether you do it yourself or contract the work.

Most classes are held at the resource center's Teaching Center, 2520 Noble Road (two blocks north of Monticello, at the corner of Oxford), on Mondays from 7-9 p.m. Attendance is limited to Cleveland Heights residents. Reservations are requested; call 216-381-9560 to save a spot. For class descriptions, see the resource center's website at [www.hrrc-ch.org](http://www.hrrc-ch.org) and select Schedule of Workshops from the list on the left side of the Web page.

The resource center's interactive Financial Fitness classes are open to residents of all communities. This series runs on a mixture of Tuesday and Thursday nights in March, and four Wednesday nights in April, from 6-8 p.m. Call 216-381-6100 to reserve a spot for any of the following classes: Avoiding Delinquency, Understanding Refinancing [March 3 or April 1]; Creditworthy Equals Choices [March 12 or April 8]; Power of a Personal Budget [March 19 or April 15]; Understanding Mortgages and Selecting a Home [March 24 or April 29]; Home Maintenance for the New Homeowner [March 31].

The HouseMender University series is open to residents of all communities. On March 26, learn about Care and Maintenance of Trees and on April 30, Options in Organic Lawn Care. Both classes are from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Reservations are requested; call 381-9560.

Finally, mark your calendars for the annual Community Home Remodeling Fair, sponsored by Home Repair Resource Center and the City of Cleveland Heights, will be held on Saturday, April 18, at Cleveland Heights City Hall, 40 Severance Circle. For the fair schedule, see the resource center's website ([www.hrrc-ch.org](http://www.hrrc-ch.org)) or the April edition of the Heights Observer.

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

## Will spring bring recessionary house work? Seitz-Agin doesn't even know

Jason Jaffery

On a gray, cold day at Seitz-Agin Hardware Store, it's still too early to tell how business will be for the spring home-improvement season. It's not the weather that's the cause of the uncertainty; it's the economy.

"We're still in uncharted waters," says Bill Sheck, manager of Seitz-Agin on Lee Road.

Seitz-Agin ([www.seitz-agin.com](http://www.seitz-agin.com)) has been through many recessions and, according to Sheck, homeowners often use an economic downturn as an opportunity to work on their homes. "Hopefully, since people are likely stuck in their homes for the next three to four years, they'll fix up their houses themselves," he says. "We're here to offer advice."

One suggestion: use caution when hiring contractors. "We get a mix of individuals and contractors here at the store," Sheck says. "Sometimes, though, during a recession, you have people who have lost their jobs and decide to become contractors. People need to be careful, and check credentials and references" before they hire someone for work on their home.

Sheck says that based on past recessions, he and others at the store would expect to see a rise in more economical home-improvement projects, such as painting and lawn-and-garden. "You see a resurgence in people doing their own lawn care. I expect lawn care service companies to take a hit, since that's an easy item to cut from your budget."

For homeowners looking to prioritize their projects, Sheck suggests that people who are able to remodel their kitchen, do so, "to move their houses to the head of the class" when the recession ends and the housing market improves.

Still, he acknowledges that the counter of an institution like Seitz-Agin doesn't offer any more insight about what's to come than any other economic indicator. "In the past, these things have lasted 18 months. But with this recession, who knows?"

*Jason Jaffery is a resident of the East Fairfax neighborhood of Cleveland Heights.*

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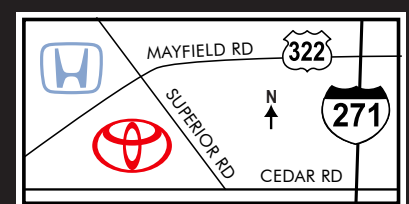
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