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Local independent businesses organizing to form alliance

Deanna Bremer Fisher

The economy has many Heights merchants feeling an urgent need to try something new. "If we don't do something fast," said Trevor Gile, owner of Motorcars Honda, "we're going to keep losing businesses. With fewer businesses, the city will collect fewer taxes and will have to cut services. Property values will decrease and everyone in the community will suffer."

Heights independent business owners are banding together to bring more people into their shops. They were inspired by independent business expert Jeff Milchen, who came to town in March to discuss how the diversity of independently-owned businesses contribute to a community's economy.

Milchen is a cofounder of the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA), a group formed in 2001 to help communities conduct "Buy Local" campaigns and create programs to support local entrepreneurs. He spoke March 24 at the Cleveland Heights Community Center and then held a



Heights business owners find there is strength in numbers at FutureHeights workshop.

workshop, attended by about 50 local business owners, the next day at the Lee Road Library.

FutureHeights sponsored the event with support from the Coventry Village and Cedar Lee special improvement districts, BoomModern, the City of Cleveland Heights and the library.

Milchen described how independent business alliances across the coun-

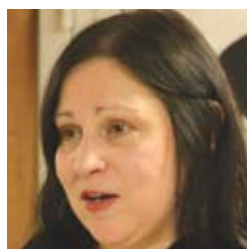
try help local merchants and community supporters to educate the public about the benefits of doing business locally; organize collaborative purchasing to keep costs down; conduct mutually beneficial marketing campaigns; and create a visible public presence for independent business owners.

Several owners met again on April

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Gail Bellamy to serve second term as CH poet laureate

Meredith Holmes



Gail Bellamy

Every member of Heights Writes, the Heights Arts committee that appoints the city's poet laureate, wanted Bellamy to occupy the post for another year.

"[Bellamy is] a fine poet and person. It will be great to have her for another year," said Mary Weems, previous poet

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CHHS grad honored for work on Hubble telescope

Evan Komito

Dr. Rodger Evans Doxsey will be among those inducted into the Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame on May 6. Doxsey, an astronomer known by his colleagues as "the heart and soul of the Hubble," was a 1965 graduate of CHHS.

His interest in mathematics and physics took him to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he earned his doctorate as prelude to a lifelong career in guiding the Hubble mission to explore far distant galaxies from the Space Telescope Science Institute near Baltimore.

"He understood this observatory from top to bottom, and knew it like few others out there," said Kenneth Sembach, a project scientist at the institute. Doxsey started work on the mission a decade before the launching. At the time, NASA lacked a good plan for enabling astronomers to use the telescope. That became Doxsey's job.

He was responsible "for all the work necessary to support the science operations, planning and scheduling, the calibration of the data, . . . all the commanding necessary to tell the instruments what they needed to do," Dr. Sembach said.

Doxsey became a master of the complex computer program that actually runs the telescope on a minute-to-



Hubble image of Swan Nebula, 5,500 light years away.

minute basis. In the early days, "when the spacecraft was crabby and cranky," said Tod Lauer of the National Optical Astronomy Observatory, Doxsey was adept at getting it to work.

"In simpler terms," Lauer continued, "he figured out how to get the trains to run on time, during a period when it wasn't quite clear if the train was even on the track."

For his services, Doxsey received the Distinguished Public Service Medal from NASA in 1991. In 2004, for "his outstanding, unselfish dedication to making the Hubble Space Telescope one of the most scientifically productive telescopes of all time," he received the Van Biesbroeck Prize from the American Astronomical Society.

Doxsey died in October 2009 after a long battle with cancer. Even while ill, his dedication to Hubble found him in the control room during the final repair mission — which is depicted in the IMAX film, "Hubble," showing at the Great Lakes Science Center through the end of May.

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Memorial Day Parade to remember those who serve

Anita Kazarian

"University Heights is going to have the biggest and best Memorial Day parade ever this year," promises Mayor Susan Infeld.

The parade committee met on April 13 and announced this year's theme—Remembering Those Who Serve. "It honors those in the military, and also our safety forces and volunteers who serve the community," said Chairperson Eileen Smotzer.

For the third consecutive year, a musical extravaganza will take place after the parade, at John Carroll University. The UH Symphonic Band will play traditional patriotic music, and Men of Independence

and OC Cash Orchestra will perform music from the 1950s.

Follow the parade to JCU and enjoy food and beverages, pony rides, clowns, dancing and a special Memorial Day program.

New this year is the Cornhole Tournament. Smotzer urges all UH cornhole "warriors" to consider putting up a team for an elimination tourney, beginning with 16 teams. Smotzer also invites adventurous friends and neighbors to put together a "Lawn Chair Stomp Band" for the festivities.

Everyone is welcome to attend the next committee meeting on May 11, at 5:30 p.m., at UH City Hall.

Anita Kazarian is a community volunteer.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor

The Heights Observer welcomes letters to the editor. They must be submitted electronically, along with the writer's name, phone number and e-mail address, to:

www.heightsobserver.org/members or e-mail: info@futureheights.org

HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Opening up the Observer



Bob Rosenbaum

The good news is the bad news: The *Observer* now receives

many more contributions each month than the print edition can hold.

Until now, that situation has been handled by trying to prioritize the importance of each submission, which inevitably leads to the conclusion that they're all important. And editors are instructed to cut large portions from dozens of stories to fit the available space.

Such cutting has been a necessary evil as contributions have continued to multiply, but it isn't an acceptable long-term approach. It's tough on the writers, who feel their hard work is being disrespected; it's tough on the editors, because cutting stories by half or two-thirds is difficult and unpleasant. It's also tough on the readers and the story subjects, because the nuance of the information can get lost.

So, the *Observer* is now adopting a Web-first publishing strategy. Here's what that means:

- We still want to publish all of your articles so keep sending them!
- Instead of waiting for a monthly copy deadline, we are encouraging people to submit their articles at any time during the month.
- We are assigning stories to editors on a rolling basis—as the work comes in.

- All articles will be published online first, generally within a few days of submission.
- Every article that runs online will automatically be considered for publication in the next printed edition of the *Heights Observer*.

This does not mean that long articles will run in their entirety. Whether online or in print, the *Observer* enforces rules about story length (generally 300-500 words, but detailed at www.heightsobserver.org under the Policies menu). These policies are based on a desire to deliver variety and to be considerate of our readers' time, and the fact—to loosely paraphrase Mark Twain—that it is easier to write a long and winding story than one that is concise and compelling.

By making this change, we hope to maintain the satisfaction of our volunteer writers and editors, and to increase use of the website as a timely source of community news.

Bob Rosenbaum, chairman of the newspaper's Editorial Advisory Committee and a member of the FutureHeights board, writes this monthly column to provide transparency about the Observer. Send your comments and questions to bob@therosenbaums.net.

You can write for the *Observer* by registering at the Observer Member Center: <http://heightsobserver.org/members>.

Reviving Millikin should be a CH-UH district priority

Jason Stein

At its Jan. 5 meeting, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education voted 3-2 against selling the Millikin Elementary School property at public auction. The question is, why?

In March 2007, the school board placed the Millikin property up for public auction. It received proposals from four parties. The highest cash offer was Mosdos Ohr Hatorah, a Jewish school. Mosdos planned to relocate from its current building on Warrensville Center Road. However, the board rejected all bids because its members felt they could receive "fair market value" by postponing the sale.

Fair market value is defined as what a willing buyer would pay a willing seller—not what a seller wishes to be paid. It has been three years since the public auction. No willing buyers have appeared in that time. However, in the three years since the board rejected the offers for Millikin, the school building has seen a rapid structural decline. It has been vandalized and the once-beautiful playground is desolate. The longer the district holds on to this property, the less valuable it becomes.

Moreover, the board has shown a willingness to accept offers outside fair market value, as seen in the case of the former Coventry Elementary School.

Coventry will be the new home of the Music Settlement in the near future. During the community meetings on the school, it was clear that there were no parties interested in purchasing the school at fair market value. Therefore, the board adapted criteria to the needs of the community with the underlining principle that the district would not have to subsidize the facility. The board wanted an institution that would "fit" into the Coventry area and improve the neighborhood. The approach taken to repurposing Coventry should be applied equally to Millikin.

Until Millikin closed in 2006, it was a community asset. Many of the surrounding residents' children attended the school, used the playground or attended the Heights Parent Center, which was located inside Millikin.

Millikin should return to full use as a school. The CH-UH Board of Education should either place the property up for public auction or begin negotiations on a long-term lease with an educational institution, similar to the agreement previously considered for the Music Settlement to use Coventry. Whatever the board chooses, it needs to make a priority of returning Millikin to its role as a community asset.

Jason Stein serves on the board of trustees for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library and is a member of the Cleveland Heights Citizens Advisory Committee. Contact him at stein4council@gmail.com



Millikin Elementary and the empty playground.

It's a movie lover's paradise

Jewel Moulthrop

What's so great about Cleveland? The Cleveland International Film Festival, that's what! It's a movie buff's "pig heaven." This annual event presents more than 300 films from about 80 countries—feature films, documentaries, short subjects, and more—during its 10-day run.

From the festival's early days, 34 years ago at our own neighborhood

Cedar Lee Theatre, the event has grown to more than 71,000 passionate attendees this year, breaking all previous records.

I could feel the excitement in the air and it was contagious. Everyone there loves movies, and I felt I was among friends. It's common to strike up conversations with total strangers while waiting for the movie to begin: "What else have you seen?" (It's not a pick-up line . . . or maybe it is.)

It's an amazing experience, and only a 15-minute ride on the Rapid from Shaker Square.

The festival's outstanding and tireless staff, and scores of dedicated volunteers, work hard to ensure that everything runs smoothly—and it does. Although many films sell out quickly, we learned that 95 percent of people holding standby tickets get in to see their movie.

My favorites this year were *Cow*, *Mid-August Lunch*, *Handsome Harry*, and the documentaries *No Crossover*, *The Trial of Alan Iverson* and *Fire in the Heartland*. My husband added *Journey from Zanskar* and *Hipsters* to that list.

But if you can't wait until next March, there's a terrific year-round "festival" at the Cleveland Institute of Art Cinema-theque. That's where you can see films you may have missed, films you want to see again, and films you just can't see anywhere else. Free parking is always available in the lot adjacent to CIA. Aren't we lucky to live in Greater Cleveland!

Jewel Moulthrop moved to the Heights three years ago and is still excited about lake-effect snowfalls.

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Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

MARCH 15, 2010

All council members present.

Mourning Police Officer Patton

Mayor Edward Kelley expressed his condolences to the family, friends, and fellow police officers of Officer Thomas F. Patton II who died in the line of duty on Saturday, March 13.

Monticello Boulevard project

City Manager Robert Downey reported the contract award for the Monticello Boulevard pavement rehabilitation project to the Kokosing Construction Company for a bid of \$1,323,402.

Redwood house purchase

The city purchased a house at 3227 Redwood Road for \$22,000 plus closing costs, under an ordinance authorizing the purchase of abandoned or foreclosed houses for the purpose of rehabilitation or demolition.

Solar RTA shelters

Council authorized the city manager to accept a grant from the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) for bus stop improvements including landscaping and solar shelters at Mayfield and Coventry roads and Mayfield and Warrensville Center roads. Mayor Kelley, a vice-president of the Greater Cleveland RTA and instrumental in obtaining the grant, abstained.

Noble Road gas station declared nuisance

Due to drug activity, underage drinking and fighting, the gas station and convenience store at 2610 Noble Road was declared a nuisance, a blighting influence and a hazard to the health and safety of the community.

Street assessments

To cover increased costs of streetlights, council voted to increase the street assessment to a rate of \$1.02 per front foot.. Council passed

a second assessment of \$0.78 per front foot to cover part of the costs of street and tree lawn maintenance.

Fair housing audits

Council approved a contract with the Heights Community Congress to conduct fair housing audits.

New city cars

Council authorized the purchase of six Ford Focus cars, not to exceed \$80,000, for use by city employees.

Website changes

Council members Bonnie Caplan and Mark Tumeo have been working with volunteers on the city's website; changes should appear soon.

County agreement on foreclosed properties

Council authorized the city manager to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation on policies and procedures for the maintenance and resale of foreclosed properties. Council Member Cheryl Stephens, who works for the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation and helped with this issue, abstained from the vote.

LWV observer: Lisa Peters.

APRIL 5, 2010

All council members present.

City salaries set

Council Member Cheryl Stephens presented for second reading and passage legislation addressing the salary schedules, position classifications and other compensation for officers and employees of the city starting in April 2010, including police, fire, joint fire dispatch, and employees of the public works department and the municipal court. In addition to setting positions and salary schedules, this legislation addresses vacation and sick leave policies, workdays and other benefit

and compensation issues.

Fire department grant

Through the support of Senator Sherrod Brown and the efforts of Fire Chief Kevin Mohr, the city fire department received a \$500,000 federal grant. By bringing back three firemen who had been laid off, this grant will enable the department to continue to offer full services to the community. It will also sustain the department through several upcoming retirements. Cleveland Heights is the only city in the area that has been able to return both police and fire departments to full force.

Census forms missed some homes

Because of a coordination issue with the census bureau, some homes in Cleveland Heights were left off of the original federal mailing list. Any residents not receiving census forms should call the community relations department to get their forms. This is important, not only to get everyone counted, but to assure that these homes are correctly entered for the next census.

Ohio Bell easements

Council authorized the city manager to execute two easements to the Ohio Bell Telephone Company, doing-business-as ATT Ohio, on a portion of city-owned property at Severance Center. This change will allow equipment and wiring to be placed in more favorable locations.

Brush chipper purchased

Council approved an agreement with Franklin Tractor Sales for the purchase of a new brush chipper for the forestry division. By purchasing through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program, the Model 750 Brush Chipper could be purchased at lowest price (\$43,609) and without competitive bids.

Spring lawn refuse pickup

Council Member Bonnie Caplan noted that there will not be a pick-up of loose leaves this spring. Residents



should place their lawn refuse in approved paper lawn bags and tie all brush in appropriate sized bundles. Information about recycling is in the spring issue of the Focus magazine.

Parking permit fees raised

Council approved raising the fees for parking permits and replacement permits effective July 1. Due to the rising cost of upkeep, the fee for each permit issued will increase from \$90 to \$100 and the fee for each transfer or replacement permit, from \$5 to \$10.

LWV observers: Susan Kaeser and Kirsten Karakul.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at www.heightsobserver.org.

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Marilyn McLaughlin and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to mbarnes9515@gmail.com or join through Google groups using "lww-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase.

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

POET continued from page 1

laureate. "Gail Bellamy has really taken the poet laureate mission to heart, with intensive outreach to the community," added Peggy Spaeth, executive director of Heights Arts.

In her first year as poet laureate, Bellamy read at CH-UH Schools' Poetry Day, the Heights Senior Center, Coventry Village Library, and the Writers' Guild at Church of the Savior. She participated in the Heights Youth Center benefit and "Wise Up," a literary gala at Nighttown last October that raised

over \$7,000 for the CH-UH Libraries. Bellamy served as a judge in the Hessler Street Fair poetry contest and participated in Wordscapes, a spoken-word event at the Cleveland Playhouse.

Bellamy's interviews for Heights Arts Radio have expanded the reach of Heights Arts far beyond city borders. She has produced two poetry videos, which can be seen on the Heights Arts website, YouTube and Bellamy's own website.

A journalist specializing in food writing as well as a poet, Bellamy received

many honors during the past year. She won a Creative Workforce Fellowship in Literature from Community Partnership for the Arts and Culture, and earned first place in the Ohio Excellence in Journalism competition.

Her poem, "Changes," was selected for the RTA poetry installation project. She also added two more books to her long list of published work: *Traveler's Salad* and *Vegetable Storybook: For Readers and Eaters*, coauthored with Vicki Draeger.

To mark Heights Arts' tenth year, and to celebrate the City of Cleveland Heights, Bellamy proposed bringing together poets and photographers and setting them loose on the Coventry neighborhood. Ten pairs of photographers and poets focused on aspects of Coventry. The result of this collaboration is *Poetography*, a book of photographs and poems, designed by Greg Donley, a Heights Arts board member.

Bellamy says, "I have always been intrigued by both poetry and photography. Poets and photographers observe the world in a way that makes it possible to select a single image that conveys something larger. The *Poetography* project brings together the visual and the verbal, and demonstrates that common denominator in their art."

In 2010-2011, Bellamy plans to use her CPAC grant to create new, community-based poetry videos featuring works by other poets. "Cleveland Heights is the perfect place to try a new art form like this," she says. "This city offers a wide range of subjects, as well as an enthusiastic, cooperative community, that embraces the arts."

Meredith Holmes is a writer, editor and 30-year resident of Cleveland Heights. She served as Cleveland Heights's first poet laureate.

Cleveland Heights Democratic Club to host secretary of state candidate May 12

Anastasia Pantsios



Democratic candidate for secretary of state, Maryellen O'Shaughnessy.

The Cleveland Heights Democratic Club has joined with other east-side Democratic clubs and county-wide Democratic organizations to bring candidate for secretary of state, Maryellen O'Shaughnessy, to Cleveland Heights for a public forum at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, at the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center. The event is free and open to everyone.

The forum should be of special interest to those wishing to know more about the state's electoral process. The secretary of state is the top elections official, who oversees the 88 county boards of election. Ohio's current secretary of state, Jennifer Brunner, opted not to run for a second term and instead to seek

the U.S. Senate seat George Voinovich is vacating. While State Representative Jon Husted faced off against former Ashtabula county auditor Sandra O'Brien in the Republican primary, O'Shaughnessy was the sole candidate in the Democratic primary.

However, O'Shaughnessy joined the Democratic ticket in February, replacing a candidate who stepped aside. She hasn't had much time to introduce herself to voters outside of her native Columbus, where she is currently clerk of courts. Although she comes from a prominent political family in Columbus, she's unknown throughout the rest of the state. This forum will give voters in this area an opportunity to get to know the candidate and ask about her ideas for running elections in Ohio.

Anastasia Pantsios is a member of the board of trustees of the Cleveland Heights Democratic Club.

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University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



MARCH 15, 2010

All council members present.

"Sensible salting"

With members Frankie Goldberg and Frank Consolo voting no, council passed a motion to continue the "sensible salting" policy that was implemented in 2009. The decision had to be made now in order to meet ODOT's deadline for a salt order for next winter. The city will order 3,300 tons of salt and will continue to salt main and secondary main streets, hills, intersections, and all streets during ice storms. Council authorized an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation to purchase up to 3,300 tons of road salt.

2010 expenses and expenditures

Council did not approve appropriation for current expenses and expenditures for 2010. Councilmembers Steven Sims, Kevin Patrick Murphy, Vice Mayor Frankie Goldberg and Steven Bullock voted no. The points of contention were the lack of funds budgeted for capitol or infrastructure improvements, and the increase in payroll costs. Since the budget must be submitted to Cuyahoga County by March 31, council will schedule another meeting within the next two weeks to resume discussion. Vice Mayor Goldberg said this would give Mayor Infeld additional time to continue working on changes.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

MARCH 23, 2010

Special meeting on 2010 budget

All council members present.

2010 budget approved

Council unanimously approved the budget for calendar year 2010. [For council's discussion of the budget read this report online at www.heightsobserver.org]

Director of finance

Council approved the rate of compensation for the director of finance at \$70,000, presumably for a full-time position. Anthony Ianiro currently serves as interim finance director in a part-time role.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

APRIL 5, 2010

Vice Mayor Frankie B. Goldberg and Councilman Steven Sims absent.

Finance Director Jennifer Esarey

Mayor Infeld welcomed and swore in Jennifer Esarey, the city's new finance director. Also present was the former interim finance directory, Anthony Ianiro, who will help with the transition.

Warning for gardeners

Mayor Infeld warned residents to call 811 to locate buried pipes and wires before digging in the garden this spring.

Recycling processing services

Council authorized the city to participate in a con-

sortium to invite proposals for recycling services.

Third Frontier Program

Council passed a resolution supporting Issue 1, better known as the Third Frontier Program. Mayor Infeld noted that the Cuyahoga area had received \$400 million through the current Third Frontier Program.

Pay scale for recreation department

Council agreed to freeze the 2010 season pay scale for all recreation department personnel at the 2009 season level. Projected savings were between \$25,000 to \$26,000. Seasonal workers haven't been hired yet, and the hourly minimum wage of \$7.30 could impact the budget. Councilman Kevin Patrick Murphy suggested council also review work schedules for efficiency and possibly further savings.

Packer box rubbish truck

Assistant Service Director John Pucella requested a motion for an emergency repair of the floor of the packer box rubbish truck at a cost of \$11,097. Currently garbage falls through to the street. If one more truck were disabled, the city would not have a truck to collect brush from tree lawns. Councilman Steven Bullock said that city maintenance should be more proactive to avoid emergencies and that a better use of the \$11,000 would be for a down payment on a new truck. Council understood the emergency because they had already advertised brush pickup to the residents. However,

the motion failed for lack of a second.

Smoke detectors

Fire Chief John Pitchler reported receipt of \$81,880 for the purchase of 4,000 state-of-the-art smoke detectors. They will be distributed at local venues, such as block parties and through his staff of fire fighters. The city will install them for free. The chief was congratulated for his success with two recent grant proposals.

City newsletter production savings

Councilman Frank Consolo reported that the city had saved a substantial sum of money by producing its newsletter, *At Your Service: Information Bulletin*, in house.

Financial help for home foreclosures

Councilwoman Susan Pardee asked the mayor to inform residents of the wonderful work ESOP (Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People), a local community organization, is doing regarding financial help for home foreclosures. The organization has an 83 percent success rate.

LWV observer: Carol Gibson.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at www.heightsobserver.org. See disclaimer on page 3.

Reluctant departure from UH



Anita Kazarian

A school has been located at 2301 Fenwick Road for as long as anyone can remember. Many attended Northwood Elementary School. When its doors closed, Fuchs Mizrahi School opened.

This summer, Fuchs Mizrahi is moving to Beachwood. Rabbi Pinchos Hecht, head of school, gave this interview on April 19.

When did you first realize a move was your only option?

Five years ago, we realized that we had outgrown the facility. It was the high school that pushed the need for another facility. This building does not have proper science labs or a high school gymnasium; it doesn't have the necessary co-curricular facilities. We actually have eight classrooms of students sitting in trailers. Plans to add to the existing building would have been over \$15 million. The new building, with the land in Beachwood, is in excess of \$20 million.

To what do you attribute your success?

We are a mission-oriented school. Our mission is modern orthodoxy, religious Zionism, and excellence in education. Attending college is not a question, it's a given. All graduating students enter college. Many people moving here want a Jewish education for their children. There are some wonderful public schools, but they don't provide the perspective Mizrahi offers.

Who funds the school?

The biggest funder is the Jewish Federation. Our board is the governance of the school and a source of major fundraising.

I have been told the school is asking \$3 million for the Fenwick property. The \$3 million was the result of a property evaluation survey we did four or

five years ago. We have six plus acres and that [price] was our initial estimate at the time. We felt all along the best use of the facility would be if it were purchased by UH with a bond financed by the city. We actually worked with Mayor Rothschild and [felt it was] the best way to meet the city's need and get the dollars we needed out of the facility to help us with our new building. But with the economic decline in the last two years, it is not an easy thing for the city to act upon at this point.

Are you currently in negotiations for the sale of this property?

We haven't yet engaged a professional person. We have a few different strong leads that we are working on right now—a number of different schools, charter schools, Jewish schools—that have outgrown their facilities. And John Carroll University is looking for property. They need sports fields. I'm sure there'll always be a school of some sort on this property, I can't imagine anything else being done.

What was it like dealing with the City of UH?

The city has been a pleasure. I've been a principal here and elsewhere and this has been the easiest ever. We've had an unbelievably productive and friendly relationship.

Is there anything else you'd like to say?

I'd like to say "thank you." It is with a heavy heart that we leave. We made wonderful relationships here. We hoped not to have to leave. We had a great push on part of our community to stay here, to continue to support the city and be a part of it. We are simply land-locked and couldn't get our vision and mission achieved on this piece of land. It's a reluctant move.

Send your comments and suggestions for future topics to Anita Kazarian at Anita-Kazarian@gmail.com.

City Beautiful Commission plans for UH

Anita Kazarian

University Heights residents with an eye for beauty find the perfect opportunity to volunteer in City Beautiful Commission projects. The commission held its first meeting on April 20 at City Hall.

Commission Chair Steven D. Bennett had a full agenda for the resident volunteers. A new activity for the commission will be to work with the Service Department to advise and plant flowers in strategic public locations in University Heights.

Mayor Susan Infeld attended the meeting and said, "I am pleased that the City Beautiful Commission will recommend various flowers and plants for public areas and continue coordinating the city's annual recognition of beautiful homes and gardens."

HUBBLE continued from page 1

Scientists will rely on Hubble's revelations for years as they continue in their quest to understand the cosmos—a quest that has attained clarity, focus, and triumph through Doxsey's role in the Hubble legacy. His part in showing us the universe in un-

paralleled detail make him an outstanding role model for CHHS students.

Bennett said there will be a host of new categories for nominating homes for the awards, including a special "Best Kept Secret Award" for backyard gardens.

Interested in finding out more? New members are welcome to attend the next meeting on Tuesday, May 4 at 7 p.m. in City Hall. E-mail Steve Bennett at sd-blue@sbcglobal.net for information.

Send your comments and suggestions for future topics to Anita Kazarian at Anita-Kazarian@gmail.com.

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CH-UH Public Library Board Meeting highlights

MARCH 15, 2010

2010 appropriations budget approved

Revenue from the Public Library Fund (PLF) is projected to decrease approximately \$200,000 from the 2009 total (which in turn was reduced from the 2008 PLF). Staff salaries remain steady at the 2008 level. The library materials budget will decrease 10 percent from 2009, but children's programs and technology training will receive attention to make up for staff cuts in 2009. The board approved a 1.5 percent salary adjustment to partially replace the retraction of the 2.5 percent adjustment approved in 2009.

Noble Library renovation

The board accepted Studio Techne's proposal to create the next phase of the Noble Library renovation. Fees will not exceed \$55,000. The Noble staff has been preparing for the renovation project by discarding materials not used recently. Some patrons feared that the library was moving and were reassured that this is not the case.

Deborah Rossman to head Port Clinton Library

Rossman has been the support services supervisor, and that vacancy will be filled.

Friends of the Library

The group is looking forward to participating in the Memorial Day parade and neighborhood fairs, and staffing a home for the Heights Heritage Home & Garden Tour. Fall events will include a mystery writers' forum and sale. Plans are also in the works for a partnership



with neighborhood restaurants for Friends Night Out for members.

Criticism of Lee Road Library addressed

The board discussed the letter that had appeared in *The Plain Dealer's* "Monday Moaning" column on March 15. The writer questioned the use of the quiet study rooms by those who did not appear to be using them for library purposes and commented about the level of noise caused by students. He felt that the attitude of the staff person to whom he complained was that libraries are simply noisy these days, and the public has to get used to it.

Director Levin remarked that if the building is too noisy, the noise level should be brought down. She indicated that she regretted that the customer wasn't offered other alternatives. For example, the administrative conference room and other meeting rooms could have been used if available. Levin further stated that customers should not have to accept the premise that today's libraries are noisy.

Board President Glen Billington asked whether there were time limits for using the quiet rooms. Director Levin said there were none at present.

LWV observer, Anne S. McFarland.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at www.heightsobserver.org.

See disclaimer on page 3.

What's going on at your library?

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400
NIA Coffeehouse,
Tuesdays, May 4 & 16, 6 p.m.
Explorastory,
Thursdays, May 6-27, 10:30 a.m.
Deaf Gathering,
Monday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.
Ukulele Jam,
Tuesday, May 25, 7 p.m.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700
Story Stop,
Wednesdays, May 5-26, 10:30 a.m.
The Senior Spot,
Wednesdays, May 5-26, 12:30 p.m.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
Otaku Connection,
Tuesdays, May 4 & 18, 4 p.m.
OddyFest #21: *The Surreal Thing*,
Friday, May 21, 6:45 p.m.
Reading Comics: *Epileptic* by David B.,
Monday, May 17, 7 p.m.
Preschool Playart,
Tuesday, May 18, 10:30 a.m.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665
Noble Knitting Circle,
Thursdays, May 6 & 20, 6:45 p.m.
Stay and Play,
Fridays, May 7-28, 9 a.m.
Reading Rumpus,
Fridays, March 7-28, 10:30 a.m.
Mystery Evening: *Sue Henry's Murder on the Yukon Quest*,
Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m.

Heights Libraries urge residents to read together

Tonya Davis

The Heights Libraries and the CH-UH schools have joined together to encourage all residents of the district to read two books: *You Remind Me of Me*, by Cleveland Heights author Dan Chaon, and *The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margaret and H.A. Rey* by Louise Borden.

Everyone is invited to two free events related to the community's reading of the books. The first event, on Thursday, May 6, will be a scrap-booking workshop. The second event, on Tuesday, May 11, will be a visit from author

Dan Chaon. Both events will begin at 7 p.m., at the Lee Road Library.

These programs are supported by a grant from Choose to Read Ohio, a state library program designed to promote reading in all age groups.

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



Hear local author Dan Chaon at the Lee Road Library.

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CH-UH Board of Education

Meeting highlights

MARCH 16, 2010

Special meeting on equity and access
All school board members present.

Lacrosse competition

The board approved the Cleveland Heights High School boys' lacrosse competition and campus visits to College Park, MD on April 1-4, 2010.

Administrators

The board approved the reemployment of administrators.

Equity and access

The Educational Services Department developed an operational definition of equity, which does not mean the same for each student. Equity through accessibility was discussed, with the goal of closing the achievement gap. Examples of things being done to improve accessibility were discussed including:

- Increases in 4th and 5th grade gifted program to include 49 percent African American students in 2010 (in 2006, it was 39 percent),
- Enrichment for all K-3 students,
- ACT review classes for all high school students,
- Revision of the foreign language program, in which all eighth graders would take either French or Spanish,
- Coteaching to serve students with disabilities

- A 93 percent graduation rate in the high school.

Additional discussion about equity dealt with other concerns such as:

- Should class ranking be done if it conflicts with the policy?
- More students take AP courses, but fewer students take the AP exams.
- Average students could be encouraged by teachers to take more honors courses.
- About 80 or more ninth graders are retained for not earning five credits; should these older ninth graders be permitted to take the Ohio Graduation Test, even though they have ninth grade status, because this would give them more chances to pass the test?
- More research should be done on credit recovery—the use of online courses and other tools to help students who have failed a course regain credits.

LWV observer: Lillian Houser.

APRIL 6, 2010

All board members were present.

Black and Gold receives \$3,000

The Heights High Alumni Foundation presented a check for \$3,000 to the Black and Gold staff. The newspaper will now be included quarterly in the Heights Observer.

Millikin playground

Becky Knight, a resident, asked that the Millikin playground be restored. The Severn neighbors have collected 85 signatures in support. She stated that others, aside from public school students, use the playground.

Lacrosse team's trip to Chicago

The board approved the high school's girls' lacrosse team's trip to Chicago.

Elementary instructional time changes

The Elementary Committee presented a proposed plan to increase instructional time. English/Language Arts would be increased to 135 minutes per day and mathematics would be increased to 90 minutes a day. Science and social studies would have 45 minutes that could be shared.

The increase in time would come from the following:

- Eliminating morning recess,
 - Eliminating early dismissal on Tuesdays,
 - Ending the school day at 3:15 instead of 3:05 p.m.
- Additional recommendations:
- Full time physical education teacher at each elementary building,
 - Two 35-minute physical education sessions for all students,
 - Media increase to 45 minutes every other week for K-5 students,



- Added 45-minute science inquiry lessons on opposite weeks for K-5 students,
- Media and science specialists to be paired between two buildings on alternating weeks,
- Forty-five minutes of vocal music and art.

Elementary schools would start at 8:50 a.m. and dismiss at 3:15 p.m.; middle schools would start at 8:05 a.m. and end at 2:50 p.m. This timing would eliminate the need to add buses or drivers.

The teachers' union will bring a memo of understanding on the necessary changes in their contract to the April 22 board meeting.

Cedar Center TIF proposal

The City of South Euclid will be forthcoming with a TIF (Tax Increment Financing) proposal for Cedar Center.

LWV observer: Adele Cohn.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.org.

Space restrictions sometimes require the deletion of some proceedings. For more complete summaries view online postings at www.heightsobserver.org.

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CH-UH district and CFO earn awards for financial reporting

Angee Shaker

For the ninth year, Scott Gainer, treasurer and chief financial officer for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, received an award for Financial Reporting Achievement from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada. In addition, the CH-UH City School District was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from both GFOA and the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO).

These awards are based on the high quality of the district's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for 2009. GFOA recognizes individuals, or departments, who prepare the CAFR for their organizations.

The award for Financial Reporting Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental

accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment for the district.

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the highest recognition for school district financial operations awarded by GFOA and ASBO, and is conferred only on districts that have met or exceeded the standards of these programs.

"We are pleased to have earned these awards, which demonstrate our continued commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting," Gainer said. "We take our fiduciary responsibility for taxpayer dollars very seriously, and view this additional financial reporting as a way to keep our community informed."

Angee Shaker is the coordinator of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

Oxford Elementary community wins child protection award

Angee Shaker

As Ohio's first licensed crisis nursery, Providence House in Cleveland offers emergency shelter to children (newborn through five years old) who are actively living in crisis.

Each year, Providence House awards a blue ribbon to organizations that have demonstrated a significant commitment to the agency's mission. This year, Oxford Elementary School is one of the winners of this prestigious award.

"We've had a wonderful partnership with Providence House since 1997," Oxford Principal Stacy Stuhldreher said. "It began with staff donations, evolved into a first-grade toy collection project that eventually expanded to the entire school. For the past eight years, we have collected thousands of stuffed bears."

Collecting donations and toys for Providence House isn't simply a fun activ-

ity, it is also an educational one. Students learn that this is really about the common good, and their efforts are rewarded by attendance at the annual Bear Dance. The student council and the fifth graders deliver the bears to Providence House before winter break. This year the Honors Choir went along and sang.

The blue ribbon awards were presented during Providence House's annual Shades of Blue luncheon on April 29 at Tower City. Also at Tower City that day, and throughout the month of April, Providence House displayed Pinwheels for Prevention, the largest pinwheel display in Ohio. The display's 16,000 pinwheels represent all the people who reported suspected child abuse or neglect in Cuyahoga County last year.

Angee Shaker is the coordinator of communications and community engagement for the CH-UH City School District.

Heights student selected for summer institute

Joy Henderson

Heights High REAL School 11th grader Carlin Jackson was selected to attend the 34th Ohio Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted one-week summer institute at Ohio State University, June 20-26. Fifty-four students from 46 school districts will participate.

The mission of the workshop is to bring together top students from Ohio to challenge them intellectually and broaden their vision of the future. The week-long camp opens with remarks by Ohio Attorney General, and Essex alumnus, Richard Cordray. The activities include career exploration and workshops that explore arts and religion, the judicial system, science, business, engineering, leadership and service.

Jackson is looking forward to the experience. "I think it will help me focus my interests and expand my networks," he said. Two of the areas he is most interested in are green energy and computer applications in health care.

He is currently enrolled in the computer networking class and four Advanced Placement or Honors classes—calculus, physics, psychology and English. He recently started two school clubs—the Physics Club and the Computer Security Club. He also is completing an independent study in videography. "One of the best things about Heights



Heights High REAL School 11th grader Carlin Jackson was selected to attend the Ohio Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted summer institute at Ohio State University.

High is the number of advanced classes. The selection is amazing," Jackson said. He is looking forward to taking AP statistics and AP economics next year.

Jackson hopes to attend Case Western Reserve University when he graduates.

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liaison for Heights High.



In their second year of competition, Roxboro Middle School's Science Olympiad team placed 16th out of 278 teams in the state.

Science team shines at state competition

Jacalyn Elfvin

Roxboro Middle School's science team just keeps getting better. After qualifying as the fifth ranked team at the regional tournament in Akron on March 6, Roxboro's intrepid team traveled to Columbus on Saturday, April 17, and competed with the 40 teams in the Science Olympiad State Tournament at Ohio State University.

Even though this was only the team's second year in the state competition, its ranking improved from last year's 27th place overall to a phenomenal 16th place this year.

The members of the Roxboro team are Garth Bennett, Miriam Bennett, Isaac Brown, Victoria Cikanek, Casandra Espenschied, Nathan Friel, Lillie Hall, Max Janssen, James John-

son, Charlotte Jones, Phoebe Lamert, Tommy Pharis, Grace Phillips, Ellen Posch, and Mason Spencer. David Pecoraro and Emma Whiting served as alternates.

Roxboro's top ten awards went to:

- 7th place Pentathlon—Isaac Brown, Lillie Hall, Tommy Pharis, and Mason Spencer
- 7th place Disease Detectives—Garth Bennett and Grace Phillips
- 10th place Science Crime Busters—Victoria Cikanek and Ellen Posch
- 10th place Compute This—Casandra Espenschied and Grace Phillips

Jackie Elfvin is the administrative assistant in the Office of Communications and Community Engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

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Parenting Q&A



Ellen Barrett

Ellen Barrett, a parent educator at Heights Parent Center for the last 12 years, fields questions from parents about the daily ups and downs of parenting. The same issues affect many parents. If you have questions you would like Ellen to respond to in this column, please e-mail her at ebarrett@heightsparent-center.org.

Q. My kindergartener is going through a major “test mom and push the limits” stage. When things get out of hand and he gets into trouble, he won’t answer me, won’t move, won’t try to make things better. He won’t apologize, won’t even tell me why he’s angry or what is going on.

We’ve had a few weeks of small incidents. Then today, which had been going fairly well, he just refused to get out of the car we arrived at the store. My husband tried to get him to just look at us and then finally we simply drove home. I took away the movie he borrowed from the library and he lost his blue blanket. He just seems content to sit in his room brooding or sulking or something.

I’m so angry at him! I don’t know how we got to this point or what to do about the situation. Any suggestions? I feel like I’m just making things worse.

A. Hang in there. What your son is doing is normal. Frustrating, but normal. He’s at a really big crossroads developmentally. He is just learning to see the perspective of others but hasn’t quite figured out how to concede to those different points of view. He doesn’t accept criticism or blame very well and uses stubbornness to deflect and avoid dealing with the situation.

First of all, back up a bit with your expectations. Make sure this isn’t about how it makes *you* feel. Try really hard to keep your emotions out of it—it’s not personal. Go back to basic strategies: use gentle firmness, clear and consistent rules, short timelines and good daily routines. Make sure he is getting enough sleep, and give him space. Let him stew if he needs to. In fact, under all that brooding, he’s probably embarrassed and feels bad, but doesn’t know how to admit it or what to do about it. Look for opportunities for noncompetitive activities, such as gardening or baking, that the whole family can enjoy. These activities will fill his need for encouragement and praise during this transition and can also show that it is O.K. to make mistakes. (Some plants die and sometimes we burn the brownies.) Once he learns how to express his own opinion and be open to the ideas of others, you can expect to see him become more cooperative.

2nd Annual CH-UH Summer Reading Blastoff



Tracy Hill

On Sunday, June 13, students and families of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District are invited to launch into a summer of reading at the Second Annual CH-UH Summer Blast Off.

The event will run from noon to 4 p.m. at Fairfax Elementary School.

It is hosted by the district and co-sponsored by the CH-UH Council of PTAs, Heights Parent Center, Reaching Heights and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

Families from all of the district’s elementary and middle schools are invited. Families will be entertained by live music, ride in the Rocket Car, enjoy a free lunch from noon to 2 p.m., listen to poetry, make crafts, create tie-dye shirts, and participate in field games, such as tug-of-war and three-legged races. All families will be encouraged to sign up for the library’s summer reading program and Heights Parent Center will raffle off two children’s bikes.

Tracy Hill is the coordinator of Family-School Connection for the Heights Parent Center.

STRETCH Program opens to all students this summer

Jacalyn Elfvin

“Amusement Park Physics,” “Video: Digital Communication and Production for the 21st Century,” and “So You Think You Can Sing?” are just a few of the courses available this summer through a special enrichment program. CH-UH students entering grades 6-12 in 2010 will have the chance to stretch their minds with the Summer STRETCH program (Stretching Through Rigorous Enrichment, Thinking, Challenges, and Hands-on Investigation) held at Heights High from June 16-30.

The program is designed to provide enrichment and support for students during the summer. “The course offerings include a mix of engaging topics to enrich and chal-

lenge all students entering grades 6-12,” said Rebecca Quinn, director of gifted/enrichment and middle level education. “This year, we will open this program to all private and parochial students living in the district.”

Students will be able to expand critical thinking skills, apply math lessons to everyday life, develop a voice through the written word, and prepare for rigorous coursework and post-secondary opportunities.

Registration information is available at www.chuh.org/district_family_info.shtml or call 216-320-2019 to have information mailed to you. The enrollment deadline is May 21.

Jackie Elfvin is the administrative assistant in the Office of Communications and Community Engagement for the CH-UH City School District.



MOTORCARS

Take Your Pet On The Road Contest

Spring is in the air and it’s time to get back outside, wash off the car and take a drive. And who better to share that with than your best (four legged or two legged) friend? Motorcars is all about driving but this Spring we are challenging your inter-paparazzi or William Wegmen if you prefer; we want to see **your most creative picture(s)** of pets in CARS and we are offering over **\$2,500 in cash and prizes** to encourage your talent.

Entering is easy. Just take a picture of your pet in your car, and remember that **creativity counts!** Next visit facebook.com/motorcars and click on the contest tab. Fill out the entry form and submit your picture. Then, encourage your friends and family to vote for your entry, helping you to win one of **10 awesome prizes**.

April 1st - May 31st Facebook.com/Motorcars Over \$2,500 In Prizes

The contest ends **May 31st** and the top 10 pictures will win great prizes, including the grand-prize valued at more than \$1,000 from Motorcars in Cleveland Heights.

Plus, for every contest entry **Motorcars will donate \$5** to the Cleveland Animal Protective League. Enter to share your precious pet with the world, for a chance to win a prize, or just to help a local animal shelter. Whatever the reason, enjoy the spring weather with your pets by taking them on the road with you.

Complete terms and conditions of the Motorcars Take Your Pet On The Road Contest are available at facebook.com/motorcars. Total donation to APL not to exceed \$500.

A league of their own



Heights soccer moms have a league of their own and an opportunity to play.

Gay Eyerman

After countless hours driving kids to soccer or cheering from the sidelines, soccer moms in the Heights now have the opportunity to play soccer—thanks to Sean Sullivan.

Sullivan is a teacher at Oxford Elementary, founder of Heights United Soccer Academy and head coach for men's varsity soccer at Heights High. He started the mom's league to teach foot skills and soccer rules, and to play informal games.

"It's turned into something so special. They've really worked hard," said Sullivan. About 18 moms are now on the team and they compete against other local teams.

Casey Maicki, who has three kids on the Eastside Kickers soccer club, joined the women's team this year. Although she has played soccer since kindergarten, others on the team have experience ranging from none at all to playing on a

college team.

"The mom's league is a blast. I love the sport and it's good exercise for a busy mom," said Maicki. "I've learned so much from Sean. He even uses a Smartboard in his classroom to teach us. We do foot skills and scrimmages, and we get to go out afterwards!"

The mom's league was established to honor Sullivan's mom, Joan. She was a huge soccer fan and a tireless community volunteer. After being diagnosed with liver disease in 1985, Joan Sullivan died in 2008. "She always wished someone had coached her," said her son. "When I coach this team, I see glimpses of my own mom out there. I'm so very proud of this."

For more information, or to join the mom's team, contact Sullivan at S_Sullivan@chuh.org.

Gay Eyerman is a professional freelance writer living in University Heights. Three of her five children play on Eastside Kickers teams.

HYC basketball on the move

Dawn Parker

The Heights Youth Club boys' basketball team is on fire and in first place, out of six teams, in the City of Cleveland Recreation League. Led by club director and coach, Roscoe Morgan, the team consists of high school seniors in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District and members of HYC. The team spends several after-

noons a week practicing and perfecting their skills. Games are played on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons. The young men have put this team high on their priority list and are determined to bring home a victory.

All of the club members are behind the team. The younger kids look up to the team with awe. They regularly peek out of the club windows, hoping to catch a glimpse of the club van returning from a game. Finally, the anticipation ends as a shout is heard, "They're back!" The team can barely make it in the door before the question is asked, "Did you win?" When the response is "yes," deafening cheers fill the gym.

Let's all wish this amazing team well as it completes the last half of the season. Go HYC!



Front Row: Santino Jones (Cocaptain), Robert Wuldron, Charles Fulton, Clayton Harris (captain). Back Row: Allan Borom, Teamus Hudson, Brshard Williams, Travis Ford, Coach Roscoe Morgan. Not pictured: Alex Mincy, Richard Blackmon and Rodney Jones.

Dawn Parker is a member of the board of directors at the Heights Youth Club, parent and Cleveland Heights resident for 15 years.

BUSINESS ALLIANCE continued from page 1

12 at Mac's Backs in Coventry Village to discuss the value of creating an independent business alliance here.

"Our goal would be to educate Heights residents about how much power they actually have over the economy of the region," said Alex Quintana, co-owner of Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa and member of the steering committee that was formed. "I honestly believe that just by changing 10 percent of people's buying habits will empower them and will make this a better community."

The new group would not be the first innovative effort on behalf of local businesses. The City of Cleveland Heights has created special improvement districts (SIDs) at Cedar Lee, Coventry Village and Cedar Fairmount, which enabled property owners to tax themselves to fund district-wide enhancements, such as decorative street signs; and market themselves through special events, such as street festivals. But many businesses lie outside these districts. And even those within them, such as Coventry's Big Fun and Lee Road's Revive, see a need for citywide collaboration and cross-promotion.

"An IBA would give the SIDs

greater buying power and stronger marketing presence," said City Planning Director Richard Wong. "It would help differentiate us from other communities. And it's not just self-serving for the businesses; there's a huge benefit for residents. Independent merchants always support community projects and are more generous than the big boxes."

Motorcars has offered to fund the initial startup fee if the merchants decide to affiliate with AMIBA. The Heights group plans to meet again soon to decide what to call itself, what geographic area to serve and how to move forward.

Interested businesses and citizens can contact Trevor Gile at trevorgile@motorcarshonda.com or Alex Quintana at alex@quintanasbarbershop.com.

Jeff Milchen's Heights talk will air on cable channel 20 at 2 and 7 p.m. from May 1 to May 9.

You can also view it on the Future-Heights website, www.futureheights.org. For more information about AMIBA, visit www.amiba.net.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is the executive director of FutureHeights.



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Maryann Nagel in HUMBLE BOY

Richly layered comedy ‘Humble Boy’ opens at Dobama Theatre on May 7

Julie Friedman

Broken vows, failed hopes, quantum mechanics and the joys of beekeeping are brilliantly interwoven in “Humble Boy,” a smart and touching comedy by playwright Charlotte Jones, and the final play of Dobama Theatre’s 50th season.

“Humble Boy,” with its allusions to “Hamlet,” is the tale of Felix Humble, a timid and bumbling research fellow in theoretical astrophysics at Cambridge, who returns to the family home in the English countryside after the sudden death of his father, James, whose passions were gardening and beekeeping. He soon makes the dreadful discovery that Flora, his vain and domineering mother, has hastily removed all traces of his father’s existence from the home, including his beloved bees, and is about to marry a man as unlike his father as possible. Adding to his woes is Rosie, his ex-girlfriend, whom he left without so much as a goodbye.

Winner of the Susan Smith Blackburn Award, the Critics’ Circle Best New Play Award and the People’s

Choice Best New Play Award, this English import is both heartfelt and hilarious. *Sunday Times* reviewer John Peter described “Humble Boy” as: “The real thing. This is a marvellous play: harsh and forgiving; sad, very sad; funny, very, very funny; learned and intricate but light on its feet; a poem about people, bees, and the galaxy.”

The production is directed by Dobama Theatre’s artistic director Joel Hammer and features an accomplished ensemble cast: Maryann Nagel, Greg Violand, Andrew Cruse (all three courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association), Brian Zoldessy, Laura Starnik and Laurel Brooke Johnson.

“Humble Boy” opens May 7 and runs through May 30. There is a preview on May 6. Sunday, May 9, is a pay-as-you-can performance.

Dobama Theatre, 2340 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights. Tickets: \$8-\$22. For more information, call 216-932-3396, or go to www.dobama.org.

Julie Friedman is the financial manager of Dobama Theatre.

SketchCrawl on Lee is May 15

Peggy Spaeth

SketchCrawl is a worldwide event that originated in San Francisco when Enrico Casarosa was inspired by the idea of a pub crawl bachelor party and embarked on a day of “recording nonstop everything I could around me with my pencil and watercolors. A drawn journal filled with details ranging from all the coffee I drank to the different buses I took—a drawing marathon. . . . Giving yourself this kind of mandate for a full day changes the way you look around you. It makes you stop and see things just a tad longer, just a bit deeper. . . .”

Utrecht Art Supplies of Coventry

Village is sponsoring a SketchCrawl on Lee Road, in the Cedar Lee area, on international SketchCrawl Day, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., beginning and ending at Heights Arts Gallery, 2173 Lee Road.

All ages and levels of experience are welcome. Bring your own art supplies. A limited amount provided by Utrecht will be available for purchase at the gallery on the day of the event, or shop in advance at Utrecht Art Supplies, 2768 Mayfield Road.

For more information, visit www.sketchcrawl.com or call Maureen at Utrecht: 216.371.3500.

Peggy Spaeth is executive director of Heights Arts.

Poem for May

Gail Bellamy

Mr. Grandview

The boys on Grandview Avenue called him Mr. Grandview and sought advice about things like joining the Civil Air Patrol or avoiding jail. Girls asked him how to break an engagement, or whether they were too old at sixteen

to start practicing to become a ballerina.

His answers always started

the same way, with him mopping his forehead with a handkerchief or

setting another Lucky Strike afire with his Zippo, and then saying, Oh hell. Let me think.

Kids knew when they heard that

they were going to get the straight story, not some quick answers to get them out of his dining room.

Weekdays, he wrote there at the table, which he shared with a typewriter, an ashtray, a cup of coffee and a cat.

The front door was always open, and as long as they used the door knocker first and it wasn’t his deadline time,

they were welcome

to burst in with their questions for Mr. Grandview.

It wasn’t just the kids of Grandview Avenue

who had questions, either—

people as far away as Arizona

or New Mexico wanted answers from him

when he was on vacation. They

asked him questions like, Do the

Cheyenne wear spurs? and along the Florida beaches they wanted to know, Do hammerhead sharks

attack people?

On the desert or on the beach, answers were always accompanied

by the snick of a Zippo, the faintly metallic scent of unlit tobacco,

his handkerchief and his opening line:

Oh, hell. Let me think.



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From Executive Director
Patrick Mullen

Citizen engagement is at the heart of what we do at Reaching Heights, so it's right that we should work with The Heights Observer, home of citizen journalism in our community, to provide this four-page snapshot of teaching and learning in the Cleveland Heights-University Heights public schools. We're an independent citizen organization that has worked for two decades to mobilize our community in support of excellence in public education in Cleveland Heights, University Heights, and a slice of South Euclid. It's not work that lends itself to a "Mission Accomplished" moment, but it is important, and, for the most part, fun.

Six principles guide our work:

- Our children deserve an excellent education; our community is responsible for making it available;
- We all benefit from valued, successful schools;
- An informed public is one key to our schools' success;
- Vital schools need the support, interest, and involvement of the families and community they serve;
- An organization like ours — independent, community-based — can build confidence in our schools and help citizens contribute to their success; and
- Teachers are at the core of our children's education. Supporting teachers fosters educational success.

To put those principles into action, we support academic success with our School Team Grants and Many Villages academic tutoring program. We support musical excellence by providing private music lesson scholarships and offering a one-week Heights Summer Music Camp each June. Next April 11, we'll hold the third Reaching Musical Heights concert at Severance Hall, showcasing our students' rich talents.

And we communicate, widely and often, to tell stories of teaching and learning in our schools. This insert is part of that effort, as are the Neighborhood Newsletters from which these stories are drawn, our

monthly email newsletters, and our website, reachingheights.org.

Teaching and learning are intertwined but distinct. Great teachers identify each child's strengths and struggles, their style of learning, and perhaps most critically, figure out how to get each child to want to do his or her best. Done well, teaching seems magical. Our shared future depends on its success, because at our best, we're citizens, not consumers or spectators; all three are learned behaviors.

How do teachers teach? You'll see a few answers in these pages. We describe students' classroom experiences and the different ways they learn. And we share the stories of seven recent Heights High graduates, all at college now, who talk about what they learned in our schools.

My thanks go to the team that wrote and edited these stories: Joy Henderson, Krista Hawthorne, Florence D'Emilia and Tricia Springstubb. Let me know what you'd like to see in future newsletters and what you think of this one. You can reach me at 216-932-5110 or patrick@reachingheights.org. ■

Six Senior Scholars Recognized



Congratulations to six Cleveland Heights High School seniors (Louis Pollis, Alexandria Miller, Nataja Roberts, Jaiye Sampson, Erin Morris and Matt Zucker, L-R) recognized for their academic excellence by the National Merit and National Achievement Scholarship programs. Matt Zucker is a National Merit semifinalist, while Alexandria Miller and Louis Pollis are National Merit commended students. Natajah Roberts is a National Achievement Scholarship semifinalist, and Erin Morris and Jaiye Sampson are the National Achievement Outstanding Participants.

These awards, based on students' PSAT scores, make them eligible for significant college scholarships. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is a privately funded not-for-profit organization that conducts the National Merit and National Achievement Scholarship programs—annual competitions that recognize and provide college scholarships to academically talented U.S. high school students. Since its founding in 1955, NMSC has recognized 3 million students and provided over 335,000 scholarships worth more than \$1.3 billion.

College Tour Piques Interest

By Joy Henderson

With Spring in the air, thoughts turned to future Falls for 79 Height High sophomores and juniors as they toured four Ohio homes of higher learning: The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, The Ohio State University, and the College of Wooster. Students from all five Small Schools (Legacy, Mosaic, PRIDE, REAL, and Renaissance) participated in the trip in early March, with four major goals in mind.

The trip provided students with information that will complement what they receive from the guidance department; motivated them to maintain good grades to keep their college options open; reminded them that college is a real possibility; and broadened their experience and horizons. Admissions officers at each school talked about requirements. The high schoolers also talked to current students, visited classrooms, dining halls, dorms, fitness centers, and the OSU Horseshoe.

Three students — Chase Bell, Joe Day and Sydney Gatta — appreciated the opportunity and said that talking to current college students was very helpful. Chase Bell liked hearing the college staff clearly describe college schedules and expectations. He was impressed with the number of classes offered at OSU, and he liked seeing the



Heights High students Sydney Gatta, Joe Day, and Chase Bell (L-R) and 76 classmates toured four Ohio college campuses, and liked what they saw.

athletic facilities. He plans to play football in college and study sports medicine. Joe Day liked Toledo and was impressed with the scholarships offered there. He especially remembers one student who told him that focusing on high school now will help him later. He plans to study sociology. Sydney Gatta enjoyed visiting Bowling Green. She appreciated hearing more details about

what is required for admission and was surprised to learn that many college students do not finish their degrees. She plans to study nursing or sports medicine. There was no charge to the 79 members of the Heights High Classes of 2011 and 2012, as they continued to explore where they might be members of the Classes of 2015, 2016, and beyond. ■

SPOTLIGHT ON HEIGHTS HIGH GRADUATES



Jimmie Hicks
Boulevard '00
Heights High '07
Jimmie is currently a
junior at Bowling Green
State University.

What's your major?
Public relations.

How about your dream job after graduation?
To represent the Walt Disney Company, doing media and community relations.

Do you have a favorite memory or two from Boulevard Elementary?
My third grade teacher, Mrs. Axner, reminded me of Mrs. Frizzle from the Magic School Bus books. She turned science and history into adventures. In fifth grade, I went to France for two weeks in Boulevard's exchange program. That was amazing.

What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college?
I loved being in the small schools. Mine was R.E.A.L.

and I got great real life experiences, including interning at Channel 3 News, and working in the school district's PR department. A video I made about Heights High still gets shown on cable. Those experiences shaped my career goals. I had tough courses one of my college science classes duplicated what I'd learned in my senior biology class.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?
We had teachers and administrators who listened to us. We held a peaceful demonstration to support our favorite counselor, Ms. Blockson, who was being let go due to the budget. Not only did the school board retain her, but they reformed some things in the guidance department. It was great to know our voices were heard! I was senior class president, and got to make a speech at graduation, and played football and lacrosse.

What advice would you give current Heights High students?
Make friends! I have a network of people I'm in touch with we give each other tips on jobs. It's good to be goal-oriented, but don't let that stand in the way of getting to know lots of different people. High school is a sweet time. Enjoy it!



Kim Hackman
Canterbury '01
Heights High '08
Kim is a sophomore at
Ohio University.

What's your major?
Photo journalism with a minor in French.

How about your dream job after graduation?
It feels like a dream, since journalism is undergoing such transition, but ideally I'll make documentary photographs. I'd enjoy teaching French or translating. I want to travel! In fact, when this is published, I'll be studying in Avignon, France.

Do you have a favorite memory or two from Canterbury Elementary?
My three sisters and I went to Canterbury. It was like being at home—our teachers called us by each other's names. In kindergarten, we read the story of the Gingerbread Man, hunted throughout the school trying to catch him, and baked some good gingerbread.

What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college?

There's no place like Heights! I went to preschool at Millikin and was in the system for my whole education. My parents said I could go to private school instead of Heights High, but I chose Heights. The diversity in my classes was wonderful. At college, I made friends and worked with all kinds of kids. That could be difficult for others, so I was thankful.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?
My sophomore year I took my first photography class, and traveled to France with my class. Here I am, sophomore year in college doing the same things — history repeats itself! My high school photography teacher was very inspiring. The foreign exchange students had a big influence on me. I plan to meet with some of them while I'm in France.

What advice would you give current Heights High students?
Get involved! Join clubs, volunteer. It's worth working hard in the classroom. A strong work ethic will stick with you.

Bringing What Works to Scale

By Florence D’Emilia

When Boulevard Elementary principal Lawrence Swoope talks about teaching, he cites best practices inside and outside Boulevard and says, “We are working on taking proven methodologies and moving them to scale.”

One success at Boulevard is seen in the results of the third grade team’s math strategy. Last year the team piloted a system of assessing students and using the information to address students needs the same day.

After the third grade teachers taught their morning math lesson, they gave a formative assessment – a short quiz that tells the teacher if the student learned what the teacher taught. Later that morning, the three teachers reviewed the assessment information and decided which students should be grouped together for the afternoon lesson and what they should be taught.

Each third grade teachers leads a group of students who need to work on similar skills. The groups change because students learn different skills at different rates.



Third graders at Boulevard get help from teacher Tamika Bradley as they use inference to answer questions about a story.

This year, the third grade team of Tameka Bradley, Rekyta Carr and Toni Dilillo are using a similar model for reading instruction.

Each teacher gives formative assessments on Fridays. Intervention groups are formed and re-formed, and lessons are adapted that meet students’ strengths and weaknesses. “Our goal is to take a successful instruction model and bring it to scale, in the grade level and the building,” said Mr. Swoope.

A Strategy For Success

By Florence D’Emilia

How do teachers ensure that at least 75% of third grade students pass the Ohio Achievement Test in the spring?

Roxboro Elementary School Principal Tara Grove and third grade teachers answer that question by focusing on teaching, learning and extras. Their strategy includes collecting data during the teaching and learning cycle, careful planning of instruction, and an emphasis on richness that ensures every child experiences significant growth — even those who can pass the exam when they enter third grade. Their strategy worked last year and is being used again this year.

Early in the school year, students take a benchmark exam that reveals what skills they need to master. At weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings, principal and teachers review the skills students need, set goals and plan teaching strategies. Based on constant review of her students’ reading skills, third grade teacher Christina Lambert creates four reading groups — two reading below grade level, one on grade level and one above grade level.

On a January afternoon, Christina Lambert sits with a small group of students at a semi-circular table. These students need to work on letter recognition. Lambert begins by showing flash cards with vowels and letter blends. The children respond by saying a sound and making a gesture. They respond to the letter “a” by saying the short



Third grader Zenzele Pelligree says the short “a” sound and pantomimes eating an apple.

“a” sound and pantomiming picking up an apple and eating it. When they say the short “u” sound they put the knuckles of both hands together, move one hand up against the other and say “up umbrella.” Incorporating movement into the lesson is a learning technique that is grounded in cognitive neuroscience research.

Later in the lesson, Lambert asks students to write a word on their dry erase board and use it in a super sentence. With help from Lambert, the students create complex sentences. Again, science tells us that difficulty hearing sounds, spelling words, or reading isn’t connected with the ability to think or to understand complex ideas. The students are developing higher level critical thinking skills that ensure success at school and in life.

It’s a Tie! Attorneys, Musicians Share Top Bee Honors



Reaching Heights has supported teachers by funding innovation, collaboration, and student achievement through the School Team Grant program since 1992. The 19th edition of the Reaching Heights Adult Community Spelling Bee, the main fund-raising event for the program, took place April 21 at Cleveland Heights High School. Executive director Patrick Mullen, center, holds the Coveted Plastic Bee Trophy, flanked by this year’s co-champions. Barratrous Orthographers, made up of Squire, Sanders, & Dempsey attorneys Bonnie Bealer, John Lazzaretti, and Becky Bynum (L to R, left side of photo), tied with Cleveland Orchestra musicians Beth Woodside, Lisa Boyko, and Carolyn Warner (L to R, right side of photo), of O.O.P.S.A.L.A. (Orchestral Orthographers Publicly Support Annoyingly Lengthy Acronyms). In the 8th round with the hour growing late, the barristers correctly spelled *zeugma* and were matched by the musicians, spelling *bouquiniste*, to bring the competition to a close. This friendly yet serious competition among more than 20 teams representing school-related groups, colleges and universities, merchants, law firms, churches, the orchestra, and others, raised more than \$13,000 this year. Thanks to this year’s Bee judges: Cleveland Heights Municipal Judge A. Deane Buchanan, Heights Library Director Nancy Levin, CH-UH Schools Superintendent Doug Heuer, and Rev. John Lentz, pastor of Forest Hill Church. Big Fun impresario Steve Presser served as master of ceremonies, Notre Dame College professor Tony Zupancic pronounced the words, and, for the 19th straight year, Steve Titchenal served as word projectionist. Thanks to all participants!

Paving a Path to Literacy

By Joy Henderson

Children enter school at different points on the pathway to literacy. The challenge for teachers is to help students crack the reading code and become competent readers.

Noble teachers have been successful - last year all third grade students passed the reading portion of the Ohio Achievement Test. That success is partly due to work done last summer, when Noble teachers reviewed each incoming student’s reading assessments and set specific grade level goals. The first grade goal: 83% of all students would read at or above grade level by the end of this school year.

Once teachers identified each student’s reading skills and challenges, interventions were developed for students performing below, at, and above grade level. “Our goal is to design each student’s day to include extra reading time whenever possible,” said Principal Julie Beers.

Older students read to younger ones while they share lunch, senior citizens read with students and teachers work with small groups of students to address specific skill needs. Second grade students who are reading above grade level spend time with enrichment teacher Mrs. Dawson. In one activity, eight students wrote stories about animal characteristics, based on the style of “How the Camel Got its Hump.” Then each student read their story and received input from the



Noble second graders Daisha Gardner(Left) and Sky-lah Houston wrote “How the Bear Became Brown” in Michelle Dawson’s enrichment reading class.

class. “Maybe you could add some talking,” suggested a student. Mrs. Dawson noted that this technique, called dialogue, adds detail to a story and makes it more exciting.

Meanwhile, first grade teacher Mrs. Schramo was working with her below grade level readers. The seven students looked at word cards and listened as she read the words aloud. The children pointed to each distinct letter and made its sound. When Mrs. Schramo said “last,” six students repeated the word but one child said *land*, unable to differentiate between s and d sounds – until the third try. When he got it, his classmates erupted in clapping and a round of “Yeah!” While the activities for these two groups of children are different, the goal is the same: using knowledge of each student’s needs to make sure every child learns.

SPOTLIGHT ON HEIGHTS HIGH GRADUATES



Jordan Zirm
Fairfax '00
Heights High '07
Jordan is a junior at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

What’s your major?
Journalism.

How about your dream job after graduation?
I’d love to write for a music publication. I’m especially interested in hip hop music and culture, and I’d like to review releases and write artist profiles. It’d be great to discover and introduce new music to a wide audience.

Do you have a favorite memory or two from Fairfax Elementary?
That seems like a long time ago! I remember in kindergarten or first grade, I got the lead in the class play “Cock-a-Doodle Dandy.” I was the rooster who had to wake up the barnyard. And I loved that playground.

At recess we had huge soccer and football games, with everyone running around.

What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college?
The city of Cleveland Heights is all about diversity, and the high school embodies that. Going to a college so far from home, I’ve met people from all over, with all kinds of backgrounds, and it’s been easy for me to feel comfortable and make friends. Heights prepared me academically, too. I had lots of outstanding teachers, and the transition into college work was pretty smooth, no surprises.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?
My senior year I covered sports for *The Black and Gold*, and that gave me valuable experience for college journalism. I was in Heights Singers for three years, and was president my senior year. Those were some good times, involving lots of great people.

What advice would you give current Heights High students?
Make sure you finish strong. Focus is really important in college—the work load requires it.



Deidre Walker
Gearity '01
Heights High '08
Deidre is a sophomore at Cleveland State University

What’s your major?
Early childhood education.

How about your dream job after graduation?
I’d love to be a kindergarten teacher. It’s important for kids to have positive influences as early as possible, while they’re still young and impressionable.

Do you have a favorite memory or two from Gearity Elementary?
Making friends. I went to Heights schools all the way from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Many of the kids I met at Gearity stayed my friends all those years.

What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college?
I took lots of AP classes at Heights, and the transition to college level work was easy.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?
I had some wonderful teachers who both inspired me and made class fun—one even got me interested in physics, and I am not a science person! I was a member of the Minority Student Achievement Network. Among our activities, we went to the middle schools to encourage kids to work toward taking AP classes. In my senior year, I did a project assisting a kindergarten teacher at Gearity. That’s what steered me toward teaching as a career.

What advice would you give current Heights High students?
Don’t get distracted! Heights has so many academic opportunities—you can go in so many different directions, try so many different programs. Be prepared, and use your time well.

Learning by Moving and Manipulating

By Florence D’Emilia

“Different children learn differently,” explains Stacy Kroger, Canterbury Elementary third grade teacher. In her classroom, students work in small groups, in pairs, or independently at specially prepared stations. “I know that hands-on activities and movement demonstrations allow some students to grasp concepts faster, so I incorporate them into lessons whenever possible.”

She begins a math lesson by asking students what they remember from previous lessons about lines, line segments, and rays. Kroger introduces the concept of angles and moves her body to show the class how angles change: a quarter turn, a half turn, and a full clockwise turn. The students stand and follow her prompts to make various angles. The movements require control and concentration.

Now, the students are ready to form angles with a pair of straws connected at the vertex by a twist-tie. The teacher demonstrates how to make a quarter turn clockwise with her straws, and reminds them that it is called a right angle. She slowly walks through the classroom observing their work. As the students gain confidence, she asks them to make more challenging angles obtuse and acute.

A typical week includes whole class activities, team teaching and parallel teaching with a special education teacher. “Everyone seems to benefit from being more involved,” explained Kroger. “A variety of learning groups and a mixture of activities keep everyone engaged which mean more success.”



Canterbury third grader Jabril Atkins manipulates a set of straws to form an angle during Stacy Kroger’s math class.

Teachers Who Share The Value of Learning

By Florence D’Emilia

Because teachers like Joe Mendes and Natalie Wester value what a child is thinking, they help their students value the process of learning itself. Mendes and Wester masterfully create a structured learning environment that encourages deep thinking, participation, and mutual respect.

One morning in Mendes’ fourth grade class, students prepare for a quiet period writing personal essays, and listen as he gives a concise overview of the task at hand: “We are going to watch a video of a speed skater competing, we’ll talk about it, you’ll read an article about Olympic sports and then you will write about a sport that you would like to compete in.” When the video ends, everyone is reminded of the ground rules for discussions—SLANT: Sit still, Look at the speaker, Activate your brain, Nod, Track the talker. During the lively discussion, Mendes keeps them on-topic, includes almost everyone in the room, and ensures students responded respectfully to the opinions of others.

Third grade teacher Wester gathers a small group of readers and reads aloud a story about two girls, one white and one black, who slowly get to know one another while sitting on a fence that divides their town. Wester gives these students an opportunity to think and talk about the big ideas in the book. She waits calmly through long pauses for students to prepare their responses and then she listens closely as they speak.

When everyone regroups for a whole class lesson, Wester reads Maya Angelou’s poem, “Still I Rise.” She asks engaging questions and gives students ample time to organize their thoughts and respond. She builds on what they say, at times drawing out more details and at other times articulating more clearly a student’s idea. The lesson culminates with an opportunity for students to create a poem.

These teachers give students time to think, listen to their ideas, and encourage mutual respect from classmates. They establish an atmosphere of high expectation and trust in which students’ thoughts and learning is highly valued.



Jed Harrington and Josephine Johnson, fourth grade students of Joe Mendes, write essays about an Olympic sport they would like to try.

The Problem-Solving Process



Fairfax fourth graders Brittany Napoleon, Jamya Terry and Arman Sullivan (L to R) calculate the cost of multiple items in a money counting session.

By Joy Henderson

To help her fourth graders solve challenging math story problems, Fairfax teacher Kelly Borally uses a staff-designed Problem Solving Journal to break problems into manageable parts. “To solve a complex problem, kids need to analyze the problem and devise an appropriate strategy,” said Borally. “Once kids see the parts of a bigger problem, it seems manageable.”

The journal guides students through five steps, starting with identifying the question. Students then choose a strategy and identify the operation needed. Wall charts illustrate problem-solving tools. Early in the school year, Borally walked

students through the process, prompting and guiding their thinking. By January, students need less support. By June, most students know the process.

“I want students to see that there may be different strategies to get the correct answer,” said Borally. “Having math conversations is an important part of the work, and helps students internalize the skills.” She also encourages math conversations during math center time. Small groups of students practice counting money and making change from \$5.00, while discussing their math thinking. “This work is about making connections – to each other and to the math process,” said Borally.

Math Carnival a Rich Learning Experience

By Florence D’Emilia

At Oxford’s Fifth Grade Math Carnival, students had fun while carefully recording data and solving problems with a refreshing and inspiring enthusiasm. The Carnival, an annual event in Sean Sullivan’s classroom, culminated a unit on mean, median, mode and range. “Kids devised their own games, came up with ideas, worked on them at home and occasionally talked to me to make sure they were going in the right direction,” explained Sullivan. “By the time they’ve created the game, taught it to their classmates, and figured out averages four different ways for each game player, the math really sticks with them.”

On carnival day, the students set up their games, taught others how to play them, took notes on a data collection sheet as students played the game, then calculated various kinds of averages. They placed numbers in numerical order, to more easily figure out the median — the middle value in a range, which they found by subtracting the difference between minimum and maximum values. They added all scores and divided by the number of scores to get the mean. Finally, they note which score appeared most often to



Oxford fifth grade students Selena Vidal, Jasmyn Smith and Richard Kalamajka (L to R) play a game Selena created for Sean Sullivan’s Math Carnival

find the mode.

The carnival included games of skill and chance, all requiring data collection and problem solving. Selena created an entire board game, complete with handmade paper dice. She instructed players to select a card and solve a problem as they moved around the board. Players of Keandre’s “Did You Make the Goal?” tossed a paper football at a goalpost, winning points for accuracy. Fifth graders’ contagious enthusiasm for math spread when fourth graders attended the carnival. According to Sullivan, “it’s all about getting and keeping kids excited about math.”

SPOTLIGHT ON HEIGHTS HIGH GRADUATES



Damara Davis
Noble ‘00
Heights High ‘07
Damara is a junior at Youngstown State University.

What’s your major?
Psychology.

How about your dream job after graduation?
I want to be a therapist or counselor, or work with a non-profit on behalf of animal welfare.

Do you have a favorite memory from Noble Elementary?
I loved my kindergarten and second grade teachers. I enjoyed show ‘n’ tell, because we could bring in pets, and art and music.

What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college?
I took AP classes and got used to working hard. In some ways college is easier, because the work load is more spread out. The diversity at Heights

taught me how to talk to people from different cultures with different viewpoints. Talking to other Youngstown students about their experiences, I’ve discovered how much Heights offered. People are surprised when I describe things like the AFS international student exchange program, all the sports, and the music program. That range of activities taught me how to find things I want to do.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?
I loved the music program. I was in Singers and Choir. I especially loved one of my English classes. We had good discussions and expressed ourselves in different media, including video and writing. And I was a swimmer. That was hard work. We were always so hungry!

What advice would you give current Heights High students?
Don’t be lazy! College seems far away, but it’s not. Think about your grades, and start looking at schools early. Be your own person. Don’t try to be someone you’re not, just to make other people like you. Heights is big—make that bigness work for you.



Bryan Loretz
Oxford ‘00
Heights High ‘07
Bryan is a junior at Hiram College.

What’s your major?
Business management, with minors in political science and economics.

What’s your dream job after graduation? I want to go to law school and start a private practice. I’d also enjoy working in international marketing.

Do you have a favorite memory from Oxford?
Many teachers really helped me. Playing soccer with Mr. Sullivan, my third grade teacher, got me interested in sports. My fourth and fifth grade teachers helped get me ready for middle school. Mr. Wells showed us many cool ways of approaching math.

What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college?

Teachers cared about where I was headed and what I did next. I especially liked it after small schools started in my tenth grade year. Before that I sometimes felt like a number. What did you enjoy most at Heights? Being on the football team taught me leadership, discipline, and how to be a team player. We learned that we were only as strong as our weakest player. I learned how to get along with all kinds of people and attitudes. At Hiram, I played football at first, but now I’m concentrating on my grades and other activities. I’m treasurer of the Speech and Debate Club, chairman of African American Students United, and a member of Kennedy Center Program Board, working on student activity budgets. I’m also in Gospel Choir.

What advice would you give current Heights High students?
Stop playing! Get your work done! Heights was fun—I miss it, though the work load was ridiculously heavy. But college is great. Look for a school that’s going to be a fit for you. I didn’t think I’d wind up someplace as small as Hiram, but it works for me.

Math Lessons With a Side of Fun

By Joy Henderson

Seventh graders in Damion Creel’s math class at Wiley Middle School get plenty of math conversation, solid life coaching and just a little silliness in each 90-minute class.

“One of my goals is to help kids get over their fear of having the wrong answer,” said Creel. “I try to create an environment where they feel safe to talk about the problem-solving process.” He may also ask a student who describes an equation clearly to stand on a chair and repeat it.

This day’s lesson is on volume and surface area – definitions, the difference between the two, and equations needed to calculate them.

Class begins with students working quietly on their laptops honing their definitions. Then they compare definitions. “Vocabulary is important,” says Creel. “We call these flat surfaces faces.” The remaining hour is spent on a handful of volume and surface area problems.

Getting the right answer is important, but Creel also expects students to describe how they arrived at an answer. During class conversation, students respond to each other and ask their peers questions about the problem-solving process.

One student clearly knew the math words but was not using them in the correct context. “Don’t just use important words,” said Creel. “You’re giving me too much information, and making it harder than it is. Let’s read the problem together and talk it through.”

This process is repeated for each problem, calculating and then talking about the process. And for the really serious math statements – a little chair standing. 📖



Students in Damion Creel’s seventh grade math class at Wiley Middle School work on a problem.

Future Poets Find and Project Their Voices

By Florence D’Emilia

Anna Gregory’s sixth grade English Language Arts students are developing into poets, readers, writers and critical thinkers.

The classroom reflects a richness of teaching and learning. Posters feature the work of literary greats while others clearly and concisely train a student in stylistic techniques.

Classical music plays softly during silent reading time. Students bring a book from home or select one from display shelves with contemporary classics and novels beloved by previous generations. A Smart Board and laptops are used to



Anna Gregory works with Monticello sixth grade student Christine Dover on a writing assignment.

Grading That Measures Learning

By Joy Henderson

The Homework Opportunity Club at Roxboro Middle School reflects a fundamental rethinking of what grades mean. Grades historically have reflected the completion of activities, but across our district and beyond, educators are working to have grades reflect learning. In the past, when a student did not complete an assignment, they received a zero.

“Mathematically, a zero is a devastating mark to a student’s grade because it is 60 times worse than the lowest D,” said Roxboro Principal Brian Sharosky. At Rox Middle, students receiving a D or F as a cumulative grade over a two-week period must attend the afterschool club. All core subject teachers (Math, English, Social Studies and Science) host a section. Every two weeks, families are notified if their students need to attend a session.

“We don’t want to wait until the five-week progress report for parents to find out if their child is failing a subject,” said Mr.

support learning, engage students, and keep them on task. During a recent fast-paced, 90- minute class, sixth graders read silently, wrote a 10-minute quick response to the reading, then read and discussed a poem about professional basketball player Allen Iverson.

After being assigned a partner, students wrote a poem about the middle school bully character in the short story they read. The class culminated with recitation. Students projected their voices and read with expression, but more impressively, their poems reflected a nuanced understanding of the character and the stylistic techniques students had discussed earlier. 📖

Sharosky. To keep students interested in learning and to encourage their progress, students can demonstrate their knowledge of a section of the work and re-do the work or re-take the test. Ten of Marcie Beggs’ eighth grade American History students were in her classroom on a December afternoon. Most were preparing to re-take a test. They must demonstrate mastery of knowledge on incomplete or missed assignments. Then they are then given credit for the work and can re-take a test.

“If I get a B on the re-test, what will my grade be?” asks one boy. He is thrilled when Mrs. Beggs tells him he will have a B in her class if he gets a B on the re-test.

“This process has encouraged many students to be more responsible for and engaged in their own learning,” she said. “We are seeing more effort and less discouragement.” While the Homework Club started in October, preliminary results are encouraging. 41% of students had a 3.0-4.0 GPA in the first quarter of this school year, up from 33% a year earlier. 📖

Learning Opportunities Abound Outside the Classroom

Each of our elementary schools offers exciting learning opportunities outside the classroom. Here are some examples:

BOULEVARD Spanish Club: Students in all grades enjoy afterschool songs, colorful visuals and conversation as they learn a new language and culture.

Chess Club: Chess for Success, an afterschool program, offers chess instruction and competition.

Poetry Club: Lunch time activity for third, fourth and fifth grade students. Students read and write poetry that culminates with a Poetry Slam.

Sports Clubs: Fall football, winter basketball before school for fifth grade students.

Math Mentorships: Fourth and fifth grade students solve math problems, guided by Progressive Insurance actuaries.

Scrabble Club: Fourth and fifth grade students meet before school to play this word game.

CANTERBURY Classes and Clubs: Seven afterschool enrichment classes, organized by the PTA, are available: Art, Chess, Spanish, Dance, Yoga, African Drumming, and Theater.

Girls Circle: Fourth and fifth grade girls join the school counselor for this program that builds self-esteem, enhances judgment skills, and encourages the use of critical thinking to make wise and healthy choices.

Girls on the Run: Parent volunteers follow a national curriculum that encourages pre-teen girls to develop self respect and healthy lifestyles through running.

FAIRFAX Student Council: Fourth and fifth grade students elect classroom representatives who plan service and social activities.

Safety Patrol: Fifth grade students help adults keep students safe in the outside areas of the school.

Lunch Bunch Book Clubs: Fourth and fifth grade students read and discuss books with adult volunteers.

Tennis and Tumbling: PTA-sponsored afterschool activities offered to all students.

Challenge Choir: Fifth grade students audition for this performance choir.

GEARITY Classes and Clubs: Seven afterschool and lunchtime enrichment classes and clubs meet: Spanish, Yoga, Hip Hop, Poetry, Art, Math and Chess.

Environmental Club: Students travel to the Ohio State Lake Erie biology laboratory for field projects.

Classroom Community Gardens: Thirteen gardens (one per classroom) are planned, maintained and harvested by students and neighbors.

Meaningful Work: Students who want a job in the office, cafeteria, or library begin by writing a résumé. Applicants are interviewed, trained and evaluated. These students are volunteers who gain work experience that is meaningful and helpful.

NOBLE Young Men & Young Ladies of Noble: Students with at least a 3.0 grade point average and good citizenship are invited to join these groups to reinforce and encourage academic achievement.

Student Employment: Students can complete an application to apply for volunteer jobs as helpers in the cafeteria, library, office, gym or student store. More than 70 students participate, learning the value of work.

Chess Club: Students meet after school to learn and play chess.

Recycling: Students receiving special education services collect and recycle juice boxes.

Buddy Reading: Selected third, forth, and fifth grade students are trained to read with younger students.

OXFORD Art Club: Interested students meet with the art teacher after school to draw, paint and create original art.

Green Team: Students collect paper from each classroom for a recycling program.

Young Men & Women of Oxford: Fourth and fifth grade students with at least a 3.0 grade point average and good citizenship are invited to join these groups to reinforce and encourage academic achievement and citizenship.

Mother/Son & Father/Daughter Dance: Special dress-up evenings with music, dance and refreshments.

Principal’s Book Club: Principal Stacy Stuhldreher hosts a lunch time book club.

ROXBORO Art Club: Aspiring artists meet with the art teacher during lunch to draw, paint and sculpt.

Melting Pot: Students meet with a faculty advisor during lunch to plan activities that promote cultural diversity.

Meaningful Work: Students apply for jobs to help in the office, cafeteria, and library. Students write resumes, are interviewed and evaluated.

Good Friends: Adults mentor and tutor students. 📖

SPOTLIGHT ON HEIGHTS HIGH GRADUATES



Victoria Williams
Roxboro ‘01
Heights High ‘08
Victoria is a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis.

What’s your major?
I have a double major in urban studies and economics, with a minor in Spanish.

What’s your dream job after graduation?
I’d like to help run a non-profit, maybe a food bank or shelter for battered women, and consult with large corporations on community outreach. I’m thinking about law school or a degree in public administration.

Do you have a favorite memory or two from Roxboro Elementary?
I loved running around with all the grades on the playground before school. In fifth grade, we protested a teacher we thought was unfair, and gathered petition signatures. We were proud to make our voices heard and try to change things!

What did you learn at Heights High that prepared you for college?
The main thing I learned was how to work with peers. I took a lot of rigorous classes, and my classmates and I always helped, rather than competed against, each other.

What did you enjoy most at Heights?
I had incredibly helpful teachers. My senior year, a teacher helped us on weekends to get ready for our AP exam. The guidance counselors worked hard to help us apply to college. And I loved all the choice in extracurricular activities. I was student council president my senior year; our class decided to have a different kind of prom. We broke some traditions, and worked hard to raise money. The whole class came together to make it happen, and it was wonderful.

Any advice for current Heights High students?
Enjoy everything, including the social side. You have the chance to get to know kids from all sorts of backgrounds. Take advantage of it! You’ll be comfortable with different types of people for the rest of your life.

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Heights' Melt to open May 21

Christina Klenotic

The average wait for a gourmet grilled cheese at Melt Bar and Grilled in Lakewood has been nothing compared to the anticipation by Heights residents for the opening of the new East Side location. After an 18-month investment by owner Matt Fish, Melt will be making its Cleveland Heights debut on May 21 at the corner of Taylor and Cedar roads.

Marked with larger-than-life, 3D grilled cheese signage designed by Cleveland-based Signature Sign Co., Melt will be the anchor tenant for the 1920s building owned by Geoff Loree, which previously housed Peabody's. Loree said four potential tenants will move in next to Melt, ranging from a local clothing boutique to a bakery.

While the new location captures the original restaurant's menu and atmosphere with similar hardwood floors, a blue tin ceiling and stained glass, it's much larger than its sister spot. Fish said his goal for the East Side location is to "alleviate the wait issue." With that in mind, the 1,200-square-foot kitchen is nearly three times the size of Lakewood's. The total restaurant space can accommodate 170 guests and is just shy of 5,000 square feet, compared to Lakewood's 3,600.

In addition, the horseshoe bar, which seats 70 and features 30 beers on tap, will be first come, first served, while Lakewood's bar has space for only 16. Fish said he is also considering accepting reservations for a large table in the front of the restaurant that seats 15 to 20. When not reserved, Fish said it can function as a "commuter" table so different parties can share the space and



Melt Bar and Grilled
13463 Cedar Road, Cleveland Heights
216-965-0988
www.meltbarandgrilled.com

eat together.

Many of the materials used in the rebuilding of the interior space have local origins. For example, the wood used in the bar is from southern Ohio, and the reclaimed pews and stained glass came from churches in Lakewood and Toledo.

"Both restaurants have the same feeling—you know they're Melt," Fish said. "Our goal is to be everything to everybody, an 'institution' kind of place."

Late this summer, a to-be-constructed outdoor patio with a privacy fence, vegetable garden and bar might seat an additional 40 guests.

Fish said the city was "very supportive" of Melt's eclectic personality and actually suggested the 3D signage. In addition, local artist John G. created the East Side Invasion comic posters in Melt's windows and will continue to do original art for both locations.

According to Fish, approximately 200 parking spots behind the building and across the street will accommodate Melt diners.

Fish said he expects to hire about 55 staff for the restaurant. More than 500 applicants showed up to apply during Melt's two-day job fair in April.

Melt will be open seven days a week and will feature brunch on Sundays. Fans can join the Big Cheese Club for updates on the new location, employment opportunities and monthly sandwich specials.

Per her grandmother, Christina Klenotic is a "good eater" who never met a carb she didn't like. She enjoys sampling eclectic restaurants, galleries and neighborhoods, which is why she loves Cleveland Heights.

Heights businesses move, expand

Gwynby moves

Gwynby Antiques has a new location and a new name. The shop has moved across the street from the Heights Medical Building to the Heights Center Building, 12427 Cedar Road and is now Cedar Fairmount Antiques.

Heights Floral Shoppe moves

Heights Floral has moved into the Garden Room at Paysage. Its new location is 3451 Fairmount Blvd.

CD Game Exchange moves

CD Game Exchange has moved down the street to the former home of Vidstar Video. Its new location is 1836 Coventry Road.

Studio Taylor expands

Studio Taylor in the Fairmount Taylor district has expanded its salon services into the former Dickson's space. Owner Nancy Taylor's next project is to renovate the rest of the salon.

Cedar Lee Pub expands patio

Declan Synnot, owner of the Cedar Lee Pub and Grill, will expand the pub's outdoor dining area into the adjacent rear parking lot. The expansion will create 45 more seats.

Seminar to mark Small Business Week

Tom Woodworth

The federal government has designated the week of May 23-29 as this year's National Small Business Week, in honor of the nation's 27.2 million small businesses. It is estimated that businesses with fewer than 500 workers employ more than half of all Americans. Three hundred of these small businesses are based in the Heights.

In Cleveland, the Small Business Administration and SCORE, Counselors to America's Small Business, will mark Small Business Week by presenting a seminar on market research information available through the Cleveland Public Library. Aaron Mason and Robert Murnan, market research librarians with CPL, will facilitate. The presenters will demonstrate a variety of proprietary data-based programs the library subscribes to and makes available to the public, and participants will learn how to identify competitors, determine the size of prospective markets, and develop prospecting lists.

The seminar will take place at the SCORE office, 1350 Euclid Avenue, on Friday, May 28, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The event is free to holders of

a Cleveland Public Library card, but reservations are required by May 21. To reserve one of the 80 available seats, call 216-522-4194 weekdays between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Reduced-rate parking will be available in the Hanna garage, and the location is easily accessible by RTA.

Mason notes that one of the Cleveland Public Library's greatest assets is its skilled staff who can help small business owners find the most current and reliable information available. "A common misconception," he notes, "is that the answer you are seeking is neatly packaged within a single website, book or article."

Inspiration and planning for the seminar was provided by George Sapin, a SCORE counselor for over 15 years and a longtime Heights resident. He views the seminar as a gift to every current or prospective small business person who wants to market their business intelligently.

SCORE is a nonprofit association with 389 offices staffed by 10,500 retired professionals, who volunteer to help startup and established businesses succeed. The SCORE Cleveland chapter has 45 active volunteers who provide face-to-face counseling to over 2,000 clients each year.

Tom Woodworth is a retired advertising and public relations professional and currently volunteers as a business counselor with SCORE.

More stories online at www.heightsobserver.org

Grant aids Fairmount Group expansion

Kelli Fontenot

Entrepreneur Dawn Hanson's company, The Fairmount Group, will be going global with much greater ease because of a grant from British Airways.

Fairmount Group received one of the 100 Business Opportunity grants given out by British Airways. It will enable Hanson to travel to Europe, meet with clients and expand her business from her small office in Cleveland Heights to cities in Finland and Denmark. The company conducts market research, manages brands and plans special events.

The grant includes airfare for 10 round-trip business class flights, five global shipments with British Airways World Cargo and \$1,000 in hotel accommodations at Courtyard by Marriott.

While Hanson said the company embraces modern communications technology, one aspect of its success is its commitment to face-to-face connections. The grant will enable the firm to focus on building relationships with clients.

"A lot of clients I deal with are facing a change or a challenge," she said. "They share proprietary information and there are nonverbal cues that go along with

that. You can't see all that on Skype. It's a trust issue; people need to get to know you interpersonally."

The British Airways grant is part of a campaign promoting such meetings in international business. Hanson said the company has been planning to expand business to Europe for years. Team members have worked in England, Finland, Denmark and Germany before, and familiarity with local languages and culture gives them an advantage.

Hanson recently set up meetings with eight prospective clients at companies in Finland, although the volcanic ash from Iceland delayed her trip.

Hanson earned a public relations degree and thought she would spend her career shaking hands and attending important meetings. She worked in communications for a private hospital in her hometown of Shreveport, La., and then in corporate communications for a bank in Washington, D.C. After that, she moved to Finland with her husband,



Fairmount Group owner Dawn Hanson in Europe building face-to-face connections with clients.

Olli Patrikainen, and worked for an oil company. For four years, she served as vice president of corporate communications for a firm in Denmark.

Along the way, she realized she wanted more. "I just got the itch that I'd like to start my own business," she said. "I wanted to work with clients who

share my values—education, diversity, women's issues, the environment.

At The Fairmount Group, she works closely with graphic designers and public relations professionals to provide marketing services for clients including Microsoft, the Cleveland Council on World Affairs and the University of Helsinki.

One of her company's specialties is teaming with independent safety and security experts to develop crisis action plans.

She has worked for a petrochemicals company and a bank to help determine what emergency actions would be taken in the event of an explosion or a robbery. She has also worked with schools to devise safety plans in the event of a shooting. Hanson said the company also writes comprehensive plans to communicate what has happened.

Right now, she is 'flying' with the affirmation of getting the grant.

"It's a wonderful vote of confidence from British Airways that they understand my vision and believe I can do it," she said.

Kelli Fontenot is a journalist living in Cleveland Heights.

More stories online at
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Quintana's hosts raffle to support Officer Jason West Scholarship

Lita Gonzalez

Quintana's is hosting a raffle to support the Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship. Owner Alex Quintana recalls that Jason West was the first police officer to come into his business, Quintana's Barber & Dream Spa, at 2200 South Taylor Road. Quintana got to know West socially and professionally when he became a regular customer.

When West died while responding to a disturbance call on May 26, 2007, the staff at Quintana's was in shock. "Jason was young and looking forward to the rest of his life," remembered Quintana. "He had the job he wanted, a house in our community and he was looking for the right person to settle down with. He was dedicated to his work and loved his motorcycle. Sometimes he would come in just to hang out and talk."

Alex and Dawn Quintana have joined other businesses and residents in supporting the Officer Jason D. West



Memorial Scholarship. Quintana's is holding a raffle through June 12. Community residents can stop in and buy the \$1.00 raffle tickets for a chance at winning the prize, a \$500 Quintana gift certificate.

"We're grateful that a scholarship was established to honor Jason's memory," said Quintana. "He's no longer here

to help the community so this is our way of continuing to help the community in his name. He would be proud of the scholarship."

As business owners, Dawn and Alex know how important police officers are to a business district.

"Our customers expect to be safe when they come to enjoy our thriving business districts. Police officers provide that safety, and without that comfort level, what would our business districts be like?" said Alex.

The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating senior in the Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Program at Cleveland Heights High School.

"All the proceeds from the raffle will go to support the scholarship, so I hope residents stop in, say hello, buy their raffle tickets and help this great cause," said Dawn.

Lita Gonzalez is a community volunteer.

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Standing down the deluge



By Eleanor Mallet

Driving the attractive residential streets in Noble, around Lee Road, or any Cleveland Heights neighborhood for that matter, is somewhat deceptive.

You see a sprinkling of signs: For Sale—New Price—Reduced Price—Sale by Owner, and some houses, if you look closely, are empty. But if you look at a map with dots of houses in foreclosure, it seems more like a pretty bad case of the chicken pox.

From 2006 through 2009, foreclosures proceeded steadily and briskly. According to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court and Case Western Reserve University's Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, 2,203 Cleveland Heights homeowners have lost their houses. That's about 550 a year or one and a half per day—for four years.

Like the tidy streets, homeowners in trouble may look OK, too. "They have been keeping up appearances for so long with family and friends," said Keisha Matthews, a housing counselor at Com-

munity Housing Solutions, which serves Greater Cleveland and receives about 200 calls a month asking for counseling. "Often, they spill out everything: problems in finance, marriage. This is a safe place to get it all off your chest."

With a 50-client caseload, Matthews and Molly Nackley, two of the housing counselors at Community Housing Solutions, attempt every day to stand down or at least slow the deluge of foreclosure.

Both see a shift in the past year. "Now most who come in are here because of job loss or reduced income, not because of bad loans," said Nackley. The bad economy is hitting hard. People are often overwhelmed.

"It is very, very private," Nackley said, "the hardships, the job loss, feeling taken and overwhelmed with the cost of things and at a loss as to how to approach any of it. We are here to guide them through the process and help them see what their options are."

Counselors help clients create a budget and work out what a more realistic payment, or housing plan, would be before approaching the lender.

But compassion is only one side of the job. The other is the steely perseverance it takes to deal with lenders. Getting the paperwork where it is supposed

to be is a monumental feat. "A call is transferred five times and then disconnected. You fax something and they say, 'No, I didn't get it,' or 'Why did they give you this number, try this one.' You are lucky if ever speak to someone who can make decisions," Nackley said.

Matthews says one of the advantages of the mediation program set up by Common Pleas Court is that it obligates the lender to sit across the table. No more run-around. "Mediation freezes the foreclosure process for four to six months during which the client can stay in the house. Even if the client is eventually out, they have more time to plan the transition," Matthews said.

President Obama's loan modification program, Making Home Affordable, is also helping. Under this program, a mortgage can be no more than 31 percent of income, and interest can be as low as 2 percent. But processing the paperwork is still slow.

Foreclosures cost the city in loss of tax revenue, vandalism, grass cutting, and ultimately, the decline in housing values degrade the tax base. And the foreclosures keep rolling. Right now, 288 houses are bank-owned. Since January, an additional 34 houses are in pre-foreclosure and 29 are up for sheriff sale, according to RealtyTrac.

A thousand houses stand empty, Dennis Keating, a professor at Cleveland State University, told the Severance Neighborhood Organization at an April 11 discussion. That is some ball-and-chain on a community that makes considerable effort to improve itself.

Housing counselor Keisha Matthews says:

"I want to get a bullhorn: 'There are options for you. Reach out for help early.'"

"I applaud the people who come in. Admitting that you need help is the hardest part. I tell clients, 'There is a tomorrow. We will figure a way through this.'"

"The service is free. Call 211. They will send you to a HUD-approved counseling agency. You will not pay for the service."

"There are predatory companies out there. They may ask you to pay them, not your lender, and say they will look into renegotiating your mortgage. Paying up-front is a huge red flag. You will get the foreclosure notice and those you paid will have disappeared."

Eleanor Mallet is a longtime explorer of the nooks and crannies in the Heights. Her column, Observing in the Heights, explores the special people and places in the Heights.

FutureHeights launches 2010 Best of the Heights awards program

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Citizens can vote for their favorite Heights businesses in FutureHeights' annual Best of the Heights awards program. The 2010 survey begins May 1 and runs through August 31.

"There are 20 award categories this year," said FutureHeights Programs Committee Chair Michael Wellman, "Some are the same as previous years, such as the Best New Business and others are new, such as Best Pub, Bar or Tavern. We try to keep the program fresh and create opportunities for all categories of businesses to be considered for an award."

Since 2005, FutureHeights, a non-profit dedicated to civic engagement and innovative ideas, has conducted this public opinion survey to recognize the unique attributes of locally-owned businesses in Cleveland Heights and University Heights and their contributions to the local economy.

"The program has grown each year," said Board President Gina Cheverine, "We had a capacity crowd at last year's



Heights Arts volunteers Greta De Meyer, Carol Hummel and Ben De Rubertis pose with a decorated parking meter at the 2009 Best of the Heights awards ceremony hosted by Nighttown. Heights Arts won the award for Best Art Scene.

ceremony. Heights residents recognize how lucky we are to have such an amazing diversity of independent businesses in our community and want to show their appreciation."

FutureHeights will announce the winners at an awards ceremony in the fall at a date and time to be determined. The name of one lucky survey respondent will be drawn at random at the

awards ceremony to receive a FutureHeights gift package. Participants need not be present to win.

Best of the Heights awards ballots are available on the back page of this issue of the *Heights Observer*, at one of

the many Heights independent businesses or at www.futureheights.org. For more information call FutureHeights at 216-320-1423.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is the executive director of FutureHeights.

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59th Annual Strawberry Festival

Sunday, June 6, 11:15am - 2pm

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Join us for Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10 am.

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Festival focuses on Dugway Brook watershed

Megan Parnell

Lake Erie is the source of our drinking water. The lake provides a valuable fish habitat and a place for boating and swimming. Everyday actions affect the quality of our water.

Dugway Brook is in the Lake Erie watersheds, which means that runoff from the brook ultimately ends up in Lake Erie.

Dugway Brook is located in Cuyahoga County on the east side of Cleveland and the surrounding suburbs. The watershed is approximately nine square miles in size. Most of Dugway Brook has been culverted, which means it flows underground through pipes called storm sewers. The majority of the brook is within the cities of Cleveland, East Cleveland, University Heights and Cleveland Heights. Small portions are within the boundaries of Shaker Heights, South Euclid and Bratenahl.

Here are five easy things you can do to protect water quality:

- 1) Properly dispose of pet waste. Bag it and throw it away in the trash.
- 2) Recycle reusable materials and discard trash properly.
- 3) Wash your car at a commercial car wash or on the lawn, not on your driveway.
- 4) Minimize the use of fertilizers and other lawn chemicals. Always follow the instructions on the label.
- 5) Dispose of used motor oil and antifreeze at a local service station or

recycling center. Never dump automotive wastes into the storm sewer.

Learn more about the Dugway Brook and how it impacts Lake Erie, our drinking water, and our watershed community at the 2nd annual Dugway Brook Watershed Festival on Saturday, June 26, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Forest Hill Park Boat House in East Cleveland.

This free event will feature family-friendly activities, demonstrations, free food samples and arts and crafts for kids.

A tour of the Dugway Brook through Lake View Cemetery will be held in conjunction with the festival. Tours depart the Forest Hill Park Boat House at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., with transportation to and from the cemetery provided by Lolly the Trolley. Register for a tour by calling Lake View Cemetery at 216-421-2665 after May 1.

Activities at the festival will include:

- Composting and rain barrel demonstrations
- Fish T-shirts for kids
- Enviroscape watershed model
- Chef demonstration
- Raffle prizes

Contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Health at 216-201-2001 x1223 or visit www.ccbh.net for more information.

Megan Parnell is an employee of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.



Water from dugway Brook flows to Lake Erie.

Heights Community congress presents "Live Life In Full Color... Especially Green" May 30

Mayethel White

HCC presents "Live Life In Full Color... Especially Green" on Sunday, May 30, 1-4 p.m. at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road in Cleveland Heights.

Join the fun-filled community celebration that highlights the value and richness of different cultures, cuisines and forms of entertainment from across the globe. It's Heights Community Congress's 10th international festival.

"Living Life In Full Color... Especially Green" will focus on sustainability issues from a local, regional and global point of view. Attendees can enjoy a ride on a Segway, attend a mini-workshop on

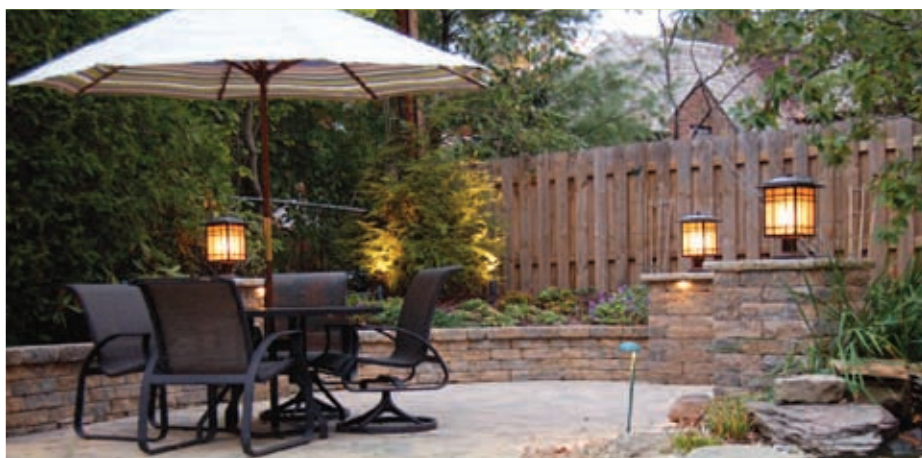


water reclamation, gather information about bicycling, community gardens and more.

The indoor festival will also feature an international folk songs performance, Singing Bowls from Tibet, arts and crafts, door prizes and refreshments for sale.

For more information, visit www.heightscongress.org or call HCC at 216-321-6775.

Mayethel White resides in Cleveland Heights and is the vice chair of the Heights Community Congress Board of Directors.



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More than 160 people partied to the music of Sarah's Girl at the Great Lakes Science Center on April 24. Guests enjoyed food and drink and cheered the winner of the 2010 Carolyn Grossman Award for extraordinary commitment to families and children. Terri Davis, the director of Family Health at Beech Brook (right), received this year's award. She is pictured with Carolyn and Rick Grossman.

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Old is the new green

Kara Hamley O'Donnell

Citizens in Cleveland Heights join thousands across the country to celebrate National Preservation Month this May. "Old is the New Green" is the theme of the month-long celebration sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Preservation Month spotlights grassroots preservation efforts in America. It is observed by small towns and big cities with events ranging from architectural and historic tours and award ceremonies, to fund-raising events, educational programs, and heritage travel opportunities.

Here in Cleveland Heights, Preservation Month will be observed in part through three free events cosponsored by the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission, FutureHeights, and Cleveland Heights Historical Society. All of these free events take place at the

Cleveland Heights Historical Center at Superior Schoolhouse, 14391 Superior Road. Parking at the schoolhouse is limited to the elderly or those with disabilities. Parking for all others is at the Cumberland pool parking lot, just across Euclid Heights Boulevard.

Thursday, May 6, 7 p.m. (space limited; preregistration required, 216-291-4878) "The American Home Interior: Treatment & Transformation," a slide lecture by Kerrington Adams, senior historic preservation specialist for the Cleveland Restoration Society. Explore the ever evolving American interior over a fascinating 100-year period, beginning in the 1850s. Major emphasis is on stylistic trends from Classical Revival, Victorian Aesthetic Period, Arts & Crafts, Colonial Revival, and Mid-Century Modern.

If you own an old house and are in the midst of your own transformations,



Historic interiors is the subject of May 6 lecture

you've likely wondered about appropriate treatments and furnishings. This presentation will help you find inspiration for period interiors.

Saturday, May 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. "Space for Place: Event One," Ursuline College Students for Historic Preservation Association; curated by Jessica Wobig, Space for Place director.

Space for Place is an art lecture series that provides local and regional artists with historical venues to showcase their endeavors. Historic preservation is active critical thinking about human action, thoughtful consideration about the social needs of the past, present, and future.

Space for Place: Event One offers live music, photography, video documentaries, and refreshments. Participants include artists whose work captures the presence of the built environment and the industrialization of our culture.

At 3:30, John Quinn presents his experience in photo documentation, preservation, and saving a Parma landmark, the Henniger House.

At 4 p.m., Tom Kondilas screens a 20-minute excerpt from "PolyCultures," a documentary that portrays Greater Cleveland's diverse communities coming together to grow a more sustainable and equitable food system.

Matt Lenz follows at 4:20 with several video shorts, offering a lyrical interpretation of art and preservation (live sound from Eric Koltnow).

Thursday, May 20, 7 p.m. (space limited; preregistration required, 216-291-4878) "Cleveland Heights' National Register Historic Districts," slide lecture by Chris Roy, Cleveland Heights Historical Society president. Most Clevelanders are aware that, of all the area's suburbs, Cleveland Heights has one of the richest and most interesting histories. The city has many neighborhoods recognized by the National Register of Historic Places. Armed with scores of old photographs and historic tidbits, Chris Roy leads a virtual tour of Cleveland Heights' most interesting historical areas, all of which are now—or are slated to soon become—part of the National Register. Learn more about National Preservation Month at www.PreservationNation.org/Preservation-Month.

Kara O'Donnell is the historic preservation planner for the City of Cleveland Heights.

Help for those who lost a loved one in the Haitian and Chilean earthquakes

Paige Boyer

Emotional support is available for those who lost family members in the Haitian or Chilean earthquakes at the Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Bereavement Center.

"Losing a loved one in a natural disaster such as these devastating earthquakes can shatter one's sense of well-being," said Diane Snyder Cowan, bereavement center director. "Seeking individual counseling or a support group can help."

In a traumatic loss, grief can be compounded by fear, anger, shock, helplessness and sometimes horror. These reactions can make coping with the trauma overwhelming. Reactions may appear immediately after the sudden tragedy or it may take days or even weeks before feelings surface.

In addition to the emotional effects, physical symptoms may appear such as changes in eating or sleeping habits, nausea, thirst, headaches or tremors. Any of these physical symptoms may indicate the need for a physician's evaluation.

"It is vital to remember when you're experiencing this type of grief that you

aren't going crazy," said Snyder Cowan. "These reactions are normal. There are times when professional assistance is necessary, and we're able to offer that help."

The Elisabeth Severance Prentiss Bereavement Center is a service of the Hospice of the Western Reserve. Counseling is available on a sliding scale and support groups are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact the center at 216-486-6838, located at 19201 Villaview Road, Cleveland, or visit www.hospicewr.org. Clients may also be seen at the Warrensville Heights office at 4670 Richmond Road, suite 200.

Hospice of the Western Reserve is a community-based, nonprofit agency providing comfort care and emotional support to seriously ill adult and children and their families, regardless of disease or ability to pay. Care is provided wherever the patient lives: in the home, a nursing facility, our hospice residential facility or a hospital.

Paige Boyer is the communications and media relations specialist for the Hospice of the Western Reserve.

Observer spotted in Hawaii



Annalena Weissman of Cleveland Heights, a sixth grade student at Ruffing Montessori School, pauses atop Haleakala Volcano on Maui to catch up on the news from back home.

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Three Local churches join to celebrate Easter sunrise at Lake View Cemetery

Arleen Twist

Where else can you hear a sousaphone played by one who once dotted the "i" in *Script Ohio*, but at sunrise in Cleveland Heights on Easter Sunday? Bob Windle, of Shaker Heights, the i-dotter, who in 1960, in the fall of his senior year at Ohio State University, is that sousaphone player. He has been playing his instrument as part of a brass band for seven years at the Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by three local United Methodist Churches and open to all early risers.

The idea for a sunrise service at Lake View Cemetery originated in the mid 1980s with the Rev. Sally Dyke of Church of the Redeemer (S. Taylor Road in Cleveland Heights). She and a church member decided that the cross monument of the John L. Severance family, at the crest of the ravine east of the Garfield Monument, would be the ideal location for an Easter service. By the mid '90s, South Euclid Hillcrest United Methodist Church (S. Green Rd.) and Church of the Saviour (Lee and Bradford roads in Cleveland Heights) had joined Church of the Redeemer, to carry on the tradition. The Rev. Elizabeth Nau (Hillcrest), the Rev. Daniel Bogre (Saviour), and the Rev. Karen Graham (Redeemer), led the 2010 sunrise worship service.

When Easter occurs after daylight savings time has begun, people begin to gather in darkness a little before the 6:30 a.m. starting time. This year after headlights were turned off, the brilliant half moon helped guide worshippers



Easter-band: Paul Stroud, III, and Laura Wadsworth, trombones; Lydia Benish, French horn; Bob Windle, Sousaphone; Nicholas Rossi, Tuba; Pete Evangelista, trumpet; Lisa Wadsworth, worshipper; Bill Benish, baritone horn; Tony Evangelista, trumpet.

to the Severance Cross. Gradually, as the glow before dawn became brighter and as the brass band began to tune up, friends and neighbors recognized each other and stood close together against the morning chill. A few, less able to stand, brought chairs, and some brought

their coffee mugs.

Adding to the music of the brass band were the birds. A flock of Canada geese added their quacking to the band's music as they flew overhead, a woodpecker added its drumbeat, and numerous smaller birds provided treble

accompaniment.

This year, the Easter Sunday weather was relatively mild. Many will remember the Easter of 2008, when the temperature was far below freezing and snow was on the ground. Yet the service that year was well attended, attesting to the appeal that being in the garden early Easter morning has for many Christians. In 2010, as the final prayer was said and the final hymn was sung, the sun had risen, signaling the beginning of a glorious Easter Sunday.

The three sponsoring churches invite everyone to the April 24, 2011, sunrise service on what may prove to be an even warmer Easter day.

Arleen Twist is a 45-year resident of Cleveland Heights and a member of Church of the Saviour.

Miracles Happen Run/Walk to raise funds for breast cancer research

Adrienne Petrella

The second annual Miracles Happen 5K Run/Walk is set for Sunday, May 23 through the scenic streets of Cleveland Heights.

The event will benefit the Diana Hyland Miracle Fund, whose mission is to advance research for recurrent breast cancer—focusing on new theories, trials and treatments aimed at managing the cancer and extending lives.

The Miracle Fund was created in memory of Diana Hyland of Shaker Heights who sadly lost her battle with breast cancer on Oct. 27, 2008.



Left to right is: Kathleen Stefanski (co-chair), Ned Hyland (founder of the Diana Hyland Miracle Fund), Jane Bacon (co-chair), Brendan Ring (owner of Nighttown) and Cleveland Heights Mayor Ed Kelley.

Every dollar raised goes toward research at University Hospitals Ireland Cancer Center, which is dedicated to innovative treatment and promising research with the ultimate goal to cure cancer.

Registration starts at 11:15 a.m. at Nighttown restaurant, 12383 Cedar Road. The 5K Run/Walk and 1-mile Family Fun Walk will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m. (rain or shine). Runners and walkers will follow the route through Cleveland Heights ending back at Nighttown for the post-event gathering. Awards will be presented at 1:45 p.m. followed by light fare and brief remarks.

The entry fee is \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the event. Participants under the age of 14 are \$10. The entry fee includes light fare, a T-shirt and a souvenir water bottle donated by University Hospitals. (T-shirts are available to the first 300 registrants.) Awards will be given to the top three male and

female overall and top three in the following age groups: 12 and under, 13-15, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and over.

Participants are encouraged to gather pledges from friends, family and coworkers. Those participants who raise \$250 or more will receive a Miracles Happen lapel pin.

To register or for more information about the Run/Walk, visit HMA Promotions at www.hmapromotions.net, call 216-752-5151 or e-mail hma@hacs.net. Deadline for preregistration is May 14. Online registration is available on the University Hospitals website, <http://bit.ly/9Rb7eG>.

For more information about the Diana Hyland Miracle Fund, visit www.dianahylandmiraclefund.org.

Adrienne Petrella is a senior at John Carroll University and a resident of University Heights.



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Lita Gonzalez honored

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Reaching Heights honored community volunteer Lita Gonzalez for her work with the PATH (Parent Ambassadors to Heights) program.

Gonzalez started the program in March 2003 to help familiarize new and prospective parents with Cleveland Heights High School. Each year since, PATH's volunteers, who are parents of current Heights students, give tours of the high school when it is in session and answer prospective parent's questions.

"The first year we expected to do five tours," said Gonzalez, "and ended up having 39 parents contact us. Our hope was that direct experience with current high school parents would counteract any negative perceptions prospective parents might have and give them an opportunity to discuss any concerns openly and honestly."

Reaching Heights presented Gonzalez with its 2010 Friend of Public Education Award at its annual spelling bee last month.

The award honors citizens and institutions who "embrace our shared responsibility for the success of our



Lita Gonzalez with Reaching Heights director Patrick Mullen.

public schools," says Executive Director Patrick Mullen, "Their example reminds us that, together, we can improve the lives of our students, families, and community."

"Getting this award was a very special honor," said Gonzalez. "I truly believe our school district is an important part of the vitality in our community. It deserves our support and nurturing. Every time I step into the high school I can feel the energy. I see exceptional creativity among the students and passion from the teachers and staff. The learning that is taking place is top notch, and I love to show it off."

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights. Lita Gonzalez serves on the FutureHeights board of directors.

JCU's nonprofit masters program

Degree helps students pursue dreams of helping others

Amanda Oliveri

In these times of layoffs and cutbacks, you can't avoid the advertisements and stories suggesting that now is the perfect time to go back to school. However, it's not quite that simple: it could mean incurring large amounts of debt, taking away time from job hunting and networking, or eating up the remaining time you have with your family. But it is possible to find the right program for you. Jana Longworth Nassif, currently a knowledge center manager for a global mergers and acquisitions firm, did just that.

As an economics undergrad at Bowling Green University, Nassif had hoped to take her experience into the nonprofit sector after graduation. But her first opportunity was a for-profit position, and she accepted an offer from National City Bank. Nassif adjusted her plan: gain experience in the corporate world and then transfer it to the nonprofit sector. Six years and a promotion later, she decided it was time to make that move.

Previously, Nassif had returned to school briefly in an attempt to obtain an MBA with a nonprofit focus, but was forced to stop when her employer changed the rules for tuition reimburse-

ment. So she already knew that going back to school could be expensive. On top of the cost, it was going to be time-consuming. She decided to pursue a masters degree part-time and searched for a program where she "would get the same benefits going part-time as a full-time program would offer."

After reviewing several schools in the area, Nassif chose John Carroll University. "I always liked the school, and the tuition break was fantastic," she explains. John Carroll University is currently offering a 40-percent tuition reduction for masters in nonprofit administration students. "I also felt that the connection to Boler [JCU's business school] was very important."

Nassif also considered the courses offered. "I found that other schools were either focused in one specific aspect of nonprofits, or they didn't offer the same courses and benefits to part-time students. JCU caters to working adults and offers everything to all students in the program."

To find out more information about John Carroll's Nonprofit Administration Program, go to www.jcu.edu/nonprofit.

Amanda Oliveri is administrative assistant for John Carroll University Nonprofit Administration Program.

Deming's Forest Hill neighborhood listed on National Register of Historic Places

Kara Hamley O'Donnell

On April 23, the National Park Service listed Grant Deming's Forest Hill Allotment Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places.

The effort to designate the Forest Hill Allotment as a historic district, headed by Cleveland State University history professor Mark Souther, began in spring 2008.

The district lies generally in an area bounded by Euclid Heights Boulevard, Washington Boulevard, Lee Road and Coventry Road.

With 654 major structures, the district is the largest in Cleveland Heights to achieve National Register status. It is the seventh such district in the city and follows the Inglewood Historic District, which was listed in 2009.

Grant Deming, brother of Euclid



This unique house is one example of the eclectic architecture found in Grant Deming's Forest Hill.

Golf Allotment developer Barton Deming, conceived the idea for Forest Hill shortly after the turn of the 20th century

and named it for John D. Rockefeller's estate three decades before Rockefeller developed his own Forest Hill subdivi-

sion on the Cleveland Heights-East Cleveland border.

Deming's Forest Hill, now 101 years old, features a curvilinear street plan designed by Fred A. Pease, who also laid out the Van Sweringens' Shaker Village. Its architectural eclecticism—melding Arts and Crafts, Tudor, Colonial, Prairie, Neoclassical, and other influences—typifies the period designs found in Cleveland Heights and across the nation in the 1910s and 1920s.

The district's oldest house, completed in 1909, is the original Grant Deming homestead on Redwood Road behind Zagara's Marketplace. The Deming house and Coventry library, also in the district, are Cleveland Heights landmarks.

Kara Hamley O'Donnell is the historic preservation planner for the City of Cleveland Heights.

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Tips from the home repair trenches

Allison Urbanek

As we enter home repair season, my phone rings more frequently. The city is alive with a buzz of repair hysteria (as I lovingly refer to it). Violation lists from the city inspectors are on their way to anxious homeowners, and the melting snow has revealed exterior repairs in need of attention. Here are a few tips I can share with residents who may be experiencing some of these springtime rituals:

Don't put off till tomorrow what can be done today. Home repairs that aren't fixed sooner rather than later will only lead to more extreme issues down the line. Keep an eye on things. If something doesn't seem right, get it checked out in a timely manner.

Do your homework. Whether you decide to contract out a repair or do the work yourself, look online or at the library to get information about the project. Home Repair Resource Center has a repair library with handouts,



HOME REPAIR RESOURCE CENTER

DVDs, and videos that offer information on the best materials and repair techniques to use. The more information you have, the better. You will be a more informed consumer when dealing with a contractor or a supply company. Get several estimates and always check references. The City of Cleveland Heights has a list of registered contractors, and the Home Repair Resource Center has several contractor books that are filled with evaluations to help you make your choice.

Money doesn't grow on trees.

As with many things, you never know what to expect regarding the costs of repairs. It is always best to search out the options that are available to you in your community. For residents of Cleveland Heights who have a low-to-moderate income, Home Repair Resource Center offers HUD-supported repair grants and low to no-interest loans for home repairs, as well as a loan guarantee that can help homeowners with credit issues obtain bank financing. These benefits are designed to make home repairs more affordable.

There are also several loan programs available through local banks, such as the Home Enhancement Loan Program (HELP), which reduces the current market interest rate by 3 percent; and the Heritage Home Program, provided through the Cleveland Restoration Society. Either of these loans will help with repairs, enhance your curb appeal, provide a low interest rate, and much more. Both are available to homeowners of any income who can qualify for a conventional bank loan.

Don't be fooled. Pay your contractor only for work completed or value received. You work hard for your money, so don't watch it walk away. Always make sure that you are happy with the completed job before paying the contractor. Make sure that if the work needs a permit, that it passes inspection.

These are just a few tips. Please call 216-381-6100 or visit www.hrrc-ch.org for more helpful hints.

Allison Urbanek is the financial programs counselor at Home Repair Resource Center.

Community Housing Resource Fair May 15

Jessica Schreiber

Looking for ways to get the most out of your housing dollars? Do you know how to protect your rights as a renter? Is now a good time to refinance your home?

To answer these and other questions of concern to Heights homeowners and renters, the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Family to Family Collaborative is hosting a community housing resource fair at the Cleveland Heights Community Center on Saturday, May 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Special workshops are planned on such topics as: keeping your home in good repair, best practices in looking for rental properties, home financing issues and other housing related topics. Numerous community agencies, including the Ohio Benefits Bank, which offers food assistance, and the Medicare Savings program, will host information tables.

Food and childcare will be provided, and the event is free and open to the public.

The Cleveland Heights Community Center is located at 1 Monticello Boulevard (at Mayfield Road).

For information call Arlene Castenada at 216-320-9520 ext. 2.

Jessica Schreiber serves on the board of trustees for the Home Repair Resource Center.

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Side by Side

Kathy Dawson

Q: My wife and I have two children, ages 12 and 14. Lately, we find we are arguing more and more about our kids. For example, our son will ask me if he can go somewhere or do something and when I say “No,” he’ll go ask his mother and get a “Yes.” As soon as this happens my wife and I start arguing. How do we stop this from happening?

A: This is a common scenario in a lot of households with children. Kids pick up pretty quickly on the slightest difference between their mom and dad’s parenting approach. It doesn’t take too long for a child to sense which parent tends to say “Yes” more than “No.” Naturally, that’s the parent the child will gravitate toward when he or she wants something.

The track record shows that you and your wife may not initially agree on how to respond to your child’s wish, so from now on, do yourselves and your child a favor by saying to him or her, “That’s an interesting idea. We will talk about that and get back to you.” Make sure you give your child a specific time you will respond back, whether that’s an hour or the next day.

One of the best gifts you can give your children and your relationship is to use the pronoun, *we*, generously. Using this tiny, yet powerful word sends a clear signal to your kids that their mom and dad work in tandem. This pronoun also acts as a reminder to you and your wife that you’re not the enemy—you’re on the same team.

Kathy Dawson is a Cleveland Heights author and relationship coach. Send anonymous questions to this column to kathy@kathythecoach.com. To learn more, visit www.kathythecoach.com.

Coventry Street Arts Fair is June 17

On Thursday, June 17, from 6-9 p.m., thousands of people will come to celebrate on Coventry and you’ll be a part of it. Last year more than 12,000 people visited the fair in just one evening to enjoy music, food, shopping and socializing. If you are an artist, local shop or nonprofit organization, you can secure a 10x10 space for only \$35 (or \$15 for nonprofit organizations that are not selling anything). The Coventry Street Arts Fair is a great place to sell your work, promote your activities and reach a great diversity of people from around the corner and across town.

Be sure to sign up soon. For more information and an application, e-mail Steve at bigfunstays@yahoo.com.

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Dig in and plant a tree

Douglas Freer

Spring and fall are great times of year to plant trees and other landscape plants. Before digging in, take time to select the right tree for the right location, to ensure your planting is successful.

Ten steps for planting a tree:

1. Transport with care: Transport your tree from the nursery by covering the canopy to avoid windburn. To avoid damaging fragile roots, do not bounce or drop the root ball. Keep the root ball moist if you’re not planting immediately.

2. Dig In: Dig your hole twice as wide as the root ball and just slightly shallower than the height of the root ball. Scuff and roughen the sides of the planting hole. Compact the bottom of the hole so the tree won’t settle lower.

3. Remove the container: Remove any plastic container from the tree before placing it in the hole, and separate and loosen circling and dense roots. For balled and burlapped trees, cut and remove the top of the burlap and twine away from the trunk.

4. Select the right planting height: Find the trunk or root flare where the roots meet the trunk, generally where the trunk becomes wider before going into the soil. You may need to scrape the soil back to find the root flare if it is buried inside the root ball. Set the top of the root flare to be approximately 1/2 to 1 inch above the surrounding grade. If you must add soil to the planting hole, be sure to compact it before installing the tree.

5. “Face” the tree: Orient the preferred side of the tree to a prominent viewpoint, such as a patio or window of the house. When moving the tree, lift it from the container or root ball and not from the trunk or branches.

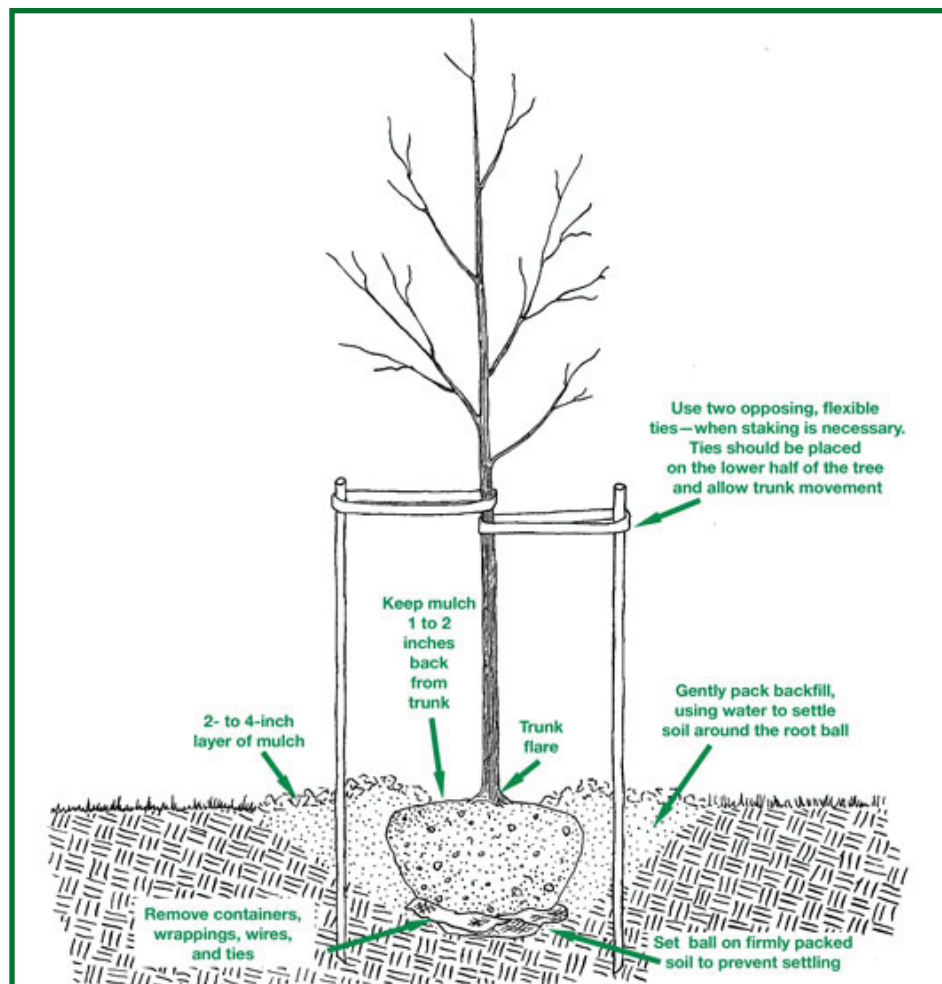
6. Plumb the tree: Once the tree is in the hole ensure that it is standing upright. Adjust the root ball until the tree is plumb and then pack soil under and around the root ball to secure it.

7. Improve the soil: Improve the native clay soil in our area with soil amendments like compost or Sweet Peet mulch. Mix one part amendment to three parts native soil.

8. Backfill: Pack in the soil as you backfill around the tree by compressing the soil after every few shovels of soil. This will remove air pockets which will help to stabilize the plant.

9. Water: Water only after backfilling is completed and the soil is compacted. Create a berm around the base of the tree larger than the root ball so water is concentrated around the tree and does not run off. Water more heavily for the first watering, then continue monitoring the tree for water, adding generally one gallon of water per caliper inch plus one gallon. For example, a 2-caliper inch tree will need three gallons of water once or twice a week, depending on the season and soil conditions.

10. Mulch: Cover the planting area with 1.5 to 2 inches of bark mulch, but keep it away from the trunk of the tree. Mulch moderates the soil temperature, helps to maintain moisture, reduces weed growth and prevents a hard crust



DOUG FREER

from occurring on the soil which prevents water from getting into the soil.

Before you plant a tree, know where your utilities are located. Call Ohio Utility Protection Service (OUPS) at 811 or 800-362-2764 at least 48 hours before digging to have utility lines marked.

For more information, visit

www.lawnlad.com, www.treesaregood.com or www.arborday.org.

Douglas Freer is a Cleveland Heights native and the owner of Lawn Lad, Inc., which provides residential landscape services in the Heights area. Call 216-371-1935 or visit www.lawnlad.com.

connections II

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