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CHHS honors distinguished alumni

Anita Kazarian and Evan Komito

On May 6, ten new members were inducted into the Cleveland Heights High School's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. The 30th class of inductees represented outstanding achievement in the arts and sciences, medicine and law, education, public service and broadcast journalism.

Honored at this year's induction ceremony were composer, performer, and teacher Daniel Abrams ('48); surgeon and educator Christopher Brandt, MD ('76); broadcast journalist and play-by-play announcer Eric J. Collins ('87); art history and Africana studies professor Lisa G. Collins, PhD ('85); Hubble scientist Rodger E. Doxsey, PhD ('65); board chairman for three financial companies and civic leader David H. Gunning, JD ('60); director of housing and community development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Lizbeth A. Heyer ('82); assistant U.S. attorney Michelle L. Heyer, JD ('80); public school educator and activist Marian Katz Magid ('53) and developer and general counsel David E. Weiss, JD ('79).

As varied as the honorees' accomplishments have been, their acceptance speeches contained some common themes: that their achievements, as one honoree put it, "reflect on Heights High



Lizbeth Heyer ('82), Eric J. Collins ('87) and Michelle Heyer ('80) are three of ten new members of the Hall of Fame.

as much as [they] reflect on me."

It was fitting that Eric J. Silverman ('87), president of the CHHS Alumni Foundation, opened the evening's festivities by introducing the award-winning Heights High Barbershoppers and Singers. Several of the awardees pointed to the Heights music programs as being pivotal for them, teaching that "something truly special" can come from discipline, hard work and the gift of community.

For these high achievers, classwork at Heights High prepared them for a lifelong love of learning, instilling a curiosity and a willingness to experiment. But even more, it was the exposure to nontraditional classes that the inductees

cited as giving them a sense of moral responsibility—that "one individual can make a difference in another's life."

What do distinguished alumni think characterizes a Heights High education? They would probably all choose one word: diversity. Eric Collins spoke about how it allowed him "to be comfortable in my own skin, to be understanding of others, and to be a person of the world." Michele Heyer related how "the five minutes between classes felt like the whole world in one place." Lizbeth Heyer said it "taught me about myself" and how "a united community can overcome the unbelievable."

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Organizing 'beyond block parties' is topic of FutureHeights forum

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Concerned about public safety in areas with vacant and abandoned homes, people in Heights-area neighborhoods are beginning to organize for change in a way unseen since the 1970s. In recognition of that, the FutureHeights annual meeting this year will feature two community organizing professionals for a frank discussion titled "Beyond Block Parties: Building Safe, Livable Neighborhoods in the 21st Century."

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 30 at 7 p.m. at the Heights Rockefeller Building, at the corner of Mayfield Road and Lee Boulevard. It is free and open to the public.

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Workshop launches Sustainable Heights

Jessica Schreiber

Sustainability was the theme of a meeting of Cleveland Heights and University Heights movers and shakers at Forest Hill Church on a recent sunny afternoon, the last Friday of April. Limited to 50 invited guests, the workshop brought together a diverse mix of individuals and organizations for a half-day meeting designed to launch Sustainable Heights.

The meeting was an outgrowth of Cleveland's sustainability summit last August. An ad hoc group of Heights leaders who attended the Cleveland summit decided to plan a similar process for the CH-UH community. The workshop titled "Sustainable Heights: An Appreciative Inquiry" was a first step.

Rev. John Lentz, the charismatic leader of Forest Hill Church, opened the program by inviting participants to engage and celebrate, appreciate, connect, network and model. The meeting was endorsed by newly elected UH Mayor Susan Infeld and CH Mayor Ed Kelley. Both touted their city's environmental policies and green projects, such as recycling, rainwater collection, community gardens, a solar paneled bus stop and a retrofitted community center.



Deanna Bremer Fisher, Barbara Zoss and State Representative Barbara Boyd discuss sustainability.

Cleveland Heights has a long history of promoting sustainability. Lana Cowell, who helped found Heights Community Congress more than 38 years ago, said, "In those days a sustainable community meant racial equality, fair housing and good schools. Today we talk more in terms of protecting the environment, preserving our natural resources and reducing our carbon footprint." Cowell defined a sustainable community with three E's: environmental soundness, economic prosperity, and social equity.

Meetings that focus on environmental issues often include a lot of hand wringing. This was not the tone of this workshop. Deanna Bremer Fisher, director of FutureHeights, encouraged participants to "celebrate the things we are already doing right."

The real work began when Mark Chupp, assistant professor at CWRU's Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, led a process called "appreciative inquiry," which explores the positive forces in a community when it functions at its best. From "what is" comes the possibility of "what could be."

Gathering first in pairs, then in small groups, the participants identified the assets of Cleveland Heights and University Heights. The result was an impressive inventory of local treasures that included a well-educated multicultural population, large stock of beautiful historic homes, locally-owned businesses, proximity to University Circle, numerous cultural resources and organizations, an excellent library system and "passionate people actively

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CH embarks on strategic plan update

Vince Reddy

The City of Cleveland Heights is planning a major update to its strategic plan, a framework document for the longer-term initiatives of city government. The first such plan was drafted in 1988, with the most recent update being put into place in 1993.

The strategic plan addresses many of the same topics considered during the city's visioning process of several years ago, but the two initiatives are not directly related. The recommendations that emerged from the 18-month-long visioning process, carried out with sig-

nificant citizen participation beginning in 1999, are summarized on the city's Web site, at www.clevelandheights.com.

According to Richard Wong, director of planning and development for Cleveland Heights, the strategic plan now under construction will be more ambitious than previous versions and more accessible and useful to residents and business owners. The goals set out in the new plan will have explicit actions associated with them. Citizens will be able to view the strategic plan online and assess progress from their own viewpoints.

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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



I find myself on a lot of unofficial e-mail lists. Like the one that circulates around my neighborhood sharing information about break-ins and other crimes that arrive in occasional dispiriting spurts. Or the list of concerned parents weighing in on proposed changes in the way the middle schools are scheduled. Or the list of ideas for preserving 140 acres of green space that started soon after Oakwood Country Club went under.

Some of these lists are small—15 or 20 people. Others consist of a close circle of people who are likely to share similar viewpoints, because what's more gratifying than a one-sided debate?

There is nothing wrong with discussions like this. They're the same discussions that have forever taken place over backyard fences, front porches or sidewalks. But like those low-tech conversations, today's digital klatches strike me as more talk than action.

When I receive such an e-mail, I can't help thinking it would do more good if the sender also posted it in a public place, where others, who might value the information, could find it,

learn from it and discuss it.

Good news! That forum exists. It's an electronic bulletin board attached to the *Heights Observer* website at www.heightsobserver.org/deck/. Anyone may register to use it. Anonymous postings are not allowed, ensuring a level of accountability and, dare I say it, sanity that you won't find on busier bulletin boards.

I'll admit the forum is not built on a very sophisticated software platform at this time, and traffic there tends to be somewhat sleepy. Even so, a couple thousand people visit the forum each month. So the next time you have information so important that it cries out to be shared, send it to your usual list. But don't stop there; share it with the rest of us, too.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Millikin is a matter of money

I agree that Millikin should be put to use. But, I encourage the school board to think carefully about its decision, as it is a matter of money.

If Milliken is sold to Mosdos Ohr Hatorah School it will not bring in any tax dollars because the school is a nonprofit organization.

Leasing Millikin to any qualified tenant seems reasonable; the building would be occupied and bring in some revenue for the schools. But, selling Millikin in this market does not seem wise. If Millikin must be sold, I hope the board sells it to a private enterprise; that would bring in some much needed tax dollars every year.

Leasing, not selling would be the best decision for the entire taxpaying community—the best use not just for today, but for a few years from now when our economic difficulties work themselves out.

Fran Mentch
Lynne Park Drive
Cleveland Heights

Heights moms started soccer league

I enjoyed Gay Eyerman's recent story "A league of their own" chronicling the "mom soccer" league in Cleveland Heights. It only had one small but important error: Sean Sullivan didn't start the league; it was started by the moms themselves.

I know this because I occasionally watched as they played—sometimes with my younger son as a ringer (no dads allowed) at 8 a.m. on Saturday mornings at Roxboro Middle School. They asked Sean to coach the team later. It's a small thing, but credit where credit is due. And really, what would mom say about a guy getting credit for "mom soccer?" See mom run: go mom go!

Michael Schoop
Coleridge Road
Cleveland Heights

Thanks, from RTA

From April 30 to May 5, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

(RTA) hosted the International Bus and Paratransit Conference, where more than 1,000 attendees from throughout North America pumped more than \$2 million into Cleveland's economy. To borrow a baseball term, Cleveland hit a home run.

Between the many conference events, the Indians' home stand and NBA playoffs, visitors felt an energy that would have made any major U.S. city envious.

Blocks of rooms at downtown hotels were sold out, as was the trade show at Public Auditorium. Throughout the week, attendees commented that the city's downtown is clean, safe and a happening place.

Not only did many RTA employees take advantage of important training programs, but RTA also walked away with the "gold," when the agency received the Outstanding Safety Program Award among North America's largest transit systems.

RTA Board President George Dixon and CEO and General Manager Joe Calbrese expressed their thanks to everyone who made this event so special.

Jerry Masek is the media relations and publications manager for RTA.

Put Millikin to good use

Tucked away in the corner of a quiet street between Severn Road and Severance Center, stands the building and land that used to house the Millikin Elementary School in Cleveland Heights. For years, the school was attended by the children of many local residents and had been an asset to the community.

Since 2006, the building, owned by the CH-UH Board of Education, has been vacant. The maintenance and upkeep of the unused property is costing the district tens of thousands of dollars a year. In early 2007, the board placed the Millikin property up for public auction. At the time, the highest bid was well below what was considered "fair market value" and the board determined the best course of action would be to wait until the property can be sold for an amount closer to that value.

While all members of the board want what is best for the district, and its students, there are several opinions on what that would be. The Millikin property can be placed up for public auction again and sold to the highest bidder, a long-term lease can be established or the property can remain vacant until the opportunity presents itself to be sold closer to the "fair market value."

I am of the opinion that the CH-UH Board of Education should either sell to the current highest bidder, or arrange a long-term lease that would ensure the Millikin building is put to use to serve the local residents. Aside from the expense of maintaining the property, the continued disuse will cause the value to decline. The Millikin building has already been vandalized and vacant properties of this size tend to become a place for individuals to gather and engage in inappropriate behavior. There are educational institutions that are willing and eager to purchase or lease the property, if given the opportunity.

Simcha Geller
Severn Road
Cleveland Heights

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How to walk to school

Joan Spoerl

When my husband and I moved to Cleveland Heights from Chicago nearly six years ago, we assumed we would send our son to the local public school. We wavered after hearing mixed messages about the schools. We agonized over the question: Should we send our son to private school? After three years of back and forth, I still wanted to send my son to the public school. My son could make friends in the neighborhood. He could walk to school. I wanted to invest my energy in the community and its schools.

Now the decision is made; my son will go to Fairfax Elementary in the fall. Any doubt that lingered was replaced by inspiration after I read, *How to Walk to School: Blueprint for a Neighborhood School Renaissance*, by Jacqueline Edelberg and Susan Kurland. It describes the work of families in a Chicago community and a visionary school principal. Together, over five years, they transformed the Louis Nettlehorst Elementary, one of the worst performing public schools, into one of the best. Kurland was the new principal and Edelberg a neighborhood mom.

Our situation is far rosier. However, the book, *How to Walk to School*, inspires with an outline for thinking big and doing better, for more effectively mobilizing and organizing our community to support our schools and the students who attend them. If we work together,

we will benefit our students, our neighborhoods and maybe even our property values.

I challenge us to live up to the model of the Nettlehorst community. Ours is an impressive and progressive community with a broad and beautiful mix of people and resources. Let us bring the best of all we have to offer to better support all of our schools.

Join us for the following events sponsored by Reaching Heights, the Heights Libraries, the Heights PTA Councils and others.

- Jacqueline Edelberg will speak at 5 p.m., June 15 in the auditorium of Cuyahoga Community College, Metro campus for the City Club in the City. There is no charge, but reservations are required. Call the City Club at 216-621-0082.
- Reaching Heights will hold a community meeting with Jacqueline Edelberg at 7 p.m. on June 16 at the Lee Road Library.
- Heights Libraries will hold discussion groups on July 14, and August 19, both at 7 p.m. in the Brody/Nelson Room at the Lee Road Library.

To get involved, or for updates, contact Joan Spoerl at joanspoerl@sbcglobal.net

Joan Spoerl, M.A.T., is an early childhood consultant and proud resident of Cleveland Heights.

SUSTAINABLE HEIGHTS continued from page 1

working to better the community.”

Participants compiled a list of existing networks and associations. The breadth of local groups—nonprofit organizations, colleges and universities, medical centers, philanthropic foundations, religious institutions, city governments, public and private schools—surprised even longtime community members.

Exhilarated by all the good news about the CH-UH community, participants entered the final phase: making decisions and determining the next steps. The facilitator asked if there was support for a Sustainable Heights summit. The response was an enthusiastic “yes!” Were participants ready to sign up for short-term action teams? Almost everyone signed up for at least one team.

A range of short-term action proposals percolated. Could we bring homes up to code, and repair blighted homes and neighborhoods? Extend recycling to businesses? Use the former Oakwood Country Club property as a public green space? Participants wanted to see safe bicycle routes to schools and green jobs development for local businesses.

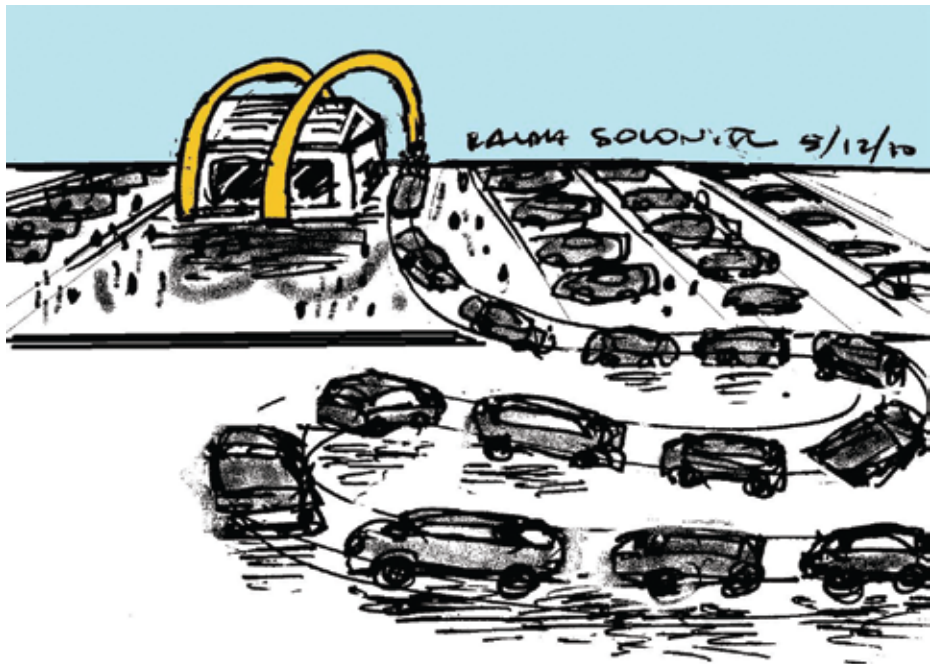
One participant pointed out that good schools are the prerequisite for sustainability. If Heights schools fail to attract and keep families, our commu-

nity is not sustainable in the long run. CH-UH School Superintendent Doug Heuer spoke about efforts underway to apply for a federal innovation grant that could yield up to \$30 million to establish a district-wide Wi-Fi network. The network would support classroom programs and 24/7 learning for every student in the district. Too many kids in the CH-UH lose access to the Web when they go home.

Community activist Sarah Wean gave a PowerPoint presentation on community asset mapping, in which a community creates a map showing its green resources and cultural offerings. The proposed community “green map” would be accessible on the Internet and iPhone.

Closing remarks by Julian Rogers, executive director of Education Voters of Ohio, summed up the overwhelmingly positive response to the workshop. With palpable energy in the room and broad support to continue to the next phase, it was clear that Sustainable Heights is a project on the move.

Jessica Schreiber, a Cleveland Heights resident, is an attorney mediator with Schreiber, O'Donnell & Schwartz Mediators, LLC. She serves on the boards of HRRC and the Mediation Association of Northern Ohio.



McDonalds in University Heights

Ralph Solonitz

I can't wait for the new McDonalds to be built where the Waterway carwash wasn't.

Why just last Saturday I took myself into a golden arches for a cup of coffee. It was so entertaining counting the cars that lined up from the drive through window out into the street for several blocks.

It took me back to the days when I so much enjoyed counting railroad cars at crossing gates, one hundred eighty five . . . one hundred eighty six . . . you get the picture.

I know the economy sucks, and we need cash . . . But wait, wasn't this a failed effort at Cedar and Lee years

ago? Didn't the police post a guard in that McDonalds to keep the peace?

Listen! If you really want to raise lots of cash for a tapped-out city budget, how about a beverage store that sells drugs? Oh, wait, we already have those . . . CVS and Walgreens!

Cleveland Heights resident Ralph Solonitz (artist/writer) was born in 1947 in Munich, Germany, the son of Holocaust survivors. He began doodling very early on . . . first in German and a few years later in English. His father gave him motivational advice: "stop your doodling, you are wasting time and will amount to nutting." Fast forward 55 years, thousands of dollars in therapy and he still can't stop doodling.

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Stan Soble



Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

APRIL 19, 2010

All council members were present.

Heights Arts announcements

Peggy Spaeth, executive director of Heights Arts, informed council that the organization is celebrating its tenth year of arts in Cleveland Heights and announced the reappointment of Gail Bellamy as the city's Poet Laureate for 2010-2011. One of Bellamy's projects, called Poetography, showcases a sample of regional poets paired with photographers to create poems and photographs about aspects of Coventry Village.

Contract awards

City contracts have been awarded to Bridge-stone/Firestone Company for utility billing services, to RVI Inc. for catch basin and inlet cleaning, and to AAA Pipe Cleaning for visual inspection of storm and sanitary sewers through the use of televising/video.

Construction bidding process changes

Council approved an amendment to the city code to decrease the minimum price for improvements performed with a construction manager from \$1,000,000 to \$75,000. Council Member Mark Tumeo explained that, under this exception to the State of Ohio's usual double-bid process, which requires separate bids from project designers and contractors, the construction manager would contract on a "design-build" basis. A design-build proposal is a flat bid including both design and the hiring of contractors and subcontractors. Tumeo stated that the design-build process would be more flexible, expeditious and cost effective.

Solar bus shelters

A grant of \$100,000 in federal funds from the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority will be used to pay Solar Impact LLC for design-build services for solar bus shelters and landscaping at the intersections of Mayfield and Coventry and Mayfield and Warrensville Center roads.

Housing funding assistance

Council authorized an agreement with the county to continue funding assistance for purchasers of one- to four-family homes and condominiums through the end of 2012.

Tax abatement

Because of the depressed housing market, council passed legislation extending the availability of property tax abatement for another three years for properties in the Expanded Severance Community Reinvestment Area (BlueStone, Severance Place, and the Courtyards of Severance) and in the Boulevard Community Reinvestment Area (specified properties fronting on Euclid Heights Boulevard and Lee Road)

East Derbyshire Improvement Program

Council changed the terms of the East Derbyshire Neighborhood Improvement Program to allow two-family structures to be sold as such, as long as one unit will be occupied by the owner, who would be eligible for a \$15,000 improvement grant as well as tax abatement on property value increases due to renovations.

LWV Observers: Katherine Solender and Lisa Peters.

MAY 3, 2010

Council Member Bonita W. Caplan was absent.

Property donated to community garden

Council authorized the transfer of vacant city-owned property at 924 Woodview Road to Hope Gardens, an Ohio nonprofit corporation, for expansion of a community garden currently operating on the adjacent property. The produce from this garden goes to local food banks and hunger programs. The city originally purchased the property donated under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Dollar Home Program and demolished the house that was on the site.

Traffic codes to conform to state laws

Council amended parts of the city's traffic code to be consistent with changes in the comparable state laws. One example:

- The code on child restraint system usage was changed to require that certain children between the ages of four and eight be secured in a booster seat and to make violation of a booster seat provision a secondary traffic offense.

Recycling consortium

Council authorized the city manager to participate in a consortium to obtain bids for recycling services. The consortium, facilitated by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District, includes the cities of Beachwood, Cleveland Heights, Independence, Lyndhurst, Pepper Pike, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, University Heights, and Warrensville Heights, and the villages of Moreland Hills and Woodmere.

EfficientGovNow

Council Member Ken Montlack called attention to the EfficientGovNow grant competition sponsored by the Fund for Our Economic Future. Among the



10 finalists is a collaborative project between Cleveland and the 16 member-municipalities of the First Suburbs Development Council, which would create a Solar Special Improvement District to finance, through special assessments, the purchase and installation of solar electricity generation projects on industrial and commercial properties within Cleveland and the member municipalities of FSDC, including Cleveland Heights. Three winners, to be determined by a public vote being held through May 31, will be announced in early June. A total of \$330,000 in grant dollars will be made available. Residents can visit the EfficientGovNow website (www.efficientgovnow.org) for more information.

LWV observers: Katherine Solender and Kirsten Karakul.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online 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 "lwv-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.

Engineer and activist Sharon Cole enters council race

Janine Boyd

Sharon Cole—an engineer with nearly 20 years of experience in the private,

nonprofit and public sectors, and who has worked at the local, state and federal levels of government—has entered the race for Cuyahoga County Council in

District 10. District 10 consists of Cleveland Wards 10 and 11, Bratenahl, East Cleveland and Cleveland Heights.

"I am anxious to devote my energy and skills toward putting Cuyahoga County on a path to economic growth, and restoring the faith and confidence of residents in their elected representatives," said Cole.

Raised in East Cleveland by her grandparents after the tragic death of her mother, Cole's life and career have been defined by optimism, perseverance and a commitment to excellence. She earned engineering degrees from Purdue and Case Western Reserve universities; managed technology projects for large corporations at Andersen Consulting, formerly one of the country's top consulting firms; and served Greater Clevelanders in a number of roles in the nonprofit and public sectors, where Cole believes she has found her true calling.

Inspired to enter the public sector by the late Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, on whose staff she served as the economic and business development liaison, Cole is now working to earn support from many of the same constituents she served as a Congressional staffer.

"I owe it to my community to put my passion and ability to work in a greater capacity," said Cole, who has worked for several elected officials during the last five years. "While I know firsthand that serving constituents and being

a behind-the-scenes advisor and staffer is important work, I realize that to make real change, I have to take greater risks."

Cole has always made time for community and political involvement. She worked on campaigns for several elected officials, including State Rep. Barbara Boyd, East Cleveland Council President/Mayor Gary Norton, East Cleveland Municipal Judge Sandra Walker, and Representative/Councilman Eugene R. Miller. She has served as a member of both the Cuyahoga County Central and Executive committees, and was a delegate to 2008 Democratic National Convention.

In addition, she is a member of public service sorority Delta Sigma Theta, where she serves on the social action and technology committees. She serves on the board of WECO, an organization working to increase financial literacy among low-income people, and is an active member of her block club.

Janine Boyd is a lifelong resident of Cleveland Heights, an advocate for children with special needs, and a volunteer in Sharon Cole's campaign.



Sharon Cole

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BLOCK PARTIES continued from page 1

“With the increase in vacant homes and seemingly unsupervised youth in my neighborhood we’ve experienced an increase in crime or at least the perception of crime and neglect. There is a greater concern with neighborhood safety,” said Oxford neighborhood resident Judi Miles. “It takes more than getting together once a year to bring back a sense of security.”

Last summer, Miles and her neighbors went beyond the annual block party by organizing biweekly communication with the City of Cleveland Heights Police Department and with one another to share information.

The Oxford-area effort is just one example of neighbors coming together to work on an issue of common concern. A similar effort is taking place in the Severance-area neighborhood, and a citizen’s forum on public safety in the Fairfax neighborhood last year drew more than 200 people.

That’s why Kirk Noden, executive director of the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative, and Trevelle Harp, executive director of Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope, were selected to keynote this year’s FutureHeights meeting.

“The mortgage crisis and recession

have heightened the challenges that our community faces,” said Gina Cheverine, president of FutureHeights. “We hear every day from members of the community who feel it personally, and they want to get involved; they don’t want to wait for someone else to do something about it. We felt it was important this year to address that desire. I think we have two perfect speakers to help people see what community activism looks like and what it can accomplish.”

Noden has worked for neighborhood-based community organizations for more than 12 years, tackling such issues as abandoned buildings, school overcrowding, crime and safety, affordable housing, youth resources and quality of public parks. He founded and directed the Albany Park Neighborhood Council in Chicago, an alliance of churches, mosques, schools, and ethnic associations; and helped found Birmingham Citizens, a coalition of 33 institutions in England’s second-largest city.

Since 2006, Noden worked with faith-based organizing efforts in Youngstown, Cleveland and Cincinnati, and consulted with the Raymond John Wean Foundation on the development



Kirk Noden and Trevelle Harp

of its Capacity Building Initiative.

Harp is a 1995 graduate of Cleveland Heights High School. He heads NOAH, an East Cleveland-based nonprofit that brings together diverse urban and suburban populations, and empowers residents to use community organizing to improve the quality of their lives.

The group has organized East Cleveland residents around the issues of abandoned and vacant housing, framing the issue for the most recent mayoral race and hosting the signing of a memorandum of understanding between East Cleveland City Council and the Cuyahoga County Land Bank. The group’s community roundtable discussions and mayoral candidates forum

created new opportunities for residents to be heard.

For more information and to RSVP, call 216-320-1423, e-mail info@futureheights.org or visit www.futureheights.org.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights.

Is your street having a block party this summer? You can have copies of the *Heights Observer* delivered to your party and can schedule a FutureHeights volunteer to talk to your neighbors about writing for the *Observer*, hosting a green asset mapping event and other topics. Contact us at info@futureheights.org or 216-320-1423.

Isn’t it time you got engaged?

We know you care about what happens in the Heights and we want to join with you to continue to provide great programs, such as the *Heights Observer* community news, that enable Heights residents to become engaged and make a difference.

Now is the time to become a member of FutureHeights, and assist us in making a difference.

We have been given a terrific opportunity, through an anonymous donor, to double your gift to FutureHeights this summer. Act now—this offer is good only through July 15!

FutureHeights is an organization committed to engaging citizens in order to cultivate healthy and sustainable Heights neighborhoods, just like yours. How do we do this?

• **Supporting Our Local Economy** FutureHeights brought American Independent Business Alliance co-founder, Jeff Milchen, to the Heights

in March to discuss the importance of independent businesses to the local economy. FutureHeights is now working with a steering committee of local business owners to form a Heights Independent Business Alliance.

• **Creating a Vibrant and Sustainable Future for the Heights** FutureHeights cosponsored the Sustainable Heights initiative that brought together community leaders to discuss how the Heights could become the greenest suburb of a Green City on a Blue Lake. We are now leading a Green Assets Mapping project to identify, promote and connect the green environmental, social and economic aspects of our community.

• **Promoting Civic Engagement** FutureHeights will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, June 30. Keynote speakers Kirk Noden of the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative and Trevelle Harp of the Northeast Ohio Alliance of Hope will

present “Beyond Block Parties: Organizing for Safe, Livable Neighborhoods in the 21st Century.” Come and learn how you can GET ENGAGED!

• **Building Community Partnerships** FutureHeights is partnering with Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District to publish the high school’s *Black & Gold* student newspaper quarterly in the *Heights Observer*. This partnership will give the *Black & Gold* greater distribution throughout the Heights and, for the first time, an online presence. In May, FutureHeights partnered with Reaching Heights, the nonprofit that supports the public schools, to print their newsletter in the *Heights Observer*.

FutureHeights is an efficient, grassroots organization, housed above the Cedar Lee Theatre with only one staff person. FutureHeights relies heavily on individual contributions from people like you to stay afloat.

We appreciate your need to be dis-



Litz Gonzalez is engaged!

cerning with charitable gifts during this challenging time. No donation is too small.

FutureHeights engages citizens. Engaged citizens build strong communities. Please take a minute to fill out the form below, write your check and send it to FutureHeights today.

You can also donate online at www.futureheights.org or www.heightsobserver.org. Or call 216 320-1423 with your credit card.

Thank you for your support!

☐ Yes, I want to get engaged with FutureHeights! Enclosed is my tax-deductible, membership gift in the amount of:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Activist \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> Squeaky Wheel \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Publisher \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

* I/We want to support citizen-driven, community news. With a \$50 or more gift, FutureHeights will send 12 issues of the *Heights Observer* directly to my home or business.
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Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

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Signature of Card Holder _____

Other ways to support FutureHeights and ensure our work into the future:

- ☐ **Volunteer.** I/We wish to volunteer with FutureHeights in the following capacity _____
Please contact me/us.
☐ **Matching Gifts.** My employer will match my donation. Company name: _____
☐ **Bequests.** I/We have remembered FutureHeights in our will or estate plan.
☐ **Appreciated Stock.** Please contact me/us to arrange for my/our gift in the form of a stock transfer.

Mail To: FutureHeights, 2163 Lee Road, #103, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Thank you for your gift! FutureHeights is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Visit us at www.futureheights.org. For financial information visit www.guidestar.org.

University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

APRIL 19, 2010

Phillip Ertel was absent.

Boarded-up home on Jackson Road

Pat Baskin and Kathy Haase-Falbo, residents of Jackson Road, expressed concerns about a home on their street that has been boarded up for two years. Mayor Infeld said she had received e-mails from other Jackson Road residents about the problem. Building Commissioner David Menn reported that many notices had been sent to the owner, but no responses had been received, and that the structure had been broken into several times. Council unanimously passed an ordinance declaring this home a public nuisance.

Earth Day Partnership with JCU

Mayor Infeld mentioned that the city was partnering with John Carroll University on Earth Day to encourage bicycle riding.

Commendation for Robert Perko III

Council commended Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Perko III for writing a successful FEMA grant proposal for \$275,000 to buy a new pumper truck. The city will contribute \$13,750 toward the purchase.

New smoke detectors

Council commended Executive Captain Steve Ineman for his role in securing new smoke detectors for the city. Mayor Infeld reminded residents that the fire department would install smoke detectors in homes for free and, if asked while on the premises, would perform a home safety check.

AAA Flexible Pipe Company awarded bid

Council awarded a bid of \$33,600 for the 2010 Catch Basin, Inlet, Sewer Cleaning and Televising Program to AAA Flexible Pipe Company.

2010 emergency sewer repairs

City Engineer Joe Ciuni asked council to award a bid of \$127,00 to the lowest bidder, Thomas A. Hall Excavating Company, for sewer repairs. Council asked Ciuni to get new estimates that would expand the amount of curb repairs.

Tree Side Landscaping Company

Council awarded a bid for the 2010 tree planting to Tree Side Landscaping Company. Service Superintendent Christopher Vild explained he had asked for bids that could be extended to 2011, thus saving the city money and receiving slightly larger trees. After receiving six bids he recommended this company's bid of \$42,080. The company would plant 42 species at an average cost of \$165 per tree.

Vehicle for refuse collection

Council passed a motion to advertise for bids for a stock scooter-like vehicle for refuse collection. City mechanics said the \$20,000 in the budget for a new scooter was insufficient. They were confident that they could retrofit a stock scooter within the budget to meet the city's needs. A new scooter, with no retrofitting needed, was estimated to cost \$23,000 to \$24,000.

Overpayments for Cleveland water

Finance Director Jennifer Esarey discovered overpayments for Cleveland water between Novem-

ber 2008 and February 2010 because expenses had not been filed correctly. The city will receive a reimbursement of \$67,000.

LWV observer: Carol Gibson.

MAY 3, 2010

Councilman Steven Bullock was absent.

McDonald's on Warrensville Center Road

Mayor Infeld announced that McDonald's officials, seeking to open a store on Warrensville Center Road south of Cedar, would meet with the Board of Zoning Appeals on May 12 and the Architectural Review Board on May 13. Notices were sent to business owners on Warrensville and surrounding neighbors.

Saybrook rain garden

The rain garden along Saybrook Road, on the western edge of the city administration campus, will be planted this week. Services Superintendent Chris Vild would then like to plant a garden along Silsby Road to help filter the runoff water from the pavement before going to the catch basins.

2010 General yard nuisance abatement

Council approved a motion to formalize the selection of landscaping contractors to cut grass, trim bushes, and remove debris for homeowners who are not in compliance with city laws. The contractors are responsible for billing and collecting payment from the homeowners. Any unpaid bills will be applied as a lien against property taxes.

Waterline replacement

Council awarded the contract for the Dysart, Eardley and Tyndall roads waterline replacement



to Noce Enterprises, Inc.. The City of Cleveland Water Department funds all work. The project, bid at \$603,216.90, is to be completed within 120 days. The city will use City Watch to notify residents of the upcoming construction.

Council awarded Terrace Construction Company the contract, bid at \$726,609.40, for Ashurst and Barrington roads waterline replacement.

Flushing of hydrants

Fire Chief John Pitchler announced that they will begin flushing hydrants this week and next. Residents will be notified via City Watch the day before flushing is to be done on their street. Residents can use their cell phone number for City Watch, but will have to log on to the website to enter their information.

Registration of vacant and foreclosed homes

Building Commissioner David Menn reported that the recent ordinance requiring registration of vacant and foreclosed homes was proving to be effective. The city has sent out 19 letters to property owners and received 11 registrations with fees paid.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.

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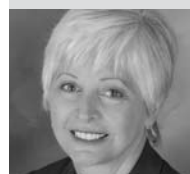


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Does UH need a capital budget plan?



"Do not wait until you are thirsty to dig a well," says an old Chinese proverb.

This proverb assumes thirst is a human condition, water comes from wells, and digging wells is hard work. Not work you want or can do when it is too late. In other words, plan for the future.

What is the plan for University Heights 5, 10 or 15 years from now? We know we will have to replace garbage and fire trucks, repave streets and repair water lines. Do we have a plan? Have we decided the priorities? Do we know how this plan for the future will be financed over the next 5, 10 or 15 years?

The answer to all of the above is no. We have no plan. Some ask why we can't just use the annual operating budget as we've always done. The annual operating budget handles the daily nuts and bolts of running the city—paper clips, salaries, electric bills. It does not provide the multiyear framework needed to fiscally plan for the purchase, repair or replacement of big-ticket items.

A capital budget plan provides that mechanism and is essential to a city's future. It identifies projects, prioritizes them and creates a fiscal plan to provide funding. What are capital projects? They are essential public purpose items of long useful life, infrequent and expensive purchases, replacements or repairs.

Capital budget plans reflect how a city sees itself in the coming years. These investments make our city a healthy, safe, economically viable and physically attractive place in which to

live and work.

Why not just save, then purchase essential public capital items, such as garbage collection trucks, fire trucks, police cars, street paving, curbs, sewer/water lines? Did you save cash for 30 years before buying your house? No, you are paying off the mortgage while living in your house. We didn't wait to save \$682,200 before repaving University Parkway. As Councilman Sims stated, "It is not unusual or improper to borrow funds to complete a capital improvement project."

As taxpayers, we want to know our taxes will be used to ensure a bright and independent University Heights. A published capital budget plan will document that.

In 2008, KeyBanc Capital Markets made a presentation to council on certain aspects of funding municipal capital expenses. Has public discussion or action been taken on the merits of a capital budget plan? Not to my knowledge.

Some say we do not need capital planning for our city—that regionalization, mergers and outsourcing will reduce our need to pay for these expensive items over time. But we know, there is no free lunch. We will pay—If not to University Heights, then to another city or entity.

Let us not wait until it is too late to dig our well, or to plan for the big-ticket items required to run our city. Let us begin a capital budget planning process now.

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

CH-UH Public Library Board Meeting highlights

APRIL 19, 2010

Complaint about a book

Director Nancy Levin said that the library had received a complaint about the book *Prey* by Lurlene McDaniel. The library will respond.

Building and Repair Fund resolution

Board President Glenn Billington submitted, for consideration, a resolution that the board direct the fiscal officer to transfer an average of 6 percentage of the total appropriated general fund expenditures into the Building and Repair Fund in the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 for the purpose of maintaining and optimizing all facilities. The board has established four priorities for these activities: current and deferred maintenance issues, the 2007 Facilities Assessment by Studio Techne, energy conservation, and the Noble Library renovations. Board Member Kevin Ortner indicated that he liked the percentage approach and suggested 6 percent for Building and Repair and an additional 1.7 percent for Technology. The resolution passed with that addition.

Community garden

The board accepted a grant from the State Library in the amount of \$5,600 with a local match of \$3,600. This "Growing Communities" grant will be used for community gardening at all of the libraries. The only garden last year was at Lee Road. In addition to sharing the harvest at the "Take Some, Leave Some" tables, staff will take surplus to the Heights Emergency Food Center.

Fund for the Future of Heights Libraries

The board adopted the Articles of Incorporation



and the Code of Regulations for the fund. This fund has been established at the Cleveland Foundation with \$10,000 of seed money donated by the Friends of the Library. Every opportunity will be taken to publicize the fund and to encourage community members to consider serving on the board, which will initially comprise seven members.

Friends of the Library planned activities

Friends will have tables at the June and July Coventry Street Fairs, the August Cedar Fairmount Fair, and the August Cedar Lee Rock the Block Fair. Another "Wise Up: a Literary Fundraiser" will be held at Nighttown in October. The Mega Book Sale will be held Nov. 11-14.

Website visits

In March, 37,134 visits to the website came from 93 countries and territories, mostly from the United States but also from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Iran, Italy, Hong Kong and others. These statistics are gathered by using Google Analytics.

LWV observer: Anne S. McFarland.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at www.heightsobserver.com. See disclaimer on page 4.

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Return library books by July 1 and reduce your fines

Tonya Davis

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library prides itself on being responsible with taxpayer dollars. In light of this, the library tries to ensure that overdue materials are returned. Sometimes, a gentle reminder is needed to get those items back to the library.

In July, Heights Libraries will join many Clevnet (Northeast Ohio area) libraries in using a "materials recovery service" to facilitate the return of overdue items. Library staff hopes that this will greatly reduce the number of items that have to be replaced. For popular items, such as bestselling books and DVDs, it will also result in hold requests being filled faster. If items are lost, the library asks that the customer pay the replacement cost in a timely manner.

Get ready; changes go into effect soon.

Starting in July, if you owe more than \$25, and your payment is more than 60 days overdue, the recovery service will be contacting you.

If you have lost items or owe fines, and would like to set up a payment plan, you may arrange to do so with a CH-UH library staff person.

June Amnesty: Return overdue items by July 1 and receive half off your fines. This offer is good through the entire month of June.

Because this is the end of the school year, many books will undoubtedly turn up in crowded lockers, and perhaps spring cleaning will uncover DVDs under the couch. Please return overdue items immediately or settle your account with a circulation staff member.

If you have questions or comments, please call 216-932-3600 or e-mail Nancy Levin, Heights Libraries' director, at director@heightslibrary.org.

What's going on at your library?

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400
Teen Knitters Guild,
 Tuesdays, June 1 & 29, 4 p.m.
You Gotta See This Movie Series,
 Thursdays, June 3-24, 2 p.m.
Step Out of Time,
 Thursday, June 10, 7 p.m.
Make A Splash,
 Monday, June 14, 7 p.m.
Ukulele Jam,
 Tuesday, June 29, 7 p.m.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665
Stay and Play,
 Fridays, June 4-25, 9 a.m. to Noon
Mystery Evening: The Color of Blood
 by Declan Hughes,
 Thursday, June 10, 7 p.m.
Fit, Fun, Frolic,
 Tuesday, June 13, 7 p.m.
Stretch a Tuba,
 Tuesday, June 29, 7 p.m.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
Knitting Night at Lee Road,
 Tuesdays, June 8 & 22, 7 p.m.
Meet the Author: Jan Johnston,
 Wednesday, June 9, 10 a.m.
A Pocketful of Music,
 Thursday, June 10, 7 p.m.
Library Luau,
 Sunday, June 13, 1 p.m.
Coupon Swapping,
 Sunday, June 13, 2 p.m.
Scenes from Marilyn Bianchi
Playwriting Festival,
 Thursday, June 24, 6:30 p.m.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700
Story Stop,
 Wednesdays, June 2-30, 10:30 a.m.
The Senior Spot,
 Wednesdays, June 2-30, 12:30 p.m.
Karaoke Wednesdays,
 Wednesdays, June 9 & 23, 4 p.m.
Little Songs,
 Thursday, June 24, 7 p.m.

Community gardening project grow a little, give a lot

Tonya Davis

If you like gardening and fresh produce, then the library's the place to be this summer. Thanks to a federal grant, the library's Growing Communities program will create vegetable gardens at each of the branch libraries and, at harvest time, will share the bounty with

residents. The library needs volunteer gardeners to help. If you're interested in helping, call the library or e-mail Heather Howiler at hhowiler@heightslibrary.org.

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

Splash into summer reading

Tonya Davis

Come to the library and dive into this year's summer reading program, Make a Splash—Read! The library guarantees that its summer programs will be an ocean of fun for everyone!

Children will receive a prize just for signing up. Families can attend the special performances of a magical musical adventure or take a break from the sun at the Coventry Music & Movies Under the Stars series. School-age children can release their creative energy in a program called Beyond the Book.

Families with younger children can drop in for any of the weekly story-times—Reading Rumpus, Story Stop, or Explorastory. Come to Purvis Park to learn about the environment through stories and ecological activities.

The summer reading program for

teens kicks off with a party—a luau—on Sunday, June 13, from 1-5 p.m. in the Lee Road Library Teen Room.

Teens will make waves this year by reading for prizes. Read as little as 200 pages, or as many as 2,000 pages in books, magazines or *manga* (Japanese comics) to win prizes. Readers who peruse more than 2,400 pages will be entered into the grand prize drawing for a gift card to Target, GameStop or the Cedar Lee Cinema.

Create a work of art inspired by your summer reading and see it displayed in the library at the end of the summer. Your artwork could also win a prize!

Visit the library weekly for exciting programs, great books, stickers and chances to win lots of good stuff. Be sure to celebrate your completion of the summer reading program at the closing party on July 28.

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CH-UH Board of Education Meeting highlights



MAY 4, 2010

All board members were present.

Students honored

Two National Merit and Achievement Scholarship Finalists were honored along with four students who received commendations.

Carlin Jackson was chosen to attend the 2010 Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted at Ohio State this summer.

Mikale Thomas was chosen Promising Young Student by Power of the Pen.

School calendars approved

The board approved the school calendars for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. In 2011-2012 students will report on Aug. 30 and their last day will be June 7. In 2012-2013 students will report on Aug. 28 and their last day will be June 6.

New principals introduced

Superintendent Douglas Heuer introduced two new principals for the 2010-2011 school year. Joseph Nohra Jr. will be the new principal of PRIDE school at the high school and Michael Woods will be the new principal at Bellefaire.

Julie Beers resigns

Julie Beers, principal at Noble Elementary

School, is leaving to head the new Cleveland State University lab school.

Building contracts awarded

The board awarded contracts for the following building projects:

- High school north entry
- Paving at Monticello Middle School and the high school
- Emergency power upgrades at Fairfax and Roxboro elementary schools
- Snack shop at the high school
- Roxboro Elementary auditorium

Donations

The board accepted a \$500 donation to the Robert Soltz Memorial and a truck frame.

LWV observer: Adele Cohn.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.



Francine Barnett taught physical and outdoor education at Ruffing Montessori School.

Innovative teacher Barnett retires after 33 years at Ruffing

Carol Provan

Francine Barnett, who established and ran Ruffing Montessori School's physical and outdoor education department, will retire in June, having taught at the school for 33 years.

With a focus on teaching skills for a lifetime enjoyment of physical activities, Barnett developed a unique and encompassing program for students from 18 months of age through eighth grade.

Including—but going far beyond—the basic team sports model, Barnett's innovative physical and outdoor education curriculum features canoeing, kayaking, archery, rock wall climbing, overnight camping, nature hiking and annual participation in the President's Council on Physical Fitness Award program.

Barnett instituted the school's target archery curriculum under the National Archery in the Schools program, and Ruffing Montessori has competed in Columbus on the state level for the past four years, with this year's middle school

team qualifying to advance to nationals. Involved in the school's annual Great Kids' Race since its beginning 30 years ago, Barnett devised the Great Kids' Obstacle Course to engage and challenge participants under five years of age.

A resident of Cleveland Heights since the 1970s, Barnett operated GymKids, a noncompetitive coed gymnastics program located at Church of the Redeemer, for 25 years. She worked at the Heights YMCA/YWCA for many years, and actively volunteers for the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Camp Ho Mita Koda, a summer camp for young people with diabetes. She is also a certified instructor in numerous outdoor skill areas.

Barnett's retirement will give her, and her husband, Don, the opportunity to spend more time kayaking, hiking, camping, canoeing and traveling—all the things retired physical and outdoor education teachers do.

Carol Provan is the director of development for Ruffing Montessori School.

500+ attend alumni pancake breakfast

Angee Shaker

Gray skies meant green for the black and gold, with over 500 people attending the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation's 14th Scholarship Pancake Breakfast on April 18. Held in the cafeteria and social room at Heights High, attendees enjoyed all the pancakes they could eat, prepared by flapjack purveyor Chris Cakes, along with fresh fruit, sausages, orange juice, and coffee.

Volunteers from the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library staffed the serving line, while Parent Ambassadors to Heights (PATH) gave guided tours through Heights High. Some alumni had not been back to Heights in fifty years, making the tours all the more special.

Outstanding is the word Alumni

Foundation President Eric Silverman used to describe the event. "Between the generosity of our sponsors and the great attendance, this has been another great success. What is really nice is that attendees are staying for quite a while, turning the breakfast into a mini-reunion for some classes."

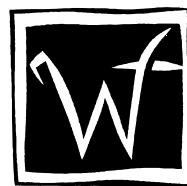
Proceeds from the event fund the scholarships the Alumni Foundation awards to graduating Heights seniors in June. The Alumni Foundation's scholarship program has grown from one scholarship to fourteen, and in 2010 fifteen percent of the senior class applied for one or more of the foundation's scholarships.

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

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Bob Bajko at bbajko@hsbarch.com or John Kallmeyer at jfkallmeyer@sbcglobal.net





COURTESY CH-14H CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Heights High on Academic Challenge

Joy Henderson

On Saturday, May 22, 7 p.m., Channel 5's "Academic Challenge" program featured a team from Cleveland Heights High School competing against Bedford and Midview of Grafton. Freshmen Trevor Coble and Kyra Schoonover, and sophomore and captain Rayven Moss represented Heights High.

The actual competition and taping for the show occurred on April 18. This was the second year that Heights High had a team in the competition. "The team worked very hard to prepare for the competition, and I am extremely proud of the results," said Jim Miller, the team's adviser.

This is a young team, and Miller looks forward to working with the team and

helping members improve in the coming years. "Academic Challenge" features teams of three students from three area high schools who compete for points by answering questions on such topics as math, science, history and current events.

At the end of each program, the points are totaled. At season's end, the three highest scoring teams return for the championship match.

The Heights High team placed second. Midview (Grafton) took first place and Bedford came in third. Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron won the championship match this year. This is the 41st year for Channel 5's "Academic Challenge."

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

Ruffing Montessori School achieves LEED certification

Carol Provan

Ruffing Montessori's recent green facility renovation and construction project has been designated a LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certified building by the U.S. Green Building Council and the Green Building Certification Institute. LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Ruffing's project did more than just replace outdated facilities. Ruffing's objectives were to create the healthiest possible place for students and staff to learn and work and to establish an eco-friendly environment for students to comprehend and carry into the world.

The certification process is rigorous, and adherence to specific criteria is carefully assessed. In the USGBC's point system, Ruffing earned points for sustainable site selection, water efficiency, energy performance, reused and recycled materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation in design. The school earned bonus points for its innovative green curriculum, school-wide green initiatives and exemplary use of recycled materials its new construction project.

What makes a building green? In Ruffing's case, the facility is loaded with green features, including a geo-thermal system that provides efficient heating and cooling; photovoltaic (solar) panels that produce power equivalent to the operating requirements of the geo-thermal system; a living roof for insulation and energy conservation; high efficiency lighting; energy efficient windows;

sun tubes; solar shades; fabric ductwork; low volatile organic compound (VOC) paints, carpet tiles and glues; natural flooring materials; energy efficient appliances; rain barrels; waterless urinals and controlled hand towel dispensers. In its policies and practices, the school promotes recycling, composting, rainwater reuse in classroom gardens, green procurement, nontoxic cleaning products and no-waste lunches.

Ruffing's green curriculum was recognized with a 2009 Northeast Ohio Environmental Award by the Biodiversity Alliance, for an "innovative curriculum that permeates the whole school." Beginning with its youngest students, toddlers, and continuing through eighth grade, the program teaches ways energy can be consumed more efficiently and how human choices help or harm the planet. The school has developed a specific sequenced curriculum, created copyrighted activity-based Montessori-style materials, and uses the building's green features as a working lab. At every age level, students are introduced to increasingly complex ideas centered on sustainability, stewardship and individual responsibility.

Ruffing's LEED project team was led by architect Rick Parker, and included Denk Associates, eQuest Strategies, Facilities Management Concepts, Inc., Ogrinc Mechanical Corporation, Panzica Construction Company and Mike Shaut, the school's board president.

A certification ceremony for the school community is planned for a later date.

Carol Provan is the director of development for Ruffing Montessori School.


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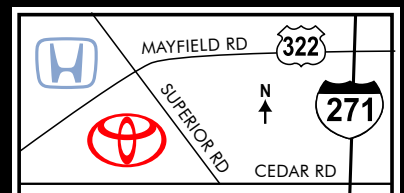
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Swimming in the secret pool



COURTESY FOREST HILL SWIM CLUB

The Forest Hill Swim Club, just a rumor to many Heights residents, has accepted members since opening in 1954. There are membership openings this summer.

Becky Austin

Depending on where you live in the Heights, the existence of Forest Hill Swim Club may be breaking news to you. It took me 30 years to find it.

I grew up in the Fairfax neighborhood and learned to swim in the high school pool. When it was time for my children to learn to swim, we started at the city wading pools and progressed to Cumberland Pool. But the limited hours and many rules required for a large public pool didn't suit us.

I was looking for a pool where we could hang out all day, or have a picnic supper after work and relax until dark.

Then I started hearing rumors of a small swim club in Cleveland Heights. Through friends of friends I was able to track down the Forest Hill Swim Club. It is located at the corner of Monticello Boulevard and Lee Road, on a secluded lot behind Forest Hill Presbyterian Church. The club offers a variety of membership plans for families, empty nesters, singles and young couples.

The club was formed in November 1953 when six resident families—Cornell, Collinson, Harley, Schweitzer, Sotak, and Scott—hatched a plan to convert an empty half-acre plot in their development into a members-only swim club. They convinced then owner, George A. Roose, to donate the property and raised enough money to finalize the site plan and architectural drawings. They broke ground the following spring, and on August 8, 1954, the club opened.

In its original form, the club had a pool, a wading pool for toddlers and a bathhouse. Over the next several years,

the club purchased adjacent properties to include a grassy picnic area, shuffleboard, volleyball and additional parking.

The club was popular in the Forest Hill neighborhood and membership reached the maximum 300-family capacity. New families wishing to join were put on a waiting list, sometimes for up to five years.

The club is a grassroots effort. While financial and operational affairs are handled by an elected board, the members pitch in on maintenance and landscaping.

In the early 1990s I put our family's name on the waiting list and within a year or two we were able to join. It quickly became our second home in summer. We enjoyed the swim lessons, swim team competitions, daily early bird and noon adult swims. There were many lazy days with card games and cookouts. We made friends, celebrated birthdays and invited friends and grandparents. Even as our family routines change, the pool still provides an oasis from the noise and heat of a Cleveland summer—and it's only minutes from home.

It always feels 10 degrees cooler at the pool. There are openings this summer. Maybe you should investigate this gem and then dive in to create some memories of your own.

For membership information, call the club directly at 216-321-5067 during the summer, or send an e-mail to membership director Bob Bajko at bbajko@hsbarch.com.

Becky Austin is a Cleveland Heights resident and member of the Forest Hill Swim Club.

STRATEGIC PLAN continued from page 1

In response to declines in property and income tax receipts in recent years, the new plan will address ways in which city government can increase revenue and maintain or restore services, without further squeezing citizens, who are already paying high taxes.

To this end, the new strategic plan will include a spreadsheet that sets out the prospective benefits to city coffers of specific development possibilities around the city, with an emphasis on development sites owned or controlled by the city, such as Top of the Hill and Meadowbrook Lee. Attention will also be given to sites that are privately owned or owned by other units of government, and which may be suitable for adaptive reuse or redevelopment. These sites would include the long vacant Millikin school and the Oakwood club.

Wong states that the new plan will lay out the city's strategies for taking advantage of opportunities—its proximity to University Circle, for example—as well as detail its efforts to combat the deleterious and ongoing effects of the foreclosure crisis. The plan will call for advanced design standards governing renovation and new construction—standards which could influence and improve the quality of design not only within the city's borders, but in neigh-

boring communities as well.

For the first time, the strategic plan will address the topics of energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. In this regard, the plan will complement the city's intention to remove barriers to sustainable development from its building and zoning codes.

The plan will address major transportation topics, such as traffic calming and the "complete streets" idea, which calls for streets to safely and comfortably accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders, not just motorists.

The first two editions of the plan were the work of the city's planning commission, a seven-member body appointed by city council. This time, after planning department staff and the commission develop draft content for the new strategic plan, it will be forwarded to city council for review and eventual adoption. A draft for public review will be available in June. Wong assures that there will be ample opportunity for citizen participation.

Vince Reddy, an urban planner employed by Cleveland Public Art, is a member of the FutureHeights board of directors and had previously served as zoning administrator for the City of Cleveland Heights.

ALUMNI continued from page 1

School Superintendent Douglas Heuer honored the inductees hard work, commitment, and perseverance, saying they represent a "direct link between our present, past, and future" and are "models of how Heights High graduates can succeed in the world."

A student committee, the Image-makers, selected the honorees from nominations made by the general public. Students did not know the names of the nominees, only their accomplishments. This year's committee consisted of Hannah Apple, Eric Brock, Quianna Charles, Clayton Harris, Emory Polley, Toni Solaru, Eve Tranchito and Kelly

Ward. Hearing from adults who sat in the same classrooms and walked the same halls, they found solid role models for what they can accomplish in life.

For more information about this year's inductees and nomination forms, go to the Alumni Foundation website: www.heightsalumni.org/hof.

Anita Kazarian, a resident of University Heights, is a frequent contributor to the Heights Observer.

Evan Komito (CHHS '65), currently resides in Cleveland Heights after a 35-year hiatus on the east coast.

Join the Racquettes tennis

Gloria Hanson and Gretchen Herbruck

The Racquettes will be hitting those tennis balls again this summer. We encourage women who love tennis and camaraderie to join us from 9 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Cain Park tennis courts. This group has been around since the 1970s and prides itself on its inclusiveness and diversity. We have fun while honing our serves, lobs and cross-court strokes, and we reward ourselves at the end of the season with a scrumptious lunch at a local Cleveland Heights eatery.

We invite you come and see if you would enjoy the tennis and the group.



COURTESY GLORIA HANSON

Members of the Racquettes enjoy a meal at Anatolia Cafe on Lee Road after a morning of tennis.

Sign up at the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center.

Gloria Hanson is a retired clinical social worker and writer. Gretchen Herbruck is a self-employed health care executive recruiter.

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The Black & Gold

Swim Cadets “Save the Day” with annual show

By Julia Gay

The Cleveland Heights High School Swim Cadets held their annual synchronized swimming show in Heights High’s South Pool, March 4-6. The show was entitled “Swim Cadets Save the Day,” with all music set to the theme of super heroes, super powers, and criminal justice. Songs included “Help” by the Beatles, “Unstoppable” by Santigold, “Kung Fu Fighting” by Carl Douglas, “Zero to Hero” by Hercules, “Fighter” by Christina Aguilera, “Ring the Alarm” by Beyoncé, “Up Up and Away” by Kid Cudi, “Defying Gravity” from the Broadway show Wicked, “Staying Alive” by the Bee Gees, “I Shot the Sheriff” by Bob Marley, “I Will Survive” by Gloria Gaynor, and “Superwoman” by Alicia Keys.

Twenty-one girls performed 12 routines, choreographed by the Swim Cadet officers, seniors Hannah Apple and Priya Datta, juniors Nicky Rosenbaum, Elana Berusch and Tali Lugasy, and advisors Joan Bendix and Leora Lugasy.

“Swim Cadets is so much fun,” said Swim Cadet member sopho-

more Anna Wachter. “It brings together girls that otherwise would have never met.”

The Swim Cadets began practicing in late October, starting with swimming clinics and conditioning. According to Apple, co-president with Datta, the team practiced six days a week for two hours. As March 4 approached, the Stage Crew and Swim Cadets worked together, organizing music and lights for the show. Stage Crew member sophomore Nathan Adkins felt, “All things considered, the show went surprisingly well.”

Sophomore Peter Eiger, who attended the Swim Cadets show all three nights, noted that the choreography was well done, the choice of music was good, and the show as a whole was very creative.

Apple believed, with the smoothly run performances and positive feedback from the audience, the team’s hard work paid off. When asked what she loved about Swim Cadets, Apple replied, “I love all of the traditions that we have every year. It’s a lot of fun doing what we do.”



Photo by Julia Gay
Juniors Anna Borkan, Julia Barcus, Lucy Tatar and Madison Apple hold flowers, and pose during the Swim Cadets Show March 4. Hannah Apple, Co-President of the Swim Cadets, felt that the performances ran smoothly, and that their hard work has paid off.

Black and Gold’s merger with Heights Observer

By Margaret Hull

A year ago, I wrote of The Black and Gold’s growing pains as the student newspaper of Cleveland Heights High School moved its production from the classroom setting of a journalism elective to that of a club produced publication. The process was painful: we encountered logistical, technical and financial difficulties as we competed with the allure of other extracurricular groups, sports teams, after-school jobs and the various demands of home and school in order to keep The Black and Gold alive. However, we did it – if not prolifically then, at least, in spirit – when we published two issues last year.

We are now undergoing a new spurt of growth that we are relieved to reveal has no pain attached to it, whatsoever. After receiving an enormously generous grant through the Cleveland Heights High School Alumni Foundation, with Eric Silverman, ’87, as its president, we were able to accept The Heights Observer’s offer of

merging with them as a tri-monthly school year insert. With the start of the 2010 academic year, we will appear once in the fall, winter and spring, providing Heights Observer readers with news about our sports’ teams, music departments, clubs, opinions, politics, social activities and the “comings and goings” of life at Cleveland Heights High School.

We look forward to working with Deanna Bremer Fisher, Executive Director of Future Heights, as well as the rest of her staff, as we embark on this new marriage. We all benefit with this merger: readers of The Heights Observer will become a part of the Cleveland Heights High School community, sharing in our triumphs and defeats. We, in turn, become part of a greater community outside of our school campus.

Winston Churchill once said, “There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction.” We are confident that we are heading the right way.

IMD travels to Cincinnati and Louisville on yearly Tour

By Colin Higgs

From airplanes to tour buses, from Hollywood to Louisville, quite a bit has changed for the Cleveland Heights High Instrumental Music Department from last year’s tour to this year’s. But as both the band directors and the students will testify, the fun was still there.

Each year, students from the department’s two upper groups travel to new destinations where they participate in a number of activities, including clinics and concerts.

This year, the band took a rather small tour, but still had a

great time.

“For a smaller tour, it was one of the best we’ve done,” said band Director Brett Baker. After the extravagance of last year’s tour to California, the band, and its budget, decided it was time for a break. This year, it traded the west coast for stops in Cincinnati and Louisville, KY.

Baker and fellow Director, Daniel Heim, who conducts the orchestra, were pleased with the outcome of the trip. “It was a great balance of work and play,” Heim said.

And according to Baker, “Students really seemed to enjoy the learning part of

the tour, and the fun part of it.”

The directors agreed that the tour can be an effective educational resource for students. The clinics provide a comfortable, yet focused environment for both of the groups to work on their music under the instruction of college level music directors.

For students, the exchange concert provides an opportunity for them to evaluate themselves. Hearing the kind of music that other high school musicians play is a useful way to gauge one’s own ability, and to determine what one can improve on.

“It was really good to get a second opinion on our work,” said sophomore Linnea Fox.

Heim commented on the musical aspects of tour, saying: “It gives everybody a sense that there’s something you can improve on, and that there’s always a way to take music to the next level.”

But tour isn’t just about education. This year’s tour also featured several other activities in the two cities, including a trip to the Cincinnati Zoo, a visit to the Louisville Slugger baseball bat museum, and most prominently, a dinner-dance on a

riverboat ride down the Ohio River.

The activities not only kept students preoccupied, but also kept them all having a good time.

“Tour is always great,” said junior Caitlyn McGaugh, “every year the trip is a lot of fun, and this year was no exception.”

Senior Seth Dumm, known for his love of the English language, put things into perspective: “It was totes-ma-goats. In all seriousness, it was seriously awesome.”

The band directors stressed how tour is not just clinics and concerts, but is also a time to be with your friends, and a time

to acquaint yourself with people you don’t know so well, including the directors themselves.

“Up in front of the class, we’re all business,” said Baker. “There’s not much opportunity to really get to know anybody. On tour, you really bond with the kids, and otherwise, we wouldn’t have that opportunity.”

Both directors say that the tour was a positive experience for all involved.

“I’m definitely looking forward to it next year,” Heim said, “whether it’s something far away, or just right around the corner.”

Editorials

IMD tour to Louisville and Cincinatti is a wonderful experience for instrumental music students

By Lena Console

Loo-ee-vil. Loo-uh-vuhl. Loo-es-vil. Luh-e-vuhl. Luh-vuhl. These are some of the many pronunciations Southerners have for the city of Louisville, KY. We Northerners from Cleveland Heights, OH learned of all these and more as the Instrumental Music Department of Cleveland Heights High School embarked on its annual spring tour. Over spring break, student musicians, directors and chaperones embarked on a three-day long journey to Cincinnati and you guessed it, Louisville, KY (pronounced whichever way is to your liking).

At 4AM on the morning of Tuesday March 30, over sixty teenagers and their sleep deprived parents woke up to pack the car and head for the school to meet the others, whose lack of sleep made them look more like zombies than musicians. After about five hours in buses full of teens who attempted to get some more sleep, the buses pulled up to the University of Cincinnati. Here, the Symphonic Winds and Heights High Sym-

phony each participated in clinics with music faculty members. The clinicians worked the musicians hard on pieces by composers including Saint-Saens, Verdi, Holst, and whoever comes up with Klezmer music. After a mere hour of extensive playing and learning for each group, our playing of each of the four pieces had already improved.

Then we jumped back on the bus to head farther south to Louisville, KY. After a long day of traveling, everybody let loose at a game house and then crashed in a hotel for the night. The amount of sleep each person got that night varied with a mean of five hours and a range from 0-8 hours. But we will cut those sleep deprived hooligans some slack; it was spring break after all, and they spent it at a school-related function.

The second day was just as full, if not more full than the first. Symphonic Winds and the Heights High Symphony each had another clinic at the University of Louisville with School of Music faculty members. While the same music was performed,

the students learned new things from different perspectives, expanding upon their experiences and knowledge as musicians. To show off our hard work and improvement, an exchange concert took place at a local performing arts high school. Both Heights ensembles performed their pieces for the musicians at this high school, and in return they performed a few selections for us. This exchange provided a nice opportunity for the students from both high schools to mingle and share their passions with one another.

To wrap up the day, we had a formal dinner and dancing party on a yacht along the Ohio River. Ever Mr. Heim, the new orchestra director, busted out some moves on the dance floor. (It was pretty gutsy for his first year at Heights and his first tour with the IMD.) Mr. Baker, the band director, remained cool and collected, watching the madness from afar. (But we will get him out of his shell eventually. It is just taking a little longer.)

As we approached the end of

our short but jam-packed tour, we all acted more as tourists, visiting the Louisville Slugger Museum and the Cincinnati zoo. It was a nice way to wrap up the two prior days of grueling playing and concentration. Then we were back on the bus for good old Cleveland, OH. And of course, all the students rushed home to catch up on any homework assignments for the break...

The tour was short, sweet, and to the point. The IMD has devised a new two year cycle. Every other year, the IMD embarks for a more ambitious location (Chicago '07, California '09). In the years in between, the tour is a little shorter and to a closer location (Pittsburgh '08, Cincinnati and Louisville '10). This is not to say, however, that the short tours are less exciting or fun. This year's trip was an excellent balance of performing, learning, and amusement with little time to spare. The IMD does not need to travel long or far to have a good time.

What Do You Think?

What's your take on the eight period days being instituted next year?

Cornelius Pewu, Freshman



Ricky Urminsky, Junior



Codi Steffen, Junior



Cameron Redic, Sophomore



Haethem Rasul, Counselor, Rennissance



It gives us a longer school day, which is annoying, but it gives us an opportunity to take more classes.

It's just too long to be sitting in class.

I don't think it's going to be helpful, because kids are just going to mess around for additional time each day.

It is unnecessary, it is going to cause more problems by grouping worse students together in a classroom.

It will provide more time for students for intervention or study time.

Vocal Music Department's Spring Concert



Seniors and Co-Presidents Austen Perelman-Hall and Seth Ungemach strike a pose as the Cleveland Heights High School Singers perform "I Want You Back/ABC" during their Spring Concert May 21.



Freshmen Midori Marsh and Emily Brock, juniors Mista Craig, Jack Lentz and Rachael Lindsay, and seniors Taylor Reynolds, Sarah Zelman and Bethany Rudy look around during a pause in the Cleveland Heights High School's A Capella Choir's performance in the Spring Concert, May 21.

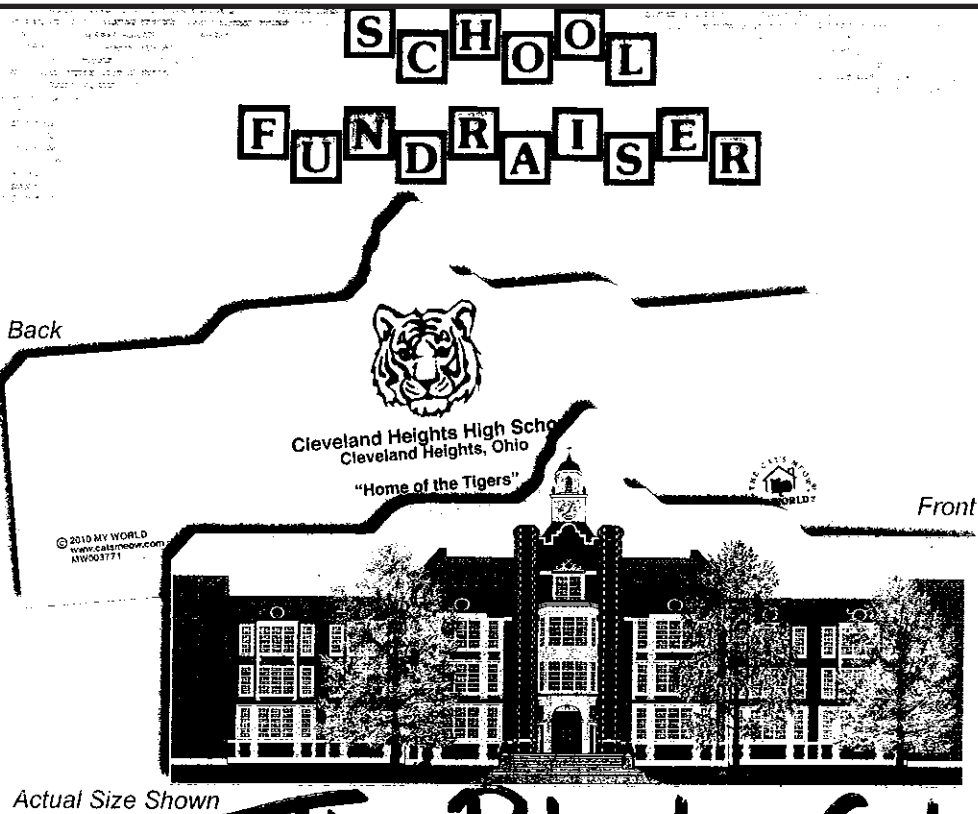


Barbershoppers Rock the Stage

Photo Courtesy of David Perelman-Hall

Juniors Joshua Toombs, Mista Craig, Brian Barron, Jack Lentz and Richard Daniel, and seniors Seth Ungemach and Terrence Aldridge perform with the Heights High Barbershoppers at the Spring Concert, May 21. The Barbershoppers also recently performed at the Cleveland Museum of Art during the Gartner Auditorium's "Opening Nights Festival" April 28, according to Office Manager of the Performing Arts Michael KcKay.

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Atlantic Hockey Junior Leauge Liam Robinson	Emory University Priya Datta	Point Park University Sarah Konishi
Allegheny College Rachel Root	Hapmton University Quianna Charles	Rochester Institute of Technology Jaiye Sampson
Baldwin-Wallace College Dana Walker	Hiram College Damani Hamzah	Seton Hill University Preston Lewis
Baron Institute of Technology Anthony Dailey	Christopher Lariviere Takara Simmons	Tennessee State University Ashley Morris
Bowling Green State University Tamille Harton	Indiana University of Pennsylvania Deven Bray	University of Akron Courtney Avant
Octavia Houston Olivia Houston	Austen Perelman-Hall	Kandesha Barkely Reginald Clark
Erin Jackson Amy Jones	Kent State University Taylor Reynolds	Aisha Gibson Giovanni McCain
Tania Timmons Seth Ungemach	Ciara Roberson Clarissa Sims	Christopher Thomas
Alexandria Williams	Tonisha Vaughn	University of Cincinnati Di'mari Fluellen
Brown University Lewis Pollis	La Roche College Kelli Barnes	Lorin Franklin
Case Western Reserve University Oliver Ernst	Lehigh University Daniella Baxter	University of Dayton Christopher Zirm
Cleveland Institute of Music Matt Zucker	Lincoln University LaChe' Thomas	University of Minnesota Courtney Lovelace
Cleveland State University Alexandria Hamblin	Massachusettes College of Art & Design Eric Brock	University of Oregon Eve Tranchito
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Columbia College Chicago Sarah Zelman	Oberlin College Emily King	Latifa El Jeffrey Jones
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Columbus College of Art & Design Alesha Williams	Ohio State University Hannah Apple	Wilberforce University Mark Crawford
Denison University Benjamin Flox	Amin Assar Seth Dumm	Ashlynn Neal
Eastern Michigan University Nathan Gavin	Reginald Evans II Carl Friess	Wittenberg University Victoria Lee
Brakel Gross Stephan Phelps	Ashley Johnson Erin Morris	Jordan Shoger
	Adeola (Toni) Solaru Davaugh Wagner	Xavier University Bethany Rudy
	Kelly Ward	

This is a partial listing of schools as of June 1, 2010.
A complete list will be available online at www.heightsobserver.org.

Parenting Q & A

Ellen Barrett

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



Q. My husband and I have very different parenting styles. He is much more of a disciplinarian. He expects there to be order, process and consequences. I feel our children (1 and 3 years old) are still babies and we should be nurturing them, not punishing them. He likes more structure and order. I like to see what unfolds and go with it. How can we find balance and determine what is really best for the children in spite of our own ideas?

A. What you are experiencing is a very common parenting dilemma. I often hear that spouses can "agree to disagree" on many topics but then along come children.

Children have a significant affect on how we see the world, how we navigate our daily lives and how we perceive right and wrong. Before children, compromises don't have as much emotional weight as they do when they involve our children.

Thinking about what is best for the children in the long run is the goal, but finding a way for both of you to parent in the way that suits you is also vitally important.

Both of you should feel ownership of parenting. Start by prioritizing. Decide what is negotiable or non-negotiable for each of you. For example: Will you use time-outs? If so, for how long and for what behaviors?

Read a few parenting books that strike a balance, such as *Positive Discipline for Preschoolers* by Jane Nelson or *Discipline: The Brazelton Way, Advice from America's Favorite Pediatrician* by T. Berry Brazelton and Joshua D. Sparrow. Books have a way of stating what you or your husband might be thinking but can't quite express, and they can provide a way for each of you to organize your thoughts.

Then talk together. What can you agree on? Have this negotiation go on behind the scenes so you can present a united and consistent front to your children. This is important so your children learn to predict outcomes and consequences and learn good patterns of behavior.

You and your spouse can combine ideas and approaches to parenting and achieve a great balance that both of you are invested in.

Heights Youth Club: CH-UH alumna back to encourage youth

Eboni Daniels

When I was a teenager, my most anticipated moment was entering Heights High. I was active in the school's capella choir, volleyball team and National Honors Society.

In 2004 I graduated from Heights and left home to attend Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. After graduating in 2007, I returned home to begin graduate studies in social work at Cleveland State University. For my internship, I chose the Heights Youth Club.

As I began my internship, I knew that the kids would be curious about a new staff member. I eased my way into their environment by first observing and then introducing myself. Each day I came a step closer to being accepted.

I focused on learning the children's names, ages and interests to gain their trust. To accomplish the goals of my learning contract, I engaged the children through the Youth for Unity program, which teaches children about diversity through a variety of learning experiences.

Every Monday evening, I met with club members to discuss the topic of the day. Participants acquired a new vocabulary: discrimination, nationality, gender, ageism, sexism and others. We discussed the meaning of these words and their impact on various groups of people. Gradually, the children gained an understanding of issues of inequality that many people face. This knowledge resulted in better social interactions and strengthened relationships among

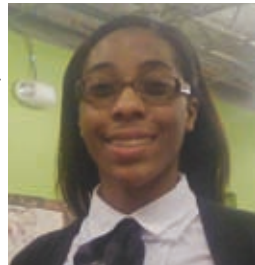
HYC members, which in turn led to a series of activities to benefit the victims of the Haitian earthquake.

Club members learned about Haiti and the devastation caused by Mother Nature. They organized bake sales, an art sale and sponsored a three-day clothing drive to collect garments for the victims. Excited by their progress, they became involved in other club programs. The children came to understand that working toward a goal greater than themselves has its own rewards.

At HYC, I had the opportunity to apply what I learned in the classroom to solving problems at the club. I experienced both the positive and the challenging aspects of being part of a nonprofit organization. Working with my supervisor, the staff and the board of advisors provided me with a good balance of authority, professionalism and friendship.

We didn't have a youth club when I was a Heights student. For children today who feel lost, need academic support, or just love being with their friends, the club is exactly where they need to be. It helped me finish my career as a student, and I know it will help others.

Eboni Daniels received her Master's degree in social work from Cleveland State University on May 15, 2010.



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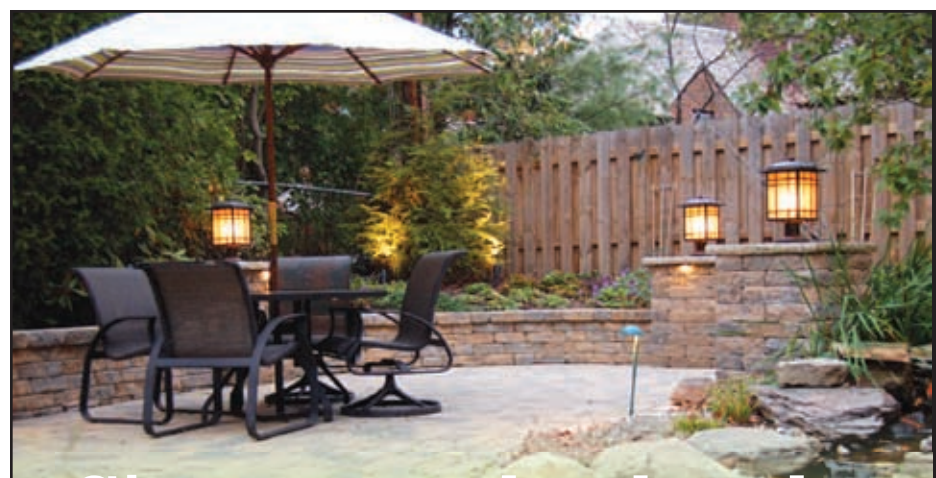
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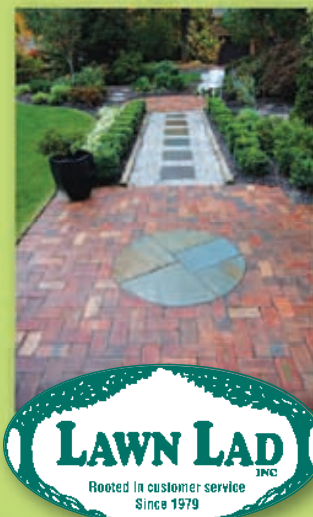
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HYC kids shine at martial arts tournament

David Jones

After months of hard work, Heights Youth Club martial arts students produced impressive results at the Millennium Invitational Martial Arts Tournament, which took place May 2 at Orange High School.

The tournament attracts competitors of all ages, from several states and various countries. Events included demonstrations in self-defense, sparring and both musical and nonmusical forms.

Competitors included Bryce Swoope, a sixth grader at Monticello Middle School; Alexis Carson and Antoinette Bennett, both third grad-

ers at Canterbury Elementary School; Simone Beard, a second grader at Fairfax Elementary School; and Nia Primm, a second grader at Canterbury Elementary School.

The kids began to sharpen their skills six months earlier, when they decided to compete in the tournament. As their instructor, it was my responsibility to prepare them for the event. They knew they would be in competition against the very best in their age groups and that there were going to be winners and losers.

With one exception, the kids placed in the top eight in each of the events they entered. Highlights included a fifth



Martial arts instructor David Jones poses with HYC tournament participants (left to right) Simone Beard, Antoinette Bennett, Bryce Swoope, Alexis Carson and Nia Primm.

place finish in Synchronized Kata Forms for Alexis and Antoinette, a fourth place finish for Antoinette for her self-defense routine, a second place finish for Nia and her partner in Synchronized Kata, and a first place finish for Bryce and his partner Terry Wheeler in Synchronized Kata.

The HYC kids showed discipline and determination in pursuit of these results. They earned the respect of the

other competitors and learned a lesson about the value and reward of hard work.

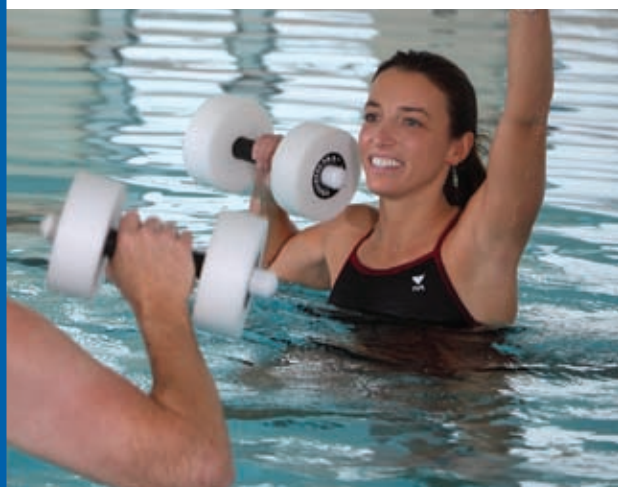
This was a wonderful adventure and I could not have been more proud of my students.

David Jones holds a 4th degree black belt in Tai Shin Dob and is an instructor at the Heights Youth Club, the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center and Gesu School.

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Come to the Park! “Come to the River!”

Margi Griebing-Haigh

Anyone who is familiar with the work of Cleveland Heights resident Jeanette Sorrell knows that her brain fairly sizzles with creative energy. The brain wave responsible for the creation of the period-instrument ensemble Apollo's Fire in 1992 continues to pulse with high theatrical energy as the group expands into more venues throughout Northeast Ohio, the country and the world.

Apollo's Fire makes its Cain Park debut on June 25, and the effervescent Sorrell seems as excited about that debut as she is about her group's European debut in the fall. For Cain Park, she has reworked last summer's hit, “Come to the River,” which played to standing ovations in 10 sold-out concerts. “We are thrilled to be making our debut at Cain Park,” she says. “It will be such a joy to connect with our neighborhood community in this way—with music that is full of human stories and emotions.”

“Come to the River” was inspired by Sorrell's encounter with the Revivalist culture as a 15-year-old pianist in a small Baptist country church in Virginia. The beautiful harmonies of the shape-note hymns, the passionate singing of the congregation, and the sense of communal ecstasy when someone came forward to be “saved” made quite an impression on her. “Emotions ride high in these churches,” says Sorrell, “and I actually watched this particular congregation



Apollo's Fire plays Cain Park June 25.

go through turmoil when the minister believed he had received the gift of speaking in tongues.”

In “Come to the River” Sorrell explores the rich traditions of shape-note singing, New England barn dances, murderous Appalachian ballads and the revival hymns of the late 18th-century tunesmiths. For more than 10 years, she has been developing a unique ensemble of crossover artists who specialize in historically informed early American, Scottish, and British traditional/folk repertoire. They have immersed themselves in the folk traditions and impro-

visatory musical idioms of the 17th and 18th centuries and will be performing on period instruments such as wooden flutes, fiddles and hammered dulcimer.

The new elements in this year's program include extra singers, choreography and a Garrison Keillor-style encounter with Sorrell's experiences growing up in the Shenandoah Valley. Featured performers include singer/actors Abigail Lennox, Scott Mello, Paul Shipper and the ever-popular Cleveland Heights soprano Sandra Simon; baroque and folk flautist Kathie Stewart, and hammered dulcimer player Tina Bergmann, both renowned in their fields.

“There's a wave of interest in early American roots music across the coun-

try right now,” Sorrell says. “It strikes a chord in people, because we all respond to the way it touches the soul.”

Margi Griebing-Haigh is a freelance composer, oboist, and artist residing in Cleveland Heights.

Cain Park performance

Friday, June 25,
1 p.m. (family concert) and 8 p.m.
Tickets \$10-\$35
Additional dates and locations listed online.
Discounts available at some locations.
800-314-2535
216-320-0012
www.apollosfire.org

Coventry to hold free events Thursday nights this summer

Steve Presser

The Coventry Village summer series kicks off with the Coventry Street Arts Fair on Thursday, June 17 and continues throughout the summer with the free Music & Movies Under the Stars series on Thursdays.

A full slate of free summer activities begins June 17 with the 7th annual Coventry Street Arts Fair (on Coventry between Euclid Heights Boulevard and Mayfield Road.). Recognizing that Coventry is a multicultural neighborhood with an artistic flair, the Coventry Village Special Improvement District sponsors the fair to showcase local artistic talent, encourage the support of local businesses, and invite people of all ages to appreciate performances, music, hands-on activities and affordable art and jewelry.

This year, the fair will feature main stage performances by DubFlex and Cats on Holiday, spinning by DJ ESO, interactive activities and performances by Passport Project and Progressive Arts Alliance, and hands-on, kid-friendly projects by the Cleveland Museum of Art. The event will enable neighbors to mingle with visitors from throughout the city and celebrate Coventry's image as a creative, walkable district, filled with students, families and unique businesses.

Also this year, the fair will be followed by a free outdoor screening of “The Wizard of Oz,” at 9 p.m. The

movie will launch an expanded free Music & Movies Under the Stars series that will offer local preshow entertainment, paired with a family-friendly movie, every Thursday night throughout the summer.

Every week, June 17 through Aug. 12, families are invited gather at the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park (at the corner of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard) to play, enjoy live performances and catch a summer movie on a picnic blanket in the grass. Partners, including School of Rock, The Music Settlement, ROAM Jug Band and many others, will provide musical entertainment starting at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday. The movie screening will begin at 9 p.m.

Find out more about the Coventry Street Arts Fair and the free Music & Movies Under the Stars series at www.coventryvillage.com. And be sure to vote for the Audience Choice movie. The movie that gets the most votes will be featured on Thursday, Aug. 12 as a part of the neighborhood's farewell-to-summer party in the park.

Many area businesses and non-profits have provided support to make the Coventry summer series possible, including major support from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park, Marc's, Motorcars, and The Music Settlement.

Steve Presser is the owner of Big Fun on Coventry and a volunteer with the Coventry Village Special Improvement District.

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Restoring the cutting edge

Lita Gonzalez

Walking through the door at CUT Hair Studio, I immediately knew something was different. It was more than just the three extra client chairs that had materialized since my last visit. There was an excitement, an energy that seemed to ripple throughout the popular Lee Road hair salon.

"What's going on?" I asked as I settled into the chair. Laura Griffith, owner and creator of CUT Hair Studio, explained that she was ready to make some changes in her business and career. "I knew that I wanted to take CUT to the next level, but not by myself. I also knew that if I was going to bring in a partner, it had to be the right person at the right time. Then Ken literally walked back into my life."

Ken Novak has known Griffith for 19 years. "Early in our careers we were Aveda junkies," laughed Novak, "but our careers took us in different directions and we lost touch." Novak, former creative director for a local Aveda spa, was traveling to photo shoots and fashion week in New York City and Miami, while Griffith was starting her family and building her business.

Novak moved to the east side of Cleveland to be closer to his clients. "As chance would have it, I was walking my dog on Lee Road and happened to pass



Ken Novak carries Laura Griffith over the threshold of the new RESTORE Hair Studio.

CUT and saw Laura. I had no idea that she had opened her own salon!"

Griffith admits that reconnecting with Novak came at the right time. "We started talking about our careers and realized that we were both ready for a change," she said.

"We realized that to merge as equal partners meant opening up a new business together. We picked the name RESTORE because it means to create balance and give something a renewed strength and vigor. That's what this partnership will mean for the studio."

RESTORE

2254 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights
216-932-1220
www.restorehairstudio.com

Both Novak and Griffith promise that the new studio will still have its relaxed, small-town atmosphere, but with a touch of edginess. "We're excited about growing the team and refocusing on education, so we can always keep ourselves on the cutting edge."

Both want to offer a superior experience to everyone who walks through their door and still continue their commitment to the community that helped make CUT one of the leading salons in the area.

"Ken brings a fresh new energy, excitement and his experience in the fashion side of the business," Griffith stressed.

Before the grand reopening, Novak and Griffith want to make sure that certain changes are in place—a new and wholesome product line, new business cards and an updated website.

"Our new business card says it all—Balance, Renew, and Inspire. That's what RESTORE means to us," said Griffith

Lita Gonzalez is a community volunteer.

Hot coffee with a side of green

How Phoenix Coffee on Lee Road paved the way for a sustainable and affordable remodel

Lizzy Caston

Remodeling comes with horror stories: maxed credit cards, schedules months behind, fights with contractors. Now, imagine additional complications: remodel a bustling café using sustainable building practices while serving hundreds of people each day—and saving money at the same time. That's the challenge locally-owned Phoenix Coffee, 2287 Lee Road, gave itself this winter. The results are a case study in sustainable remodeling success.

Construction historically has been one of the largest polluting industries because of everything from toxic building materials to demolition refuse. The U.S. government estimates that 26 percent of nonindustrial waste in our landfills is due to construction and demolition: over 160 million tons per year. Yet "green" building innovations are often more expensive due to the types of materials and processing involved, which presents a dilemma for many small business owners who want to do the right thing, but may not be able to afford it.

Phoenix Coffee came up with creative solutions to standard construction practices and supported other local green businesses in its remodeling efforts. Phoenix used low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) paint and environmentally friendly carpet. Materials were reused and repurposed whenever possible (old science lab cases from John Carroll University, for example, were provided by John Deluca from Old School Salvage). The countertops

are made from repurposed wood refinished by Aaron Gogolin from A Piece of Cleveland. Store owner Sarah Wilson-Jones "hired" her mother, Polly Wilson, as the general contractor. Mom stayed on site, sometimes 16 hours a day, to keep costs and schedules in line. "We actually saved money doing sustainable construction," Wilson-Jones says, "because we were thrifty by buying cheaper used and repurposed materials over new. Do the best you can, when you can, with what you've got. Greening is a gradual process."

A fixture in Cleveland since 1990, now with five cafes, a commercial roastery, and wholesale and catering services, Phoenix Coffee has always supported

Phoenix Coffee
2287 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights
216-932-8227
www.phoenixcoffee.com

green business practices. For example, all the spent coffee grounds go to locally-based Sansai Environmental, the largest indoor earthworm vermi-composting facility in the world, where they are turned into rich, organic soil. This summer, Phoenix switches to compostable to-go cups, thus eliminating the food-container equivalent of the gas guzzler (styrofoam). Most of its furniture is from local second-hand stores, which not only improves sustainability but also contributes to the



Phoenix Coffee baristas Adam Heffelfinger and Roshawnda Smith are holding two eco-friendly cup options: old-fashioned ceramic for beverages enjoyed at Phoenix's cafe and new compostable cups, which are scheduled to arrive in stores the week of June 14.

café's funky-chic style.

Laura Horrocks-Germany is a regular customer, so much so that she's one of the few honored with the official title of "Phoenix Fellow." She sat through the remodel and gave plenty of feedback throughout the process. "Phoenix asked customers for their opinions. It's indicative of Phoenix really listening to their customers' needs," she says. "The new space has a nice flow to it."

For regulars like Horrocks-Germany, Lee Road Phoenix Coffee isn't just about coffee, it's about pulling community together to create a new, and better, sustainable business model to serve Heights residents now and into the future.

Lizzy Caston is a proud Cleveland Heights native who recently returned to live in the Heights after 20 years in Seattle, Portland, OR, and New Orleans. A professional writer and communicator, she owns Lizzy Caston Communications, www.lizzycaston.com, and currently works as Phoenix Coffee's marketing maven.

SOURCES USED IN THE REMODEL:

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Webber Flooring 216-662-5370

Civitas Millwork 216-469-4806

Old School Salvage (old science lab cabinets) 216-509-5303

Custom Stainless 216-538-9293

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Stitching together



By Eleanor Mallet

When a group of women get together, pull out their knitting needles and begin working them, it's likely that something more than what is on the needles will take shape. If they are sitting in anything resembling a circle, a certain kind of intimacy and conversation will emerge. As that rhythmic wrapping of yarn gets underway, arms reaching up in the air every so often to unwind more, no subject, at least in my experience, is off limits; parents, children, work, men, news—and more. So it was at the knitting circle at Noble Road Library on a recent Thursday evening. “I just make squares,” said Frances Dostal, 81, of East Cleveland, knitting a lovely burgundy one with a bit of a pattern in it. “Thirty-six, seven-by-nine-inch pieces and then Trudy makes them into a quilt. We give them away.” These handmade things are given to someone

in need, such as in hospice or through a local church. Trudy Fischer, 86, is across the table, and as I watch and listen, I sense that she is one of the mainstays. She is working on a sock and she shows me the one she has completed. I admire the perfect heel. I have made three or four pairs and have yet to achieve a heel that looks that good. The women meet at 6:45 p.m., on the first and third Thursdays of the month, in the Children's Room, amid the energy and liveliness of the little ones. But the talk is coming mostly from the knitters. Alicia Evans has come for the first time and her daughters, five and three, are playing across the room. A woman at the end of the table is helping Alicia learn to knit. “You're going OK,” she said as she inspects her stitches. The teacher, Norma Boucher, turns out to be Trudy's daughter.

Worldwide Knit in Public Day
Saturday, June 12, 1-3 p.m.
Noble Neighborhood Library
2800 Noble Road

Head librarian Jo Ann Vicarel and Norma started the group six years ago. More than a dozen women are attending, some spilling over to the next table where Joan has brought knitting magazines to browse through. One is making a fabulous, thick crocheted bag of many colors that can also be used as a knapsack. Another has made two small crocheted owls for her daughter. **“People come for the companionship . . . and for helping others,” said Marcy Schmidt, who is knitting an elegant top with a delicate yarn. Frances Dostal added, “People have a need for this. It is creative and we are so mechanized.”**

It becomes quiet for a while. The women are all knitting. No one seems to feel the need to speak, or even make eye contact with each other. Then the

conversation goes to the churches that are closing. “It's hard to know which one to go to,” someone says. A few comment, then back to quiet. Knitting can take you to a place within yourself, a place of peace—and connection. Hands are moving and creating; you can listen, speak or be silent. There's a particular kind of sisterhood in such a group, an oasis. It is bound together by the admiration of one another's work, the sharing of ideas and skills, making warm beautiful things for yourself, loved ones or for those in need. Knitting can be private and often solitary, and so in 2005, something called Worldwide Knit in Public Day was created. This year it will be held on any day between June 12 and 20. On Saturday, June 12 from 1-3 p.m., the day will be celebrated at the Noble Neighborhood Library. Knitters will gather on the lawn in front of the building. Bring your knitting and a lawn chair.

Eleanor Mallet's column, “A Heights Observer,” explores the nooks and crannies in the Heights. She can be reached at eleannormallet@yahoo.com.



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Millikin neighbors petition for school reuse

Esther Feldman

At the May 4 meeting of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education, citizens submitted a petition with 420 signatures, urging the board to act quickly on revitalizing the Millikin Elementary School campus. Millikin, on Crest Road in the Severance neighborhood of Cleveland Heights, has been unused since its closing in 2006. Neighbors have cited acts of vandalism around the empty school and the school's increasingly unkempt condition as contributors to neighborhood decline.

Jason Stein, area resident and recent candidate for Cleveland Heights City Council, spoke on behalf of the petitioners. He commended the board

for its outreach to the nonprofit community, which led to an agreement between the schools and The Music Settlement for the reuse of the also shuttered Coventry Elementary School. Stein urged that the same "positive energy and thoughtfulness" be applied to Millikin.

The Millikin petition was crafted by a group of citizens acting on their own. "We had to do something," said Liza Wolf. "It has been four years and nothing is happening." She urged the board to bring an educational institution into Millikin to help revitalize the area.

In 2007, the board of education placed Millikin up for public auction. The highest bid was from Mosdos Ohr Hatorah, a well-regarded private school

with two campuses already operating nearby. The board chose to reject all bids and instead wait a little longer for an offer that would reflect the campus's true market value.

"We had to do something," said Liza Wolf. "It has been four years and nothing is happening." She urged the board to bring an educational institution into Millikin to help revitalize the area.

Douglas Heuer, district superintendent, has stated that Millikin's reuse is a priority for the school district. A long-term facilities plan was to be on the board's agenda for its June 1 meeting.

Esther Feldman is a long-time Cleveland Heights resident and activist.

OBSERVER AND WJCU TO HOST AUDIO JOURNALISM WORKSHOP

The Heights Observer will host a radio-oriented citizen-journalism workshop on Tuesday, June 22, at 7-9 p.m. in the Klein TV studio on the first floor of the O'Malley Center at John Carroll University. Citizen volunteers interested in learning how to record sound for print, Web and radio news stories are encouraged to attend.

Since 2008, FutureHeights' Heights Observer citizen-journalism project has partnered with the university's student-run radio station, WJCU 88.7 FM, to bring hyper-local, Heights-centered news to the airways. Each day Heights Now, a two-minute local news segment, broadcasts on a rotating schedule. The segments are also available on the station's website, www.wjcu.org.

Mark Krieger, an adjunct assistant professor in the university's communications department and director of the station, will lead the session. It will focus on getting good quality recordings with the internal microphones or feeds from a PA system; the basics of audio-file manipulation and basic digital audio-recording do's and don'ts; basic interviewing techniques; and creative problem-solving when recording.

Several Zoom recorders will be available for participants to practice interviewing and recording. Krieger will offer individual advice and demonstrate Audacity, a free, downloadable shareware audio editing program.

For more information and to RSVP, call 216-320-1423, e-mail info@futureheights.org or visit www.futureheights.org.

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Adopt-a-House in your neighborhood

Fran Mentch

We're all concerned about keeping the empty houses in our neighborhood safe and preserving our property values. Twelve streets in our city are now better off because residents volunteered to "Adopt-a-House" near them.

Volunteering to adopt a house means that you make a commitment to walk around the outside of an empty house in your neighborhood once a day to visually inspect it.

That way, if anything is broken or vandalized it can be reported to the police quickly, while there is a chance to obtain fingerprints and minimize damage.

If you see that something has happened, call the police. If you believe the situation is an emergency, call 911. Otherwise, the number for nonemergency police calls in Cleveland Heights is 216-321-1234; the number for nonemergency police calls in University Heights is 216-932-1800.

Then be sure to make a second contact by calling or e-mailing (preferably) the city's housing department.

In Cleveland Heights, contact Rick Wagner, manager of housing programs, at 216-291-4962 or rwagner@clvhts.com. In University Heights, contact David Menn, building commissioner, at 216-932-7800 ext. 226 or d.menn@universityheights.com.

You should also contact the cities' housing departments if the lawns of empty houses are not being mowed. Severance Neighborhood Organization is sponsoring the Adopt-a-House program and plans to compile a list of "lessons learned" from participants and to host a thank-you party for volunteers. If you are interested in adopting a house in your neighborhood, contact Fran Mentch at 216-381-5356 or fran@heightssno.org with your name and the name of the street where the empty house is located. Also contact Fran if you have a child's drawing of a house that you are willing to let the Adopt-a-House project use as a logo.

Fran Mentch is the President of Severance Neighborhood Organization www.heightssno.org.

Nighttown to host Brett for Foodbank benefit

Karen Pozna

Cleveland Heights is home to an extraordinarily high number of critically acclaimed, award-winning, published writers. But only one resident—Regina Brett—just had a book on the *New York Times* Best Seller List for three weeks. Brett will be at Nighttown on Monday, June 14 to talk and sign her new book, *God Never Blinks: 50 Life Lessons for Life's Little Detours*.

The event begins at 7 p.m. and is sponsored by Nighttown and Appletree Books, with the support of Eric Kennedy and the law firm of Weisman, Kennedy & Berris.

The Cleveland FoodBank will receive a portion of proceeds. Tickets are

\$30 per person and include a copy of Brett's book.

God Never Blinks is an inspirational collection of essays and stories about the lessons life taught Brett along the detours of her life. A metro columnist for the last 10 years at *The Plain Dealer*, Brett was twice named a Pulitzer Prize finalist for commentary, in 2008 and 2009.

Appletree Books will have additional books available for purchase.

A capacity crowd is expected, so reservations are strongly suggested. Call 216-795-0550. For more information, go to www.reginabrett.com

Karen Pozna is communications manager for the Cleveland FoodBank. She is also a big fan of Nighttown. And Regina Brett.



Lake View Cemetery Mayfield and Kenilworth Roads

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GEOLOGY WALKING TOUR - SOUTH
Saturday, June 5, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR
Sunday, June 6, 2010, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

FLAG DAY CEREMONY
Monday, June 14, 2010, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

FATHER'S DAY WALKING TOUR
Sunday, June 20, 2010, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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Spend wisely and save

Gail Jackson

Give your budget a check-up, and reap unexpected savings. Every opportunity to save money on goods and services will improve your financial fitness. Here are several places to start.

Groceries

Participate in food co-op programs. Some of these programs not only offer discounts on quality food, but provide menus as well. Great Food for All is a faith-based, nondenominational company that provides top-quality food to any interested person, on a monthly basis, through local churches and other nonprofits. There are no membership fees, paperwork, hassles or purchase limits. You can buy a box of good food that will feed a family of four for a week

for \$30. For more information, go to www.greatfoodforall.com

Insurance

Compare prices for auto, home, health, business and life insurance. Consolidating at one insurance company could lower your costs. It might mean taking your business elsewhere. Before you do, however, be sure you're getting all the discounts you deserve at your current company.

Consider increasing your deductible on your home and car insurances to reduce your premium. Contact the insurer for your homeowner's policy to see if the company offers any discounts.

Discount Prescription Drug Program

As a resident of Ohio, you and your family have access to a free prescription drug card program. You can save up to 75 percent on prescription drugs at participating pharmacies including Kmart, Giant Eagle, Rite Aid, Marc's, Walgreen's and CVS, as well as thousands of independent pharmacies. Each family member must have his or her own card. Download the card at www.ohiodrugcard.com. These cards are pre-activated and can be used immediately.

Telephone

A cell phone may be all you need. If you need a landline, check Internet and cable providers. Many offer affordable pricing, especially for long-distance service.

Electricity

Save on your electric bill by replacing incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent ones, which last about 10 times longer and use about 75 percent less energy.

Save electricity, and money, by unplugging appliances when they are not in use, or by using electrical outlet power strips and simply flipping the switch to off. According to the Department of Energy, 75 percent of the electricity used by home electronics occurs when they are turned off.

Make your furnace run efficiently and prolong its life by regularly changing the filter. A dirty filter makes the furnace motor work harder and uses more power.

Refrigerators and freezers use more electricity than all other appliances combined, so keep them running efficiently by setting the refrigerator settings at about 35° and the freezer at about 0-5°. Try the dollar-bill test to detect leaks in your refrigerator and freezer: close a bill in the door and, if it pulls out easily, it's time to replace the seal.

Credit Card Interest Expense

Monthly interest can be a huge expense if you have a large credit card debt. Making the minimum payment means that the monthly interest is eating up most of it. Reducing interest can mean more money for other expenses. Credit card companies will often reduce your interest rate to keep your business. If they don't, consider a balance transfer to another card with a better rate. Be sure to read the fine print; balance transfers sometimes offer rates that go up after a period of time.

If you live in Cleveland Heights and need help with your budget, contact the Home Repair Resource Center at 216-381-6100. Our financial counselors provide confidential assistance on financial matters. For more information on HRRC's programs and services, go to www.hrhc-ch.org.

Gail Jackson is a housing counselor at the Home Repair Resource Center in Cleveland Heights.

Green Mapping is coming to the Heights

Heights Observer Staff

Looking for a community garden? Can't find fair trade clothing? Need Meals



on Wheels for your elderly aunt? The Green Mapping movement is coming to the Heights with solutions.

"You'll be able to find the answers to those questions, and more, using the Cleveland Heights and University Heights Green Map," said Gina Cheverine, president of FutureHeights. With help from community groups and online input from the public, FutureHeights will oversee the creation of the map.

The Open Green Map system is a global program that provides communities with the tools to chart green living, nature and culture. The map will be available on the Internet, through iPhone and mobile applications, and accessible for printing. For more information, go to www.greenmap.org.

"How the map is made is just as important as the map itself," said Cheverine. "We want to use the mapping process as a way to engage a lot of people by helping them experiencing their neighborhoods and community in a new way. Our mapping groups, many of whom will be kids, will have a lot of fun exploring the things that make our community sustainable. They'll also learn how important these assets are to a strong future in the Heights."

"We're still in the planning stages," Cheverine added. "But the potential for community and school involvement is high, and making a useful map for residents and visitors is very exciting."

FutureHeights, the publisher of the Heights Observer, creates civic engagement activities in Cleveland Heights and University Heights, Ohio. For information, call 216-320-1423 or visit www.futureheights.org.

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Community events

Thursday, June 3
“Taste of the Heights” to benefit Heights Youth Center
6–9 p.m., Heights Youth Club, 2065 Lee Road (tickets required)

Thursday, June 3
University Heights Summer Concert Series
University Heights Symphonic Band
7:30–9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Saturday, June 5
Cedar Lee Rock the Block Summer Music Series
6–8 p.m., Summit Jazz Duo performs at various locations on Lee Road

Wednesday, June 9
Home Repair Resource Center Annual Meeting
“Sustainability from the Ground Up: Grassroots Efforts that Can Make a Difference,” Rev. John Lentz
7 p.m., Cleveland Heights Community Center, One Monticello Blvd.

Thursday, June 10
Cleveland Heights Democrats’ Endorsement Meeting
7 p.m., Cleveland Heights Community Center, One Monticello Blvd.

Thursday, June 10
University Heights Summer Concert Series
Lost State of Franklin
7:30–9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Saturday, June 12
Tiger Touchdown Club Flea Market to benefit Heights football
9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Cleveland Heights High School, 13263 Lee Rd.

Thursday, June 17
Coventry Village Street Arts Fair
6–9 p.m., Coventry Road between Mayfield Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, June 17
Music & Movies Under the Stars
6 p.m. music by Dubflex and Cats on Holiday
9 p.m. “The Wizard of Oz”
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, June 17
University Heights Summer Concert Series
Blue Lunch
7:30–9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Tuesday, June 22
Heights Observer citizen-journalism workshop with WJCU
7–9 p.m., The Klein TV Studio, first floor of the O’Malley Center, John Carroll University

Thursday, June 24
Music & Movies Under the Stars
7:30 p.m. music by School of Rock (student bands)
9 p.m. “School of Rock”
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, June 24
University Heights Summer Concert Series
Billy Lang Orchestra
7:30–9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Saturday, June 26
Dugway Brook Watershed Festival
11 a.m.–3 p.m., Forest Hill Park Boat House

Sunday, June 27
Cedar Lee Rock the Block Summer Music Series
6–8 p.m., The Lost Classics: Randy Martin performs at various locations on Lee Road

Wednesday, June 30
FutureHeights Annual Meeting
“Beyond Block Parties: Organizing for Safe, Livable Neighborhoods in the 21st Century”
7–9 p.m., Heights Rockefeller Building, corner of Lee and Mayfield

Thursday, July 1
Music & Movies Under the Stars
7:30 p.m. music by Blue Lunch
9 p.m. “Best in Show” (dress up your dog for the Best in Show Dog Costume Contest)
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard


Thursday, July 1
University Heights Summer Concert Series
University Heights Symphonic Band
7:30–9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Saturday, July 3
Cedar Lee Rock the Block Summer Music Series
6–8 p.m., Swing with Norm Tischler and Annette Keys at various locations on Lee Road

Thursday, July 8
Music & Movies Under the Stars
7:30 p.m. music by Busker Night with Eve n’ Stephen and Harry Bacharach
9 p.m. “Goonies”
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, July 8
University Heights Summer Concert Series
Clear Fork Bluegrass Quartet
Family Fun Night with Heights Parent Center
7–9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

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