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Bicycle coalition formed for a more bicycle friendly Cleveland Heights

Mary Dunbar

Did you know that:

- Cleveland Heights ranks in the top 10 percent nationally for the number of residents that commute to work by bicycle,
- Since 1961, our city has offered Safety Town and other programs to educate our children to navigate sidewalks and roads safely on foot or by bike, and
- Every one of our business districts and libraries and almost every school has one or more bicycle racks?

Neither did I, until I completed an application in February for Cleveland Heights to be recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. In May, I learned that the application garnered an Honorable Mention. That means that we have a solid base on which to build for an award in the next year or two. The awards remain in effect for four years and range from platinum and gold to silver and bronze.

Why does being bicycle friendly matter? It's an integral part of building livable, healthy communities. Bicyclists are an indicator of a healthy, vibrant community. Bicycle-friendly towns, like those with good schools and enjoyable



Cyclists gathered early on Saturday, June 5, at the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park for a group ride to Cleveland's near west side, where Ann Henderson, one of the coalition's founders pointed out Sharrows, icons that alert drivers of cars that they are sharing the road with bicycles, painted on Franklin Avenue.

business districts, are communities that offer improved quality of life, which can lead to higher property values, business growth and increased visits to our city. Being recognized as bicycle friendly will give Cleveland Heights even more cachet than it already has.

That's why a group of bicycle enthusiasts has formed the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition (CHBC)—to make ours a first-rate cycling city. The core group of founders includes sisters Joy and Ann Henderson, Nicholas Matthew and me. Dozens of others have expressed

interest and want to become involved.

We are passionate about improving our city's bicycle infrastructure and safety, enhancing the city's connectivity to University Circle, and supporting the growth of the regional cycling network.

continued on page 12

McDonald's passes three of four hurdles

Anita Kazarian

Everyone agrees, the neglected and rundown business space on Warrensville Center Road needs to be replaced. But some neighbors are not pleased with McDonald's moving in.

On July 1, University Heights Planning Commission recommended to City Council to approve the McDonald's project. Citizens Opposed to McDonald's met on June 15 to discuss their rights as property owners in the neighborhood around the proposed site and attended the July 1 meeting.

The citizens group organizers, Gloria and Tom Rucks, voiced concerns about increased traffic, nuisance noise and student loitering. Rucks contacted an urban planner at Cleveland State University who said adjoining property values might decrease up to 3 percent with a McDonald's type of business.

Police Chief Stehlik presented traffic-calming methods that can be instituted to ensure traffic patterns are not adversely affected. Although neighbors stated the traffic studies Stehlik based his remarks on were outdated, Joseph Ciuni, the city engineer explained that they are in accord with ODOT standards.

McDonald's passed three of the four steps required to obtain final approval. In May, the Board of Zoning Appeals approved the zoning variance requested.

The architectural review board, in step two, sent McDonald's back to the drawing board by rejecting original plans submitted in May. The board asked for a more "urban main street" look. McDonald's returned with new plans, which were approved a month later.

The show must go on—despite June 17 street fair fracas on Coventry

Anna Schade

On Thursday, July 1, the Coventry Village Summer Music & Movies Series continued with clear, cool weather, several hundred participants and no disruption like the kind that occurred just two weeks before at the end of the June 17 Coventry Street Fair.

The free entertainment series, hosted by the Coventry Village Special Improvement District and Coventry P.E.A.C.E. (which built and maintains the unique playground at the former Coventry Elementary School) features music and an outdoor movie every Thursday throughout the summer. On July 1, music was provided by the band Blue Lunch and the featured movie was "Best in Show."

The series schedule is available online at www.coventryvillage.org.

Several hundred people—many of them families—attended the event. The hill above the field where the movie is shown was crowded. While Cleveland Heights Police quietly patrolled the area, there were no incidents of any kind and the event proceeded quietly as scheduled. Moments before the movie began, the band led a parade of children and adults in a ragged conga line around the open field, while many in the audience ate picnic dinners—some brought from home and others purchased from Coventry Village restaurants.

The ordinariness of the evening came as a relief—but not necessarily as a surprise—to event organizers, who viewed the disruption at the street fair as an isolated incident.

The June 17 fair had been one the best yet, according to Steve Presser, owner of Big Fun and one of the fair's organizers. "It had the highest attendance and best variety of vendors and entertainment," he said. It was the only fair scheduled this year—an economy-related break from previous years, when two or three such events have been held.

But some attendees at this year's fair noticed an unusually large number of unsupervised youth over the course of the evening. "You expect to see families and adults; I'd never seen so many kids at one of these," said a 17-year-old

sang a song to honor Pavlovitch's efforts.

In attendance were Pavlovitch's close friends, family members and other residents of The Alcazar.

Anna Schade is a senior at John Carroll University and an intern with the Heights Observer.

See Pavlovitch's story on page 4.



Patricia Pavlovitch

CH resident honored for integration efforts

Anna Schade

Patricia Pavlovitch was presented with the 2010 Legacy Award by The-ClevelandHOST, an alumni group that represents Heights High's first black students. The award ceremony took place on June 24 at The Alcazar, and was a complete surprise to Pavlovitch.

She received the award for her leadership in helping to integrate the Cleveland Heights community in the 1960s. The-ClevelandHOST president, Randolph Tyrone Givens, who served as master of ceremonies for the event,

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:

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Opening up the Observer: local businesses team up



Bob Rosenbaum

When in the course of human events, it becomes appropriate for communities to assert their independence, to denounce uniformity and celebrate their uniqueness, a respect for freedom and human creativity requires independent businesses and peoples to declare those elements which make them interesting.

That's how the American Independent Business Alliance (www.amiba.net) explains its annual Independents Week celebration—cleverly scheduled for the first week of July.

The alliance is a national umbrella group for local coalitions of independent businesses that are working together to strengthen themselves against the onslaught of competition from big-box stores and other national chains.

The newest member of this nationwide movement—and the first in Northeast Ohio—is our own Heights Independent Business Alliance (HIBA), which has used the occasion of Independents Week to announce its founding.

HIBA was created with prodding and support from FutureHeights, and it will be closely connected with the *Heights Observer*.

But it's a stand-alone organization of small companies in Cleveland Heights and University Heights that typify the kind of businesses that contribute so much to this community's scale, livability and charm.



HIBA's mission (until its website launches, its online presence is at www.facebook.com/shophiba) is cooperative promotion for its members, and education for the public about the economic benefit of shopping locally. It will inevitably pursue both of those tasks in the pages of the *Observer*.

To date, the organization admittedly hasn't gotten very far. It's still working to build its website and to formalize membership for the 30 or so merchants who have put energy into its founding. After that, it will reach out to attract more members and begin fulfilling its objectives.

In the coming months, look for the HIBA logo and other messages to begin appearing around town. Know its purpose: to support and perpetuate the Heights area's unique character as a place to live, play and do business.

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

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

Hometown hate syndrome

Anthony Sgro

When one has lived in a city for too long, it has been my experience that distaste for the place can develop. Growing up in Cleveland, I often heard phrases along the lines of "Cleveland sucks" or "Cleveland is boring," or other negative sentiments. I was no exception.

When vacationing in Seattle or New York City, I enviously eyed their populated downtown areas, energetic vibe, and other attributes I thought of as "cool."

"Why can't Cleveland be like that?" was a common, though unexpressed, question in my mind.

Some time in the past year or so, my view began to change. This was primarily due to the fact that I went away to college, a place where one often gains new perspectives on life. I've figured out that anything becomes missed after an extended period without it.

I attend the University of Redlands in Southern California, located an hour and a half east of Los Angeles. While the campus is an enjoyable place to spend time, the city of Redlands and the surrounding urban sprawl is decidedly less pleasant.

If one desires to go anywhere beyond the local Chipotle restaurant, a car is a necessity. A car is needed to get to the nearest bus station. The freeway goes right through the city. A "metro" train ride to L.A. is a notoriously slow and painful affair. The same can be said about driving anywhere in Southern California, where the streets are wide, but inhospitable to bicycles and even pedestrians—sidewalks are often lacking and motorists regularly ignore the crosswalks.

Returning to Cleveland on winter break, and then again for summer vacation, my view of this city has been completely renewed. I started paying more attention to the architecture, public transportation, the people, the urban planning, the greenery—all of which are great—and realized that Cleveland is already a good place to live, and has potential to be even better.

The sprawling cities surrounding L.A. are without distinguishable identity, community, and many other things that Cleveland has.

Coming into Cleveland on the Red Line from the airport, I was newly impressed with a spectacle I once ignored.

I've been tempted to videotape the drive from Hopkins to my house on Kingston Road, off Fairmount. I've never seen such a dynamic, monumental series of places in a city: from the skyline, including the lake, numerous bridges and skyscrapers, to the myriad, magisterial churches of the Euclid Corridor, up lush Cedar Hill through the classy (and still improving) Cedar Lee district. Further up the gracefully curving Fairmount Boulevard, laden with venerable trees and stately mansions, and down my own charming street.

The journey from degradation to appreciation has been a mysterious one, the catalyst—college. Perhaps my young peers who post "Cleveland is boring" on their Facebook pages need the away-from-home experience to change their views as well. Indeed, maybe we all need a little time away from home to appreciate what we have.

Anthony Sgro, a graduate of CHHS, attended the University of Redlands this past year. He is interested in botany, art, music and the rejuvenation of Cleveland.

Cleveland: Great for singles, porch parties

Lisa Gaynier

Admittedly this is old news since the ratings came out last July; however, it bears repeating. I interviewed prospective students for the master's program in organizational leadership at Cleveland State University, where I am a faculty member. I was impressed with all four candidates we interviewed. They were well prepared and had researched the program before coming to us. That's always a good sign.

One in particular had spent the past year visiting cities and universities for "fit." She told us that in her research she had run across the news that Cleveland was ranked 14th Best City for Singles by *Forbes.com*. It was one of the reasons

she had chosen our program. She also liked Cleveland for its friendliness and livability compared with Cincinnati or NYC, where she had grown up. She was moving from Puerto Rico—committing to our city, having faith that she would be accepted into the program, because of what she had found here in Northeast Ohio.

Cleveland Heights is part of that picture. Minutes from the heart of Cleveland's cultural center, we are living on a gold mine, but I'm not sure we who live here truly understand what a great place it is.

The Heights is home to many of the people who make up Cleveland's braintrust—from artists and carpenters, to surgeons and industrialists, to academics like me.

Talk about a friendly neighborhood, last weekend we joined a group of folks who call themselves "porch people." They've been gathering on my neighbor's porch on alternating Sundays for over 20 years. People bring food and drinks to share.

A couple of their kids— young adults who grew up together through those years of shared porches, and have returned home to Cleveland after years in other places—joined us, initiating what might be a new generation of porch people.

Lisa Gaynier lives in the old Coventry School neighborhood with her husband Mike and their cat Andie. She teaches and directs a masters program in diversity management at Cleveland State University.



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Kelli Fontenot is engaged.

"I moved here from Louisiana in August of last year. I love writing and editing, and I was impressed by the *Heights Observer's* quality and depth. FutureHeights is a refreshing organization that's really committed to citizen involvement and positive change. Volunteering with FutureHeights has helped me to learn more about the community. I've been able to meet some fascinating people and help them share their stories."



TC Boonyapataro is engaged.

"I do office work for FutureHeights and distribute the *Heights Observer* to John Carroll University. FutureHeights has been a great introductory step for my life in the Heights. It opened up my perspectives and connected me to the neighborhood. In a way, it has tightened the bonds among people in my community. A lot of people read the *Heights Observer* and seem to share similar views on what is going on around the Heights."



Hugh Williams is engaged.

"As a board member of FutureHeights, I chaired the annual auction committee and serve on the development committee. Each year I volunteer to march in the University Heights parade and distribute copies of the *Heights Observer* to the crowd. Heights residents should support FutureHeights because FutureHeights is about improving the quality of life in our community and engaging citizens in the issues that affect us all. It is so important for people to care about the issues in their community and FutureHeights is the organization that stimulates the interest in CH-UH."



Hank Kornblut is engaged.

"I deliver the *Heights Observer* to area businesses because I believe it should be seen. I've donated prizes for several years to the FutureHeights auction. The Heights region has always had a spirit of pride and cooperation among the residents that supercedes many other places. Those who don't yet support FutureHeights should consider that the strength of any region begins with the support of its citizens. FutureHeights is essentially an organization that amplifies this support. All of us benefit from its endeavors."



Jewel Moulthrop is engaged.

"When my husband and I came to Ohio from New Jersey, I had an immediate affinity to the Heights. It wasn't just that I was closer to my grandchildren. There was something special about this area. I first heard about FutureHeights when I picked up a copy of the *Heights Observer*. I inquired at the FutureHeights office if they needed the help of an experienced editor and received an article to edit later that day! FutureHeights means community involvement, volunteerism and citizen activism. People should consider supporting FutureHeights because FutureHeights supports the community—it's a win-win for everyone."

Join Hugh, TC, Hank, Jewel and Kelli. Get engaged with FutureHeights, the organization that is committed to engaging citizens in order to cultivate healthy and sustainable Heights neighborhoods, just like yours.

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!**

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

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Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

MAY 17, 2010

Council Member Bonnie Caplan was excused.

High school scholars honored

Council recognized seven Cleveland Heights High School students for their academic excellence. They were National Merit Scholar Matt Zucker, National Merit Commended Scholars Lewis Pollis and Alexandra Miller, National Achievement Scholar Natajah Roberts, National Achievement Outstanding Participants Jaiye Samson and Erin Morris, and Phi Beta Kappa Honoree Daniella Baxter.

Denison Park, truck bids

Council approved City Manager Robert Downey's request to advertise for bids for improvements to Denison Park and for the purchase of a front-loading refuse truck.

Secondhand dealers legislation amended

Council passed an amendment to earlier legislation which had licensed secondhand dealers who handle specific merchandise that is commonly the subject of theft. The amendment excludes retail businesses selling primarily items at least 30 years old or electronic equipment at least 12 years old.

Ambulance billing modified

Council voted to bring the billing procedure for ambulance services to nursing homes into compliance with federal law requiring the city to bill nursing homes, rather than Medicare or Medicaid, when ambulance services are provided by Life Force Management, Inc.

CDBG funds allocated

Several pieces of legislation dealing with the use of Community Development Block Grant funds were approved. A \$7,000, 12-month

contract with the Cleveland Tenants Organization will give city residents landlord-tenant counseling, and a \$6,500 grant will provide operating support to the Heights Emergency Food Center. Also, up to \$40,000 in CDBG funds will renew an agreement with Tim Barrett, Franklin Piccirillo, Catherine Sabolik and Carolyn Smith for design and consulting services for the city's Storefront Renovation Program.

Home to be renovated and resold

Council approved the sale of a city-owned property at 3795 Berkeley Road to Home in the Heights, a subsidiary of the Home Repair Resource Center, for renovation and resale to an owner-occupant.

LWV observers: Susan Kaeser and Lisa Peters.

JUNE 7, 2010

All council members present.

Reallocation of block grant funds

Council approved the reprogramming and reallocation of \$152,700 in Community Development Block Grant funds from the contingency fund to the public works fund. This vote also authorized moving \$13,885 from the Home Repair Resource Center's Deferred Loan Match Program to the Neighborhood Project Repair Program.

Funds to Home Repair Resource Center

Council also authorized an agreement with the HRRC for the use of \$301,500 in CDBG funds for assistance with the nonprofit organization's various home repair and home improvement programs, including Neighborhood Project Repair grants, the Assist 0% program, Assist Incentive grants, the Assist Deferred Loan Match Program and House Counseling. The agreement extends from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

Funds to Open Doors

Open Doors Inc. will receive \$5,000 in CDBG funds during the next 12 months to assist with the organization's after-school programming for middle school-aged youths.

Taylor Road rehabilitation

Mayor Ed Kelley noted that those residents who regularly drive on Taylor Road between Euclid Heights Boulevard and the north city line will be happy to know that the Taylor Road Rehabilitation Project will start in the summer of 2011. The city manager has been authorized to apply to the Ohio Department of Transportation State Infrastructure Bank for a \$7,256,000 loan to fund the project. This will cover the city's share of the costs and provide interim funding for the costs anticipated to be reimbursed with \$5,804,800 in federal funds.

Norfolk project monies

Council authorized amending an agreement with Mackay Engineering & Surveying Company related to the Norfolk Waterline and Sewer Replacement Project to provide \$1,379.27 for additional services requested by the city.

Extension of electric power agreement

The city's current agreement with First Energy Solutions Corporation to supply electric power to the city's residents and businesses under the city's Electric Aggregation Power Supply Program was extended three years to May 2018.

Design services for Denison Park

Council approved Behnke Associates, Inc. for design services for improvements to Denison Park, including the removal of the pool, the development of additional shelters and picnic areas, and a storm water management plan at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.



New city plans

Council Member Dennis Wilcox reported that the city is updating its Strategic Development Plan to include projects to increase the city's tax base. The plan will be perused by the Planning Commission and posted on the city's website after at least one public meeting. Also underway is a Green Zoning Initiative, which will result in revisions to the zoning code with an eye toward environmentally friendly and sustainable practices.

Lead remediation monies

Council renewed an agreement extending through October 2010 with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for a grant of \$112,750 for lead remediation work in at least 11 dwelling units occupied by young children whose families are income-eligible.

LWV observer: Katherine Solender.

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.

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2008 Aston Martin, V8 Vantage Roadster, 7k, jet black (by appointment only).	\$106,588.00

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Heights integration

Pat Pavlovich

My husband and I and our two small children moved to Cleveland from Chicago in January 1963. We wanted to be near excellent schools and in an integrated neighborhood. At that time, the only truly integrated neighborhood was the Ludlow area of Shaker, which was out of our price range.

We rented half of a duplex in Cleveland Heights, on Hampshire Road. We were so happy in the Coventry School area that when we looked for a house to buy a year and a half later, we looked at houses only in that neighborhood, and we found one where we were very happy.

Five years later, my husband and I happened to see an extraordinary house for sale two blocks away. While we hadn't been looking to move, we bought that house the next day! We were thrilled.

At that time there was a smattering of black families living in the area. Each of our boys had one black friend from Coventry. To our stupification, the families on either side of our new house, each with seven kids, not only shunned our boys, but targeted our house for vandalism.

The first year we were living there, these kids and their friends did more than \$2,000 worth of damage, including smashing a lovely Cararra marble statue that had been in the backyard for 40 years. This was because we had black friends who visited, and perhaps also because we were Jewish.

But before all of that, shortly after we moved to Cleveland Heights, we had become involved in Heights Citizens for Human Rights, which had hundreds of Cleveland Heights, University Heights

and Shaker Heights members. Our goal was to bring peaceful integration to the Heights, and also to encourage Cleveland Heights City Council to issue a fair housing law.

Many of us went to almost every council meeting. One meeting became so crowded and heated that, after a fistfight in the stairwell, where some of the overflow crowd was standing, the meeting was moved across the street to Park Synagogue.

Among the things we did was escort black families looking for housing to the places they wanted to be shown. At that time, they might have an appointment to see a property, but too often when the agent saw that the people were black, suddenly "the door was broken and couldn't be opened." Or, the property had "just been sold." So the white couple would go to the properties first and gain entry and ascertain that the place was, indeed, available, and then our "friends" would show up to see the place.

We also sent out mailings advising our members of what was going on. This job was done at the home of a member who had the largest dining room table for us to work on. We had a "telephone tree," where participating members had a list of 10 names of other members so that in an emergency we could notify the others.

On Mother's Day (I'm not certain which year in the 1960s) there were three bombings of homes in the Coventry area where black families were renting. I heard one of the bombs in the middle of the night from our home. At about 4 p.m., I received a phone call asking me to notify my members that

continued on page 11

University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

MAY 17, 2010

Councilwoman Susan Pardee was excused.

Green space on Ashurst Road

Residents of Ashurst Road expressed their willingness to work with the city to keep the green space that was created when the house at 2603 Ashurst was torn down. Mayor Infeld met with representatives from John Carroll University and the Ohio State University Extension about this property and one on Taylor Road. Ideas and help will come from both Ashurst residents and John Carroll students.

Opposition to opening of McDonald's

Residents of Bushnell Road voiced their opposition to a McDonald's restaurant on Warrensville Center Road, south of Cedar Road. McDonald's officials met with the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Architectural Review Board. Mayor Infeld said there would be public meetings after McDonald's comes back with changes requested by the Architectural Review Board.

Certificates of recognition

Certificates of recognition were given to the Gesu School Destination Imagination Team for qualifying for the international competition, Global Finals.

Wiring the city

WOW Internet, Cable and Phone will be wiring the city. A representative from the company introduced the company to the council.

Gesu Church and Parish Center

Council approved the final renovation plans

and addition to Gesu Church and Parish Center. This will make the church more handicapped-accessible and create a conference office and storage building.

Ken Fisher hired

Council approved a motion to hire Ken Fisher as law director at a salary of \$40,000.

Resurfacing of Belvoir Boulevard

Council authorized an agreement with the Board of County Commissioners of Cuyahoga County for the 2013 resurfacing of Belvoir Boulevard from Fairmount Boulevard to Cedar Road. The county would pay the cost of construction, and the city would pay for the engineering.

Flushing of fire hydrants

Fire Chief John Pitchler reported that after the flushing of fire hydrants, only two were out of service.

LWV observer: Adele Cohn.

JUNE 7, 2010

Councilman Steven Bullock was excused.

Senior services coordinator

Three members of Concerned Citizens of University Heights urged council to appoint a senior services coordinator without further delay and recommended Walter Stinson, the former community coordinator, for the position.

City Beautiful Commission

Former Councilman Steven Bennett, speaking for the City Beautiful Commission, announced that

between May 31 and June 12, with a card special card, Bremec's on the Heights Garden Center will donate a portion of the cardholder's purchase price to the commission.

The City Beautiful Commission has established five categories for beautiful homes awards. They hope to finish selection before Labor Day, so the winners can be on display over the holiday.

McDonald's restaurant

Citing traffic problems for Bushnell and Lansdale roads, two residents spoke against allowing McDonald's to build a restaurant on Warrensville Center Road. On June 10 the Architectural Review Board will discuss the fate of McDonald's request to build on the site. If the proposal is accepted, it will then go to the Planning Commission, which will address traffic issues.

ROTC office for John Carroll University

A special board of zoning appeals meeting on June 16 and a community meeting on June 14 will address John Carroll University's request to use a house, located at 4070 Carroll Blvd., near the Pizzazz restaurant, as an ROTC office.

City Hall hours

Mayor Infeld reported that City Hall is now open until 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, and will remain so until the fall time change. Building Commissioner Menn clarified that there would be no permit inspections during Wednesday evening hours.

John Carroll University green initiatives

Carol Dietz, chair of the Sustainability Committee at John Carroll University, reported that the uni-



versity's removal of a temporary parking lot will increase green space by one and one-half acres and reduce runoff. The university is undertaking a number of other green initiatives.

County land bank

Council authorized an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation for the latter to act as an agent of the city.

Intercity police services

Council authorized an agreement with the cities of South Euclid, Shaker Heights and Euclid for the interchange of police personnel, equipment, and services. Police Chief Stehlik said the three cities have been meeting regularly for a year to discuss how they could work together to save money, especially for a S.W.A.T. team.

New fire pumper truck

Council authorized an agreement with Central States Fire Apparatus, L.L.C., a division of Rosenbauer America, for the purchase of a fire pumper truck. Fire Chief Pitchler said the city wouldn't receive the truck until March 2011 because they first had to build it.

LWV observer: Carol Gibson.

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

UH zoning study gathers dust



Anita Kazarian

It may be time for council to authorize a comprehensive zoning study in this, the most

densely populated city in the area.

Since its inception, the University Heights zoning code is a patchwork in progress. Patchworks are just that, a mix of odds and ends with no consistency, cohesiveness or strength because so many stitches are needed to hold it together. That may be fine for a blanket, but not for our city.

Updating and revising to a more appropriate and user-friendly code containing better defined standards and building requirements will go a long way. The updated code, using current industry standards, will be understandable and may reduce the number of requests for variances and limit the appeals filed.

An updated code will be a start that will reflect and guide our city for the future. While we do not have much land for development, we have land that is being reconfigured.

Land for residences, schools, commercial and public use each requires specific codes. And as night follows day, zoning codes follow a city's plan for the future, called a master plan. A master plan outlines how we envision the use of the land. University Heights has several master plans on the shelf, from 1985, 1986, 1991 and 2003.

The zoning code, its interpretation and appeals, is a complicated process. At issue is our right as private property owners to enjoy our property as we wish. In a landmark 1926 Ohio case, the United States Supreme Court ruled that zoning was a legal city function. Since 1926, state and federal courts have continued to rule that a city has the right to pass and enforce zoning laws. When property owners have challenged the restrictions imposed, the courts have

continued to define a city's right and power to issue zoning regulations.

Last year, two different neighborhood citizen groups formed to contest requests for zoning variances. The Waterway car wash deal for Warrensville Center Road ended when Waterway relocated to Pepper Pike. John Carroll University's plan to convert a house on Carroll Boulevard to ROTC offices ended in an appeal process. JCU subsequently withdrew. This spring, both citizen groups returned to action. One to prevent a McDonald's on the Warrensville site, and the other to prevent JCU's second request to convert the house into offices.

In 2008, D. B. Hartt Inc. submitted a proposal to evaluate the city's existing zoning code. Hartt, a recognized leader in community planning and zoning, states its mission is to "improve the quality of life and physical planning in a community . . . so that competing interests can make informed decisions, resulting in responsible use of land." In other words, the result of updating the zoning code must be acceptable to the different interest groups within the city.

As a city, we do not focus on the future. Master plans and the D. B. Hartt proposal to evaluate the existing zoning code are gathering dust.

An updated zoning code with specific development standards and building requirements, with the general support of the residents, will reduce variance requests and appeals that are now based on interpretations of vague language. More importantly, it will help reduce the conflict between residential and commercial interests. It is time for council to dust off the D. B. Hartt 2008 proposal. With July and August cleared of council meeting obligations, council has the time to begin this important municipal task.

Comments? Suggestions? Contact Anita at AnitaKazarian@gmail.com.

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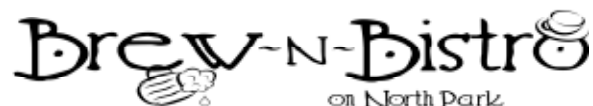
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Stan Soble



Democrat Phil Robinson runs for County Council in District 11

Campaign focuses on economic development and government efficiency

Leah Knapp

University Heights resident and Democrat, Phil Robinson, is running for the Cuyahoga County Council seat in District 11. The district includes Beachwood, Euclid, Lyndhurst, Richmond Heights, South Euclid and University Heights. The primary election is Sept. 7.

"For our region to continue growing, we need a government that can operate in the 21st century," said Robinson. "My experiences working in the public, private and nonprofit sectors give me a unique perspective on how to modernize our government to meet the challenges of the future."

Robinson's three-prong platform includes creating a government that provides excellent health and human services, as well as judicial services, while controlling costs and ensuring transparency; energizing the local economy through new land-use policies and economic and workforce development; and attracting bright minds and young families by marketing the region and opening an immigrant welcome center.

Robinson sees the newly formed county council as being responsible for delivering health and human services in an efficient, compassionate manner;

fostering an environment for sustainable economic development; ensuring tax dollars are spent wisely; providing a meaningful check and balance to the county executive; and facilitating collaboration between local governments.

"The citizens of Cuyahoga County have spoken, and I am committed to bringing them the government they deserve. I'll work to ensure that county services are effective and efficient, government is open and honest, and that the county workforce is the best it can be.

"This is a critical moment in our region's history, and it requires a new set of leaders with innovative ideas. We have a real opportunity to reinvent our county and write its next chapter. Together, we can make our new government as good as its promise," said Robinson.

Robinson serves as a 2010 Cleveland Executive Fellow, where he has developed business growth plans and coauthored a study on improving local neighborhoods. Robinson has worked for U. S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), and later for two Fortune 500 global communications firms. Robinson graduated from The George Washington University in Washington, D. C. with a degree in finance. He lives in University Heights with his wife, Elizabeth.



Phil Robinson

Robinson is endorsed by State Senator Nina Turner; State Representative Mike Foley; Tim Downing, Beachwood resident and Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Executive Committee member; and Ronald Register, Cleveland Heights-University Heights School Board member.

To learn more, visit www.votephil-robinson.com.

Leah Knapp lives in University Heights with her husband Brad.

Bremec Garden Center partners with UH City Beautiful Commission

Anita Kazarian

University Heights' Civic Pride Foundation for the City Beautiful Commission (CBC) partnered with Bremec's Garden Center in Cleveland Heights for a special fundraiser in June. Volunteer members of the University Heights City Beautiful Commission encouraged UH residents to make their gardening purchases at Bremec's with a marketing campaign kicked off at the city's Memorial Day parade.

For purchases made with special coupons between May 31 and June 12, Bremec's donated 10 percent to the UH foundation.

In past years, the CBC raised funds with a spring flower sale. Mayor Infeld encouraged the commission members to explore new ways to engage homeowners and revitalize itself at the group's first meeting this year.

Also new this year are different categories for the commission's Beautiful Homes awards. New members are welcome to attend the next meeting of the CBC at UH City Hall. Contact Kelly Thomas at 216-932-7800 or kthomas@universityheights.com

Anita Kazarian, a marketing professional and longtime resident of University Heights, is a frequent contributor to the Heights Observer.

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Leading indicator in UH shows rebound

Anita Kazarian

Homeowners' increasing investment in repairs and remodeling is considered a leading indicator, one that predicts the future, of an improving economy. By any measure, University Heights homeowners are investing in their homes.

On June 21, Building Commissioner David Menn reported a 20 percent increase in permit applications as compared to the same period in 2009. Menn also reported a 100 percent increase in contractor registrations for the same period.

Because of the filing fee, contractors do not file registrations unless they have a job in the city. "I think it is a very good sign," Menn said. The building department also published a comparison of permit fees charged by neighboring cities. The average fee (calculated by this writer) is \$28.75 for University Heights, \$42.50 for South Euclid, \$40.63 for Cleveland Heights and \$53.75 for Shaker Heights.

The UH building department is a resource for city homeowners. The experts in the department are happy to respond to homeowner requests for guidance on options they are evaluating for remodeling or repairs. One contractor may convince you that a new electrical supply is required for a job, another says what you have will be fine. Not sure what to do? Contact Dave Menn's office at 216-932-7800. The building department team will explain code requirements and identify alternative options.

Anita Kazarian, a marketing professional and longtime resident of University Heights, is a frequent contributor to the Heights Observer.

Nominations open for 2010 UH Beautiful Home awards

Anita Kazarian

Don't wait! The City of Beautiful Homes is seeking nominations for its 2010 awards. Do you or a neighbor have a beautiful garden, back yard or home you are proud of? Don't keep it a secret, share it with us. Nominate your own or a neighbor's property for one or more of the 2010 Beautiful Home awards.

Telephone Kelly Thomas at City Hall 216-932-7800 or send an e-mail to kthomas@universityheights.com.

2010 Beautiful Home awards categories and criteria

"Curb Appeal," a home with landscaping, flowers, and lawn maintenance that catches your eye from the sidewalk as you walk by or from the street as you drive by.

"Best Front Door," a home with a great front door that draws your attention.

"Set-a-Spell," a home with a front yard that invites passersby to come, set-a-spell, and enjoy just taking in the surroundings.

"Best Kept Secret," a home with a backyard that creates a setting and atmosphere through beautiful gardens, flowers, landscaping, and/or other decorative items or outdoor furniture where visitors and the homeowner alike can go to be restored.

"Eco-Garden," a home with a unique front, back or side yard garden that is organically fed and watered in a sustainable green manner, such as a rain barrel.

continued on page 12

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CH-UH Public Library Board Meeting highlights

MAY 17, 2010
Vice President Audrey Cole was absent.

Technology policy

The board adopted a Technology Policy and Planning Guide to ensure quality access to electronic resources. This policy will be included in the overall policy manual. Board Member Jim Posch stressed the importance of guidelines that have yet to be written. He wishes to bring the best practices of the technology field to the library and is looking for constructive feedback. Board Member Kevin Ortner commented on the hard work put in by the subcommittee to bring the technology plan into the mission and core values. Director Nancy Levin will discuss the guidelines with staff on May 27.

Meeting room usage

Programming Coordinator Tonya Davis's report on meeting room status showed an increased usage of 15 percent in total attendance and a 33 percent increase in income. Room reservations can be made on the Web, and that portion of the site has been made more attractive and easy to use. Evenings and weekends are peak times, for which reservations are needed three months in advance. Book displays have been added to the meeting rooms as a number of attendees are new to the library.

Posch made the point that he considers the meeting rooms loss leaders and is therefore unconcerned about the revenue they raise.



Catherine Hakala-Ausperk stated that the library's practice of opening reservations to both nonprofit and community groups deviates from usual practice in public libraries. Most libraries still restrict nonprofit groups to one meeting a month and don't extend meeting room use to social groups.

Personnel changes

Dean Schnurr has been appointed the marketing and community relations coordinator.

Adult Services has had two resignations, including one part-time aide. That position will be upgraded to full-time and will include responsibility for technology training.

Primary election day

Director Levin pointed out that 86 percent of the library levies on the primary ballot in the state were successful. She extended her thanks to all of the branch managers for their service in opening the libraries early on Election Day.

LWV observer, Anne S. McFarland.

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

Library summer reading programs

Tonya Davis

Stop in for one, or all, of the library's special summer reading programs:

Morrison Dance's Fit Fun Frolic

Tuesday, July 13, 7 p.m.
Noble Neighborhood Library
Join in for an evening of dance fun. This program demonstrates how to encourage gross motor development, brain growth, and the love of physical activity in young children and infants.

Turtle Tales

Thursday, July 15, 7 p.m.
University Heights Library
Bring the whole family to hear Susan Weber recount tales of turtles and other

splashy fun from around the world. You will travel the globe through Weber's folktales and songs.

Make a Splash Summer Reading Party

Wednesday, July 28, 7 p.m.
Lee Road Library
The entire family is invited to join the grand finale of the summer reading program. Enjoy games, balloons, water-related crafts, and a cool summertime treat.

Splish Splash Shadow Puppet Show

Thursday, July 29, 7 p.m.
Coventry Village Library
Enjoy a shadow puppet theatre show and make a splash yourself.

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What's going on at your library?

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Explorastory,
Fridays, July 2-30, 10:30 a.m.
Tai Chi and Qi Gong,
Saturdays, July 3-31, 10 a.m.
Teen Knitters Guild,
Tuesdays, July 6 & 27, 4 p.m.
Step Out of Time for Kids: Singing Bowls,
Monday, July 12, 7 p.m.

Noble Neighborhood Library

2800 Noble Road, 216-291-5665
Noble Knitting Circle,
Thursdays, July 1 & 15, 6:45 p.m.
Stay and Play,
Fridays, July 2-30, 9 a.m. to noon
Mystery Evening: Wild Inferno by Sandi Ault,
Thursday, July 8, 7 p.m.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600
Beyond the Book,
Wednesdays, July 7-21, 3 p.m.
Southern Garden Tea,
Saturday, July 17, 2 p.m.
Freezing and Canning Workshop,
Saturday, July 24, 10 a.m.
Tri C Summer Pops Orchestra,
Sunday, August 1, 3 p.m.

University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700
Story Stop,
Wednesdays, July 7-28, 10:30 a.m.
The Senior Spot,
Wednesdays, July 7-28, 12:30 p.m.
Karaoke Wednesdays,
Wednesdays, July 14 & 28, 4 p.m.

Stories in the park

Tonya Davis

Take a break this summer in the great outdoors with stories and activities that will make a splash.

Every Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Purvis Park, July 7 through Aug. 25, will offer stories and crafts.

Learn about the environment while playing games and making crafts. Stories are intended for young children, while the activities are intended for kindergarten through age 12. Registration is required.

Stories will not take place in the rain or threatening weather. Sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the Heights Libraries.



Make a Splash - Read!



CH-UH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Don't miss stories in the park!

- July 7: Learn about what water does for your body.
- July 14: Make rainsticks and learn about the water cycle.
- July 21: Make an underwater garden and a frog to take home.
- Aug. 4: Learn about local fish.
- Aug. 11: Decorate a paper hat with a water theme.
- Aug. 18: Make your own flying fish.
- Aug. 25: Learn about turtles and play Turtle Hurdles!

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CH-UH Board of Education Meeting highlights



Special meeting—May 18, 2010
All board members were present.

Negotiation on school-day changes

Superintendent Heuer said the teachers' union had voted to support the memorandum of understanding for union contract changes needed to implement the proposed changes in the school day schedules at all schools. The board approved the agreement.

Cleaning staff reduction

The board approved the staff reduction of 10 cleaners. Superintendent Heuer, who had consulted the unions, proposed the reduction based on a comparison with the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission database for analyzing operating costs.

Teacher recalls

The board approved the recall of 28 of the 34 teachers laid off in April due to projected needs. The superintendent explained that the 34 layoffs may have seemed premature since a later, more accurate assessment recommended only six layoffs, but state law requires that teachers to be laid off for the coming school year must be notified before April 30. Superintendent Heuer maintained that although regular yearly assessments would be done, he expected fewer teachers to be affected in the future. He noted that assessments had not been done for a long time resulting in excess staffing as the district hired more to fill needs but failed to cutback in areas of reduced need.

Credit flexibility

Joseph Micheller, director of educational resources, reviewed credit flexibility, a new state initiative for the 2010-2011 school year. He maintained there was sufficient time to put policies and a plan in place before the school year begins in late August. If not, the district has until Aug. 1 to apply for a waiver.

Eligibility rules

Micheller, the board, Athletic Director Kristin Hughes, and Renaissance School Principal James Reed reviewed recommended policy changes, created with the help of NEOLA, a school management assistance firm. The discussion covered:

- Academic requirement: currently a student must maintain a 2.0 GPA; disqualification due to a failing grade presents some problems.
- The definition of a grading period: currently it is nine weeks, but it could be a semester or even one week. The board and staff pointed out the need to define the grading period to provide both flexibility and fairness to all sports.
- The impact of credit flexibility: attendance requirements in this initiative would present new difficulties.
- The definition of "medical review panel:" the board felt that this wording should be better defined and with district liability considered.
- Athletics versus extra-curriculars: NOELA separated eligibility requirements for athletics and extra-curriculars, but the board could handle this either way.
- Ohio High School Athletic Association athletic eligibility policies must be consistent with the eligibility requirements set by OHSAA, which oversees inter-scholastic sports.

Micheller said he would bring a revised document to the next meeting.

LWV observer: Maryann Barnes

JUNE 1, 2010

All school board members were present.

Recipients of recognition

- Chris Morgan, from United Way, presented the district with an award for money collected for United Way.
- Greg Copeland, a grounds keeper, was recognized for helping a resident who had fallen and was lying on the lawn in front of the resident's house.
- Thirteen students received recognition for Outstanding Student Artwork.
- Alastair Pearson for the SAT and Celia Van Den Boert for the ACT were recognized for receiving the top district scores in the Northwestern University Talent Search.
- Twenty-nine staff members were honored upon their retirements.

Ohio Schools Facilities Commission

In January, the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission toured all buildings and found that current facilities were not able to support the district's educational goals. The commission's report gave figures on configuration and cost, and suggested examples of improvements. A summary of the report will be on the schools' website, www.chuh.org. The district will not be eligible for the 14 percent state money for five to eight years. However, if the district spends the money before that, the state will reimburse the funds. The board approved the creation of an Ad Hoc District Facilities Planning Committee.

Grant applications

The board approved the submission of the following grant applications:

- Project CARE (Conservation, Activism, Reduce-reuse-recycle and alternative Energy) to the Dominion Foundation, \$8,760
- Learn and Serve American Implementation to the Ohio Department of Education-\$15,000
- ARRA Title II-D Competitive for Monticello Middle School to the Ohio Department of Education, \$145,093
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers to the Ohio Department of Education, \$325,321
- School Improvement Competitive Grant to the Ohio Department of Education, \$5,394,745

New principals for 2010-2011

Superintendent Heuer introduced two new principals: Rachael Coleman at Noble Elementary School, and Michael Wasser at Fairfax Elementary School.

Resignation

Rebecca Quinn, director of gifted/enrichment and middle education, has resigned.

Millikin School lease

The board asked Director of Business Services Stephen Shergalis to advertise for proposals for a four- to five-year lease for Millikin School.

LWV observer: Adele Cohn.

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

See disclaimer on page 4.

Heights senior recognized for scholarship and civic activism

Joy Henderson

Cleveland Heights High School senior Lewis J. Pollis is a semifinalist in the Presidential Scholars Program. He is one of 560 semifinalists selected from about 3,000 students who qualified nationally on the basis of academic achievement, leadership, character, community involvement and school activities.

Pollis's experience as a citizen-activist was just one of the attributes that led to his selection. During the 2008 presidential campaign, he was the editor of the Green Party's presidential candidates newsletter. Pollis noted that "being that involved in the democratic process was a great experience."

One of his favorite classes at Heights High was American history, taught by Matt Meister. "If I had been selected as a finalist, I would have nominated Mr. Meister for the teacher's award," Pollis said. "He taught me how to really look at history, to be a better writer and to think critically."

Pollis's exceptional writing skills have already paid off. He recently won a \$2,500 scholarship from the Negro Leagues Committee, Society for American Baseball Research. Pollis received the award for an essay he wrote about Jackie Robinson and the Civil Rights Movement.

Community involvement is important to Pollis, who is also a National Merit Commended Student. As a member of the Cleveland Heights citizen group Step It Up, he helped interview



Lewis J. Pollis, recent Heights High graduate, is a Presidential Scholar Semifinalist and National Merit Commended Student.

candidates for city council and made recommendations during the last election. He is currently on the editorial board of *Green Pages*, the official publication of the Green Party, and writes about the Cleveland Indians for *www.bleacherreport.com*.

Pollis spent his senior year in the Post Secondary Enrollment Option, taking classes at Cleveland State University in western civilizations, Arabic, introduction to fiction and jazz. At Heights High, he was the editor of *The Black & Gold*, and a member of both the model United Nations team and the political philosophy club. He also played saxophone in the school's jazz ensemble.

Lewis Pollis will attend Brown University in the fall, where he plans to study political science.

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

Bergson is 'Outstanding Art Teacher of the Year'

Jacalyn Elfvin

The Northeast Region of the Ohio Art Education Association has voted Ida Bergson, art specialist at Canterbury Elementary School, Outstanding Art Teacher 2010.

Bergson received this award in recognition of her innovative use of technology and interdisciplinary programs in elementary art instruction, her work as a mentor to Case Western Reserve University's art education graduate students, and the consistently high quality of the artwork produced by her students.

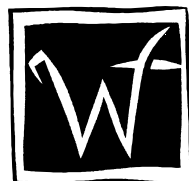
"Ms. Bergson is most deserving of this honor," said Kevin Harrell, Canterbury principal. "She has elevated the level of art instruction at Canterbury



Canterbury art teacher Ida Bergson contributes time and effort beyond normal teaching duties to promote art in the CH-UH school system.

and the proof is in the student artwork that is displayed up and down our hallways. We are very proud of her."

Jacalyn Elfvin is the administrative assistant in the office of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.



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Sharing prom memories

Seventy-five Heights High students began their senior prom on June 4 at Judson Park retirement community, talking to senior citizens and sharing prom memories. The residents were waiting in a beautiful lobby area with a jazz keyboard player providing background music. The young adults and the mature adults enjoyed punch and hors d'oeuvres as they talked about this year's prom and those of many years ago.

Judson volunteer and resident Ida AuWerter helped guide the students to several dining rooms for more conversation. She said, “The young people were beautiful—inside and out!” Judson

resident Wilbur Nordstrom agreed with her, and added, "What a party! The kids came and talked with us, bringing back so many wonderful memories." Marion Ratnoff added, "They looked smashing! The best part is that they want to come, and they helped organize it, too."

Senior Eric Brock was one of the student organizers. "I was glad to help. It was fun, everyone at Judson was so welcoming and kind." This is the ninth year that Heights students have visited Judson on their way to prom, which was at Landerhaven for the first time this year.

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

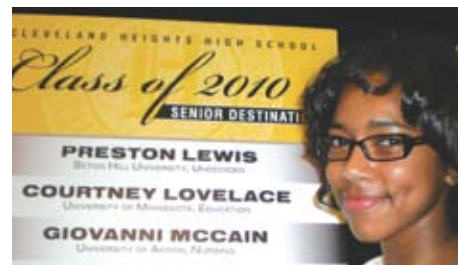
Graduating senior receives the Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship

Graduating senior Courtney Lovelace is the 2010 recipient of The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship. Lovelace received the award on June 2 at the Cleveland Heights High School Senior Recognition Awards program. She will attend the University of Minnesota in the fall.

The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2008 in memory of Officer West, a dedicated member of the Cleveland Heights Police Department who lost his life in the line of duty on May 26, 2007.

The scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating senior from the Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice program at Heights High, who exemplifies Officer West's honesty, sincerity and commitment to protecting citizens in the community.

The scholarship consists of two parts, with \$500 awarded on graduation from high school, and a second



Courtney Lovelace

\$500 awarded after the recipient has completed his or her first year of college. Last year's winner, Devyn Mitchell, completed her freshman year of college and received her second \$500 award.

Collectively, the Cleveland Heights High School Class of 2010 received over \$92,000 in local awards, and over \$9 million in national scholarship awards.

The Officer Jason D. West Memorial Scholarship is made possible by contributions from residents and businesses in Cleveland Heights.

Lita Gonzalez is a community volunteer.

Ad hoc committee forming to consider CH-UH facilities mix

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education announced at its June 1 meeting the creation of a new ad hoc facilities committee that will review the district's school buildings, their condition and usage, and the community's current and future educational needs.

The committee will begin its work with a review of a recent report by the Ohio School Facilities Commission. The OSFC report, released in April 2010, contains a comprehensive assessment of all of the district's facilities, including these findings:

1. In terms of their ability to support our current education program, all of the buildings are considered, at best, borderline.
2. The current configuration of the buildings forces the district to maintain an excessive amount of facilities.
3. Maintaining these excess facilities contributes to a significant cost that could be otherwise used for educational purposes.
4. The total cost to renovate all current facilities to meet OSFC standards is \$236,409,000.
5. The enrollment projections show the current enrollment of 5,953 dropping to 5,380 by the 2019–2020 school year.
6. For the sake of planning purposes, the commission recommends the district use the projected 2014–2015 figure of 5,514.

The OSFC also provided two sample plans:

- I. Construction of all new facilities; and
reducing the number of schools to five

elementary and two middle schools.

2. Renovate Canterbury, Fairfax, Oxford, and Roxboro Elementary Schools to house grades K-5.

In response, Superintendent Douglas Heuer said, “These are just samples and are not indicative of the direction the district may choose to take. The OSFC report makes the facts clear. The CH-UH City School District simply has too much building space for the number of students we have, and the configuration of those buildings is inadequate to meet our educational needs. Now is the time to address these issues and we are proposing a measured, cautious approach that seeks the widest input and analysis. We have the chance now to look at our schools and really reimagine our facilities and configuration so that they meet the needs of this community into the future.”

The members of the ad hoc facilities committee will be selected by the administration. The first meeting of the committee is expected to be in September 2010, and the group's work should be finished by June 2011.

The ad hoc facilities committee will be tasked with the following duties:

1. Review the OSFC assessment report and gather additional data.
2. Develop a recommendation to the board regarding renovation vs. building new; grade configuration; number of facilities; timeline for implementation; and an approach for funding the project.

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

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Winning playwrights

Jacalyn Elfvin

Every year, the Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival of Dobama Theatre attracts students who like to write stories for the stage, and Noble and Oxford Elementary Schools have some winners. Jonah Jung and Ronan Karem from Noble, and Mayson Kalke from Oxford are winning playwrights in the festival. Ronan's and Mayson's plays were produced.

Honorable mentions include Montreal Watkins, Chloe Birdsell, and Jays Blackmon from Noble and Isaiah Hamilton and Rhyann Qawwee-Husain from Oxford.

The winning playwrights received a \$100 U. S. Savings Bond. Out of the 21 winning plays, seven were produced from the grades 1-8 entries and three of the high school plays were produced for the Night Kitchen at the Dobama Kids' Festival.

The Kids' Playwriting Festival took place at the Dobama Theatre, 2340 Lee Road, from June 17-19. For information, call 216-932-6838 or visit www.dobama.org.

Jacalyn Elfvin is the administrative assistant in the office of communications and community engagement for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District.

Tri-Heights Career Prep automotive programs receive national certification

Angee Shaker

Proving their mettle as leaders in career training, two automotive programs at Cleveland Heights High School have received certification by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence.

The automotive collision program has been recertified in paint and refinishing, nonstructural analysis and damage repair, and structural analysis and damage repair. The automotive technology program has been recertified in brakes, electrical/electronic systems, engine performance, and suspension and steering. To achieve this recognition, the automotive training programs underwent rigorous evaluation. Jeffrey Porter is the auto technology instructor and Gregory Henderson is the auto collision instructor at the high school.

These programs are offered at Heights High by the Tri-Heights Career Prep Consortium, which includes the school districts of Warrensville Heights, Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights-University Heights. The con-

sortium provides career and technical training in 13 programs.

"This is great news for automotive-minded young people and their parents," said Donald Seyfer, NATEF chair. "Because this program increases cooperation between local and educational industry leaders, it gives added assurance that Heights High's graduates will be employable entry-level technicians. As a result of the quality education provided by Heights, the public will benefit as well-trained repair technicians join the workforce."

John DiSabato, coordinator of career and technical education added, "During the past few months, we have worked closely with NATEF to make certain that our program would meet strict industry standards, and now we are delighted to join the ranks of the ASE certified training program. Students will be assured of a quality education, and shop owners will be assured to getting quality job applicants."

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



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The Roxboro staff and CH-UH Board of Education members have traveled to Huangzhou, Suzhou and Shanghai. In Shanghai, the Roxboro staff signed an agreement that joins Jinyang Senior High School in Shanghai with Roxboro Elementary. From right to left: Director of Educational Services Joseph Micheller, Roxboro Elementary Principal Tara Grove and Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey Talbert.

Roxboro and district leaders visit China to establish new partnerships

Angee Shaker

As China's role in world affairs continues to grow, the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District is preparing students to work with, and compete against, their peers in other nations. Among its other initiatives and programs, the district is focusing on helping teachers and administrators gain insight into the Chinese educational system, so that they may better educate and prepare students.

In June a team of district administrators and teachers visited several cities in China to meet with Chinese educators, build relationships and immerse themselves in the Chinese educational system. The group included Roxboro Elementary School Principal Tara Grove, and Roxboro teachers Valerie Arnett, Monica Rogers, Sue Miracle, Amy Miracle, Debbie Hirsch, Jennifer Steiss, Betsy Neylon, Sheri Fried and Melissa Garcar. Also traveling with the group were Dr. Joseph Micheller, director of educational services, and Jeffrey Talbert, assistant superintendent.

"The district has formed important partnerships with the Confucius Institute at Cleveland State University, East China Normal University in Shanghai, Capital University of Economics and Business in Beijing, and the Shanghai Ministry of Education," Micheller said. "These partnerships are a crucial part of our PAS-SAGE Initiative (Preparing All Students for Success in a Global Economy). The

district is working on converting the Roxboro campus, over time, into a K-8 International Academy, with the International Baccalaureate curriculum and Mandarin as the primary foreign language. Every year we build stronger relationships with our Chinese counterparts, and this is already paying off for our students."

"While in China, we participated in conferences, visited schools and furthered dialog with teachers and administrators," Talbert said. "We signed partnership agreements establishing sister schools for Roxboro Elementary and Roxboro Middle School, and set up technological systems to remain in contact with those schools throughout the school year. We're looking forward to future initiatives that may include teacher exchanges and joint curriculum projects."

"This was a great opportunity for our teachers, but our students are the ones who will really benefit," Grove said. "Our staff brought back photos, videos and many cultural artifacts to share with our kids. We corresponded with our students during the trip, and they were able to follow our journey online. This fall, teachers will be making presentations in their classrooms. This is another way for us to open up the world to our students, and help them look across the globe for sources of knowledge."

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

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Goal! U.S. makes it to second round in World Cup

Christine McBurney

When my 17-year-old son asked me if I wanted to go to breakfast with him, I dropped everything and cancelled my workout and lunch plans. Why? Yesterday, he wasn't even speaking to me.

Soon, however, I figured out just why he wanted to spend time with his mother. The "breakfast" was at the Cedar Lee Pub and Grill, which opened early for World Cup fans. My son, one of three senior captains on the Heights High soccer team, puts the "fan" in fanatic. He needed me there to be admitted, to drive, and to pay.

But I didn't care. It was quality time with my son. He and one of his Heights High teammates sat across the bar from us soccer moms. I watched a screen above his head and he above mine. Between missed goals, we talked about college admissions, the upcoming season, and grades, grades, grades. Sometimes, I caught myself watching my son watch the match, especially for the first frustrating 90 minutes as it took overage time for USA to score against Algeria.

In the 91st minute, when Landon Donovan finally scored, the place exploded. The atmosphere was electric—as some of our favorite British commentators say. I hadn't witnessed a public eruption like this since my post-college days when I worked in a pub in the West End of London. We barmaids and barmen would cheer when England or

Chelsea scored and then brace ourselves for fear that the skinheads in the corner might decide to ruin the party.

The communal viewing was pure joy with no threat of violence. Everyone was smiling, jumping off their barstools and cheering. I became hoarse from screaming and I found that I had actually shed a tear. Soccer—as Pele called it, "the beautiful game"—is also an emotional game. If you Google the words, "soccer" and "emotional" you will get 10,600,000 results. No matter how many years I've cheered my son from the stands, and no matter how many times he has used the salt and pepper shakers to explain "off sides" to me, I really just think of myself as a supporter, not a real fan. Why was I so emotional?

Watching the passion and joy on my son's face, I was reminded of his father, another soccer fanatic who at the tender age of 14 would skip school in Ireland to take the ferry over to Liverpool to watch that team play. My son (also a Liverpool supporter) has played soccer since he was five years old, from the Heights Recreation League to East Side Kickers, to club teams, and finally to the Heights varsity team. His father taught him to kick the ball the day he learned to walk. Though we are no longer together, my son and his father stay connected via soccer. It's mostly what they talk about on the phone.

Recently, I'd been thinking about whether or not I can afford another summer soccer camp. Of course I'll send

him. It's incredible to see your own child so passionate—in a good way! Today I shed a tear because I felt real joy in that little pub in Cleveland Heights. Our bartender, Kelli, and the folks at the Cedar Lee Pub and Grill, understand that the word pub comes from "public house," a place where a family can go for a meal and a match.

I've kept my son in soccer because he loves it. It's given him a positive activity and surrounded him with positive male role models. I know that it has kept his connection to his father a little more alive all these years. And he invited me to watch the game today (in his own way).

You can wait a long time for a goal in soccer, as my fellow Americans are wont to protest. And sometimes, frequently even, after all the blood, sweat, and tears, there is no score.

I know that I have scored. And it took me only 17 years.

Christine McBurney is the theatre arts department chair at Shaker Heights High School, a performer, freelance writer, and proud Heights High soccer mom.

INTEGRATION continued from page 4

there was to be a protest meeting at 7 at the Church of the Savior. Three hours later—on Mother's Day—more than 700 people showed up at the meeting! The response was stunning.

We volunteered to survey every apartment building in Cleveland Heights (as would-be tenants) to find out the amount of the rent and the security deposit, whether children and pets were allowed, and how many apartments were available in the building. This information was filed so that after the Federal Civil Rights law was passed, it was virtually impossible for perspective black tenants to be turned away by lies.

My husband and I were not usually joiners, but we worked very hard for Heights Citizens for Human Rights. And a personal plus for us was that, as new residents, we made some fantastic friends. It was lovely to get to know people who we knew had the same values that we had and would work for them. It eliminated having to pussyfoot around to learn what people believed in.

Our feeling right from the beginning of our life in Cleveland was that if this kind of movement couldn't succeed in Cleveland Heights, it couldn't do so anywhere. And much of our work forced the real estate sales people to really clean up their act and not frighten people into avoiding Cleveland Heights, where homes were reasonably priced, and encourage people to buy in more expensive suburbs.

Needless to say, in those early years many of us from HCHR (and other Cleveland Heights residents) took it upon ourselves to personally welcome new black families moving into the area. HCHR became Heights Community Congress, and eventually our work, thankfully, was made redundant.

Pat Pavlovich is currently a resident of the Alcazar in Cleveland Heights.

COVENTRY continued from page 1

attendee who left as the disturbance began. "It was definitely not the usual Cleveland Heights crowd. You could just tell that somehow they were there to ruin it for everyone else."

Eighteen minutes before the scheduled closing of the fair, at 8:42 p.m., a fight broke out at one end of the street fair; the last such disturbance was handled by police at 10:08 p.m.

By the time it was over, nine people had been arrested: four from Cleveland Heights, two from Cleveland, two from East Cleveland and one from Shaker Heights, according to Cleveland Heights police.

Fights were reported to have occurred at Coventry and Mayfield roads, in front of Tommy's restaurant, at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park, at Edgehill Road and Washington Boulevard, Edgehill and Coventry roads, Hillcrest and Mayfield roads and the Mayfield Road Marathon gas station.

Megan Rochford attended the fair with family and friends. She witnessed two of the fights. Moments before one of them, Rochford said she was standing at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park and overheard a group of young men standing next to her repeating remarks they heard about people getting guns and shooting. Rochford described the fighters as "savagely" beating each other and throwing each other on top of cars in the parking lot.

According to the City of Cleveland Heights, no weapons were used in any of the fights. Tom Fello, owner of Tommy's restaurant, was beginning to break down his stand when a group of teenagers ran past, chasing two other teenagers and trying to grab their shirts. He saw the young men knock over a street vendor and her stand.

A large rush of other kids toward each fight was noted by at least a few observers as the worst aspect the disturbance.

In a statement read at the June 21 Cleveland Heights City Council meeting, Mayor Ed Kelley called the incidents "unfortunate" and praised the work of the Cleveland Heights police. "Thanks to the excellent work of our Cleveland Heights Police there were no injuries and the situation was quickly brought under control," he said.

Kelley said the kind of behavior that occurred at Coventry "will not be tolerated on Coventry or anywhere in our community. If disruptive behavior, unlawful behavior or anything that disturbs the peace occurs we will arrest and prosecute."

"The Coventry area . . . is safe, it is fun and we are very proud of its history and its current vitality. This one incident should in no way change the way that Coventry is thought of as a 'go-to destination' for out-of-towners and Greater Cleveland residents," Kelley said.

"What happened was disruptive and made people feel uncomfortable and unsafe," said Presser. "These youth didn't come to listen to music, buy art, or see a movie," he said. "They came to cause trouble. But it could have happened anywhere. The Cleveland Heights police handled it well."

Fair organizers canceled the first movie in the summer series, which was supposed to follow the street fair at 9 p.m. While there were early rumors

continued on page 19

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Education of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District (the "District") is seeking Letters of Interest from entities interested in the lease of the former Millikin Elementary School Property located at 1700 Crest Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121, in Eastern Cuyahoga County (the "Property").

Entities interested in leasing the Property may obtain from the District at the address set forth below its *Request for Letters of Interest* detailing the procedures for submitting a Letter of Interest. Letters of Interest should be submitted to the District at the address set forth below not later than 12:00 noon Eastern Standard Time on Friday, August 6, 2010. Letters of Interest received after this date and time will not be accepted.

REQUESTS FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST MAY BE OBTAINED FROM, AND LETTERS OF INTEREST SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO:

Stephen A. Shergalis, Director of Business Services
Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District
2155 Miramar Boulevard, University Heights, OH 44118
Phone: 216-371-7171 x 2004 • Fax: 216-397-3685

The District will select the entity proposing a re-use of the Property the District deems to be in the District's best interest and in accordance with the procedures set forth in the *Requests for Letters of Interest*.

Parenting Q&A

Ellen Barrett

Ellen Barrett, a parent educator at Heights Parent Center for the last 12 years, fields questions from parents about the daily ups and downs of parenting. If you have questions for Ellen, e-mail her at ebarrett@heightsparentcenter.org.

Q. I am at my wit's end with my 4-year-old daughter. For every wonderful delightful behavior she exhibits there is an equally defiant and contrary behavior. Loving and imaginative one minute, stingy and stubborn the next. What should I do to help her to regulate her emotions and not lose my cool, too?

A. Ahh—a day in the life of a four year old. What fun and interesting creatures they are. Your child is growing and maturing rapidly. You probably notice that she seems more and more like a school-age kid and less and less like a toddler. Believe it or not her stubborn behavior is a good thing, too. It means her confidence is growing and she is learning to test the limits of independence. Your job is to foster that independence and help her learn to respect others at the same time. There are several strategies that might help you to do this.

Be clear about your expectations. Give her specific examples of acceptable behavior ahead of time, but allow for limited choices: “You need to change out of your bathing suit when we get home from the pool. Would you like to put on your clothes back on, or put on your pajamas?”

Be consistent.

If you use time-out as a way to help her to regroup, be sure to give warning and set a reasonable time limit. A common guide is one minute for each year of age.

Keep the message simple.

“Say what you mean and mean what you say.” For example, let her know specifically that if she won't help pick up the toys she can't go to the park.

Follow through.

When you give an ultimatum you have to stick to it. Remember to make sure you are willing to live with your decision. If you really want to go to the park yourself, don't threaten her with not going.

Be loving, but firm.

You will be most effective if you stay calm and avoid a debate. Your job as the parent is to make her world a place where she can learn to become a kind, responsible person. Model that behavior even when you are dealing with an irrational, stubborn child.

Make her feel useful.

Four-year-olds have a lot to offer and are capable of contributing much to the family. Have her help set the table for dinner. Simple tasks like this will build self esteem, foster independence, give her some control and help her to learn to manage her emotions.



MCDONALDS continued from page 1

Jeri Shore, a member of the neighborhood group that helped defeat the Waterway Car Wash at this same location, said that the petition signatures she and others collected represented the concerns of the surrounding neighbors.

City council members agreed to attend prearranged standing dates for Committee of the Whole meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Council committees historically meet as independent committees on their own. The current city council is encouraging committees to meet collectively to discuss individual committee agenda items. These meetings are open to the public and take place in City Hall, lower level. Contact City Hall to confirm meeting dates and agenda items.

Anita Kazarian, a marketing professional and longtime resident of University Heights, is a frequent contributor to the Heights Observer. Contact her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.

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HOME AWARDS continued from page 6

The nominating period is now open and ends at 4 p.m. on Friday, July 23. The City Beautiful Commission will review all nominations and select the winners before Labor Day. Winners will receive their awards in September.

Eco-garden and best kept secret

BICYCLE continued from page 1

We want to help implement Safe Routes to School, a national program that encourages students to walk or ride bikes to school. We want to promote bicycling for recreation and transportation, and are encouraged because residents have enthusiastically welcomed the free, open-to-all group rides that we started in June.

CHBC looks forward to working with our city to improve opportunities for safe, convenient cycling in Cleveland Heights and our region. Already, City Council declared May Bike Month in Cleveland Heights, and the police department assigned Officer Sean Hinkle to bicycle duties. As we get underway, we have met with Richard Wong, director of planning and development for the City of Cleveland Heights. Wong is an avid cyclist who represents Cleveland Heights at meetings of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency's Transportation Advisory Committee and Bicycle Advisory Council.

More information about the CHBC is available at www.bikesintheheights.org. CHBC is also on Facebook, and operates the Twitter account CHBikeCoalition.

Mary Dunbar has enjoyed bicycling in Cleveland Heights and beyond since moving here in 1970.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional and a long time University Heights resident.

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The Brew-N-Bistro is jammin'

Anna Schade

Mark R. Reich owns the Brew-N-Bistro, located at 20630 North Park Blvd., near the eastern entrance to John Carroll University. His wife plays in an Irish band, the Terriers, and she loves to partake in jam sessions with her bandmates and friends. Naturally, she thought the Brew-N-Bistro would be a great spot to play.

So every third Monday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m., the Brew-N-Bistro now hosts an acoustic music jam session for all ages. Reich says that anyone who can play an instrument can come in and jam, and anyone can come to listen to the assembled musicians play swing, oldies, bluegrass, Celtic and other genres.

Reich sets up a stage area in a semi-circle, but when more people show up it can become a full circle. "They love to have people hear them," Reich says, "but

they are really playing for themselves. They don't care if people are applauding, or not."

If these jam sessions become popular, Reich hopes they'll take place every other Monday. He would also like to start an open mike night on the Mondays the jam sessions are not taking place.

Besides the new jam sessions, the Brew-N-Bistro is making other changes. Starting in July, it will become a sit-down restaurant in the evenings. The daytime counter service will remain, but after 5 p.m., customers will order from servers who will come to the tables.

The next jam session will take place July 19. The open mike sessions—which Reich thinks will bring in a younger crowd, including high school and college students—will begin in late August, when schools are back in session.

Anna Schade is a senior at John Carroll University and a Heights Observer intern.



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The newly renovated Brew-N-Bistro welcomes musicians every third Monday.

The parent tarp keeps clothes clean

Jennifer Kuhel

Where her boss saw remnants of baby's breakfast, Meredith Ferguson saw opportunity. The 35-year-old Cleveland Heights resident and advertising executive remembers the exchange that triggered her inner entrepreneur.

"Meredith," her boss said nearly three years ago, "Seems like every day, you've got something new on your clothes." And she didn't mean that as a compliment. First, Ferguson was humiliated, then annoyed.

"Every morning, I was trying to do so much—nurse my youngest daughter before work, get myself ready, pack a lunch, think about client meetings I had coming up, and get out the door," she recalls. "And then without fail, I'd manage to soil my clothes without realizing it, no matter how hard I tried to cover up."

Ferguson started looking online for a smock that would help. She found nothing that was attractive enough, thick enough or waterproof enough to keep her daughter's morning mess off of her clothes.

That's when Ferguson decided she would create a product herself. So for the next few years, Ferguson devoted all of her spare time to developing the Kikou (pronounced "kee-koo"), a stylish, waterproof, machine-washable wrap that protects parents' clothes from the inevitable dousing of spit-up, formula, rice cereal and peas.

Ferguson launched the product last month, along with her company, Calm the Crazy, LLC.

"I'm proud of her dedication and how hard she's worked at it," says Ferguson's husband, Josh, who stays at home with the couple's two daughters, Ella, 4, and Evie, 3. "She's really done it all. She came up with the idea and sold it, but she's also stuck out all the little things in between that don't necessarily yield immediate results."

Ferguson still works full-time in advertising and desired no part in actually making the product. "I wanted it to look

and feel high-quality, so I knew that I wanted it professionally manufactured," she explains, adding that she tried several manufacturers before finding a match right here in the United States. The Virginia-based manufacturer also makes high-end children's clothing, so Ferguson knew every Kikou would meet her expectations.

So far, Ferguson's Kikou has mostly local users, like Shaker Heights resident Jenny Steadman, who has two young daughters. Steadman says she uses her Kikou daily. "My youngest daughter spits up all the time and it's nice to not have to change my clothes as often during the day."

Ferguson's goal for the Kikou this year is to continue to build on the steady word-of-mouth success she's had so far. Right now, the product is available for

purchase online at www.calmthecrazy.com. Ferguson is also busy developing two more products that are in keeping with Calm the Crazy's mission to, as she says, "help manage the chaos of everyday life with kids." She hopes to launch those products in 2011.

Jennifer Kuhel is a former reporter, trade magazine editor and marketing professional who lives in the Heights. Kubel writes a blog, <http://livewriterrepeat.blogspot.com>, an essay-style blog that captures her life experiences as a stay-at-home mom to three young girls.



The Kikou protects this working mom's clothing from her toddler's yucky hands.



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Kim Sergio Inglis

Amid a unique selection of clothing and accessories, there are thousands of stories inside Revive, Cleveland Heights' Fair Trade boutique.

One story describes the work of Mercado Global, a group of artists in Guatemala, whose skillful crafting of jewelry and textiles is helping to break the cycle of poverty for their daughters. Another story belongs to Gloria, a single mother in Central America, who supports her family with a line of crocheted handbags sold at Revive.

All of the stories are linked together by Lisa Dunn, Revive's owner, who founded the Lee Road store in 2006, and has since expanded to a second store in Legacy Village. Dunn and her staff make sure the tag on each item includes information about the artisan who created it. "We put a lot of work into the description, making sure there is a story," says Dunn.

Dunn's own story merges her background in retail management with subsequent work for a Cleveland-based human rights organization. In that position, Dunn explains, "I learned about the struggle for human rights in labor. In many areas, minimum wage is not a living wage. Fair Trade is an alternative commerce structure—one that is committed to paying producers a living wage, so that they can eat nutritiously, take care of their health and educate their children."



Lisa Dunn travels the world to find unique fair trade items for her Lee Road store.

During a trip to El Salvador several years ago, Dunn met a group of women; all skilled tailors, they were unable to find work in their community because they could not compete with cheaper clothing imported from China. Impressed by their craftsmanship and moved by their story, Dunn commissioned them to make 20 pairs of embroidered pants, which she gave as holiday gifts. Dunn recalls, "In spite of the obstacles they faced, they still lived every day with hope. I was inspired by their resilience to take chances, and work in Fair Trade to bring their work to a retail setting."

"At the same time I was learning

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about Fair Trade," says Dunn, "I felt like a new eye was opened to me for fashion. I learned about hand-blocked fabrics, vegetable and clay dyes, and organic fabrics. I work on product development with the artisans, and buy from about 70 different groups, from 37 different countries."

She adds, "I am struck by the skill level and desire for work of the people

I meet. I know my store has a real social impact. At the same time, we work with the artisans to keep the items we sell unique, fashionable and current."

New this month is a travel-inspired organic cotton line from Uganda, exclusive to Revive. "These are great basics," Dunn points out, "with unique details, such as ruching on the side of some pieces."

While much of her inventory is imported, Dunn sells several domestically produced lines, including belts made in Chicago from factory-discarded seat belts and vintage ribbon. "The same husband and wife who make them also make guitar straps used by my favorite band, Wilco, and sold at Heights Guitars," reveals Dunn.

Revive's website, www.revivestore.com, includes links to other Fair Trade stores and organizations, as well as an online shop. A monthly e-newsletter focuses on a particular collection or artisan, and highlights special events, such as trunk shows and fashion shows, and private shopping parties.

"With all the traveling I do, I'm really happy to call Cleveland Heights home," says Dunn, who has lived here, with her husband, for 10 years. "I think there is something special about this community," Dunn observes, adding, "Everyone here is committed to keeping the Heights vibrant. There is a strong devotion to independent businesses and restaurants. And when things happen in other parts of the world, because it affects the artisans we work with, Heights residents understand."

A former marketing professional, Kim Sergio Inglis recently relocated to Cleveland Heights from Brooklyn, NY.

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Cedar Lee Pub and Grill opens new patio

Anna Schade

After two years under its current ownership, the Cedar Lee Pub has celebrated the grand opening of its new patio. Shaun Bosko, co-owner and general manager, believes the addition will be the focus of the bar this summer.

The patio, located behind the pub, is about 2,000 square feet with a full-service bar, two flat-screen televisions and a large projection screen off to the



Patrons begin to gather at 3 p.m. for Cedar Lee Pub's burger special.

side. The patio has bar and table seating, with an awning covering about a third of the area.

Bosko thinks the patio is a great addition to the place, adding a nice feel to eating outside. He hopes the menu, with a summertime \$5 burger-and-beer special, will be a hit. The special runs daily from 3-7 p.m. and into the evenings on Monday. It includes a burger,

fries and a 16-ounce Labatt Blue.

The Cedar Lee Pub and Grill serves 30 different burgers and a range of other dishes from \$8-\$9. Also, on Monday nights, from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m., the bar features karaoke singing—popular among area college students.

Anna Schade is a senior at John Carroll University and a Heights Observer intern.

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Studio Taylor expands on Fairmount

Kelli Fontenot

Debuting a 1,500 square-foot space for manicures, pedicures and keratin relaxer treatments, Studio Taylor owner, Nancy Taylor, said her staff looks forward to pampering clients in the newly expanded Fairmount Boulevard salon.

Tall windows next to manicure stations allow clients to peer out at passersby, while spherical chandeliers, poised above the new area, are reflected in large mirrors.

Pops of red accent a new seating area with a couch and director chairs. Shampooing sinks and makeup stations have been shifted to give everyone a little more “elbow room,” Taylor noted.

“The staff is incredibly enthusiastic about the space, especially all the natural light,” she said, “and the clients love it. We’re also seeing a return of clients we haven’t seen in a long time because the space has improved.”

Designer Judy Kushner developed the concept for the chic, welcoming space, and architect Todd Mayher was instrumental in constructing the addition.

Studio Taylor opened in 1996 with two manicure stations and four chairs for cutting and styling hair. Today, 11 hairdressing stations line the walls of the 3,580 square-foot facility. Four complete manicure stations and a few pedicure chairs are available, and the



Quality service and a friendly atmosphere are priorities for Nancy Taylor (right), owner of Studio Taylor on Fairmount Boulevard.

salon continues to update services, with spray tanning under consideration for the future.

The studio is the first in the area to go almost completely ammonia-free, which is better for customers and for the environment, Taylor explained.

Clients seem pleased with the service—and the new digs. Curtains on either side of each pedicure station can

be drawn for privacy or pulled away for groups, according to Taylor, who remembered: “We once had three women in here for pedicures, and they were all expecting babies at the same time.”

All generations are welcome at Studio Taylor, from children to their mothers and grandmothers, Taylor said, noting her clients are friendly and eclectic. The salon’s new look, she said,

aims to please them all.

“We wanted to maintain a connection with the neighborhood,” she explained. “If they’re finishing up working out, or walking their dog, or coming from work, we want them to feel comfortable in what they have on.”

Kelli Fontenot is a journalist living in Cleveland Heights.

Cedar Fairmount district sports new street signs

Kaye Lowe

Neighbors, merchants and professionals turned out for a June 23 patio party celebrating the installation of 15 new street signs in the Cedar Fairmount business district. The Mad Greek and the Cedar Fairmount Special Improvement District hosted the reception to thank all who had contributed to making the signs a reality.

Fifteen signs along Cedar Road, from Norfolk Road to Euclid Heights Boulevard, have replaced the generic green ones. The signs, designed by artist Raymond Bugelski, feature the historic Heights Center Building and the individual street names. Peggy Spaeth, executive director of Heights Arts, oversaw the project.

Councilman Kenneth Montlack and Sal Russo, Sr., president of the Cedar Fairmount SID, presented certificates of appreciation and proclamations to Bugelski, Spaeth, and neighbors Michael Weil and Jan Kious.

For the past two years Weil and



Kious spearheaded Friends of Cedar Fairmount’s fund drive for the signs. Neighbors raised money at block parties and through solicitation letters. The SID also contributed funds.

The new signs, along with the four gateway signs at the district’s entrances, unify street elements with the district’s architecture. The SID plans to raise additional funds to replace the masthead street signs, install a new sign on the traffic island at the intersection of Cedar Road and Fairmount Boulevard, and purchase street benches incorporating the logo.

There will be a Friends of Cedar Fairmount meeting in July to discuss the group’s involvement in the Cedar Fair-

mount neighborhood and future projects. For information, call 216-891-3172.

Kaye Lowe is the executive director of the Cedar Fairmount SID.

Funky Hippy opens on Lee

Heights Observer Staff

Dawn Ward and her daughter-in-law, Lauren, have opened a new store in the petite storefront that formerly housed Simply Charming. Funky Hippy is located at 2265 Lee Road and is open 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

“The store offers an eclectic mix of clothing, housewares and other items for anyone who lives, or is trying to live,

outside of the box,” says Ward.

This is the second location for the store. Ward has operated the original Funky Hippy in downtown Akron for eight years.

Attend Funky Hippy’s open house on Saturday, July 24, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Raw Purr (www.rawpurr.com) will give a special closing performance at Kobalt next door from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

For more information visit www.funkyhippy.com or call 216-253-4074.

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MADAGASCAR with music by Dave Brewer Drums	THURSDAY AUGUST 12 Party in the P.E.A.C.E. Park A community picnic with fun for the whole family. Festivities will include jugglers, balloon twisting and the Bubble lady! Film: Audience Choice Music from 6-9 by sponsored by HEIGHTS OBSERVER MO' MOJO	
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HeightsWrites

Meredith Holmes

Between the celebrations, graduations, and milestones, life is made of smaller, private moments, no less important, and often more poignant.

Elegy for Our Old Car

By Amy Kesegich

Our old car carried us
“Just Married,”
squinting in the March sun
eighteen years ago.
We had the red Chevy towed
the other day. We waved
as if we were sending it off
to college, or war—
some quest
that didn’t include us.
The tow-truck driver grunted
as he harnessed
one battered nag to the other.
Our children took our picture
where we stood
once before,
ropy in our blue jeans
in front of our
blushing new car.



COURTESY AMY KESEGICH

Amy Kesegich, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of English at Notre Dame College of Ohio. She has published poetry in Whiskey Island, California Quarterly, Frost Notes, Poetry Motel, White Pelican Review Rubbertop Review and Poetography. She has a chapbook, Spare Change, published by Bits Press. She lives in Cleveland Heights with her husband and their two children.

Community to choose movie for Aug. 12

Deanna Bremer Fisher

This summer the Coventry Village Special Improvement District is offering free family movies and music at Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park on Thursday nights.

Every week, through Aug. 12, families are invited to gather at the park (at the corner of Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard) to play, enjoy live performances and catch a summer movie. Bring a picnic or grab a bite to eat on Coventry before the show. Musical entertainment begins at 7:30 p.m. and the movie screenings begin at 9 p.m.

The series culminates Aug. 12 with the Party in the P.E.A.C.E. Park, a community picnic, sponsored by your community newspaper, the Heights

Observer. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. and will include jugglers, balloon twisting and the Bubble Lady. Mo Mojo will provide the musical entertainment.

Heights residents will choose the Aug. 12 movie. Vote online for your favorite one of the following: *Babe*, *Men in Black*, *Groundhog Day*, *Hairspray* (the remake) or *ET*. You can also write in a movie for next year’s schedule. Voting ends at 5 p.m. on July 31. The movie with the most votes will be shown Aug. 12.

For more information and to vote, go to www.futureheights.org or www.coventryvillage.org.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights, the nonprofit that publishes the Heights Observer.

BOOK REVIEW

Morton tells another important CH story

Hugh Fisher

Marian Morton’s latest chronicle of Cleveland Heights, *The Overlook of Cleveland and Cleveland Heights* (Arcadia Publishing), is another example of the author’s skill at uncovering heretofore unpublished vintage images, and knitting them together with sound research and a good story. Aficionados of Cleveland Heights history are the beneficiaries.

Morton covers Patrick Calhoun’s development of the Euclid Heights Allotment generally, but focuses more specifically on the westernmost portion of the allotment known as The Overlook. Falling within both Cleveland Heights and Cleveland, The Overlook largely duplicated the grandeur of Euclid Avenue, when some of that storied avenue’s most prominent residents made the Heights their new address.

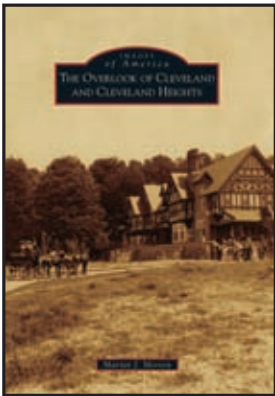
Perhaps inevitably, The Overlook fell on hard times with the changing fortunes of its residents. Some of these difficult-to-maintain houses became multifamily dwellings, and many more were repurposed by institutions, notably Ursuline College. When the wrecking ball began to swing, at least one of these properties became something arguably better—the First Church of Christ, Scientist, now Nottingham-Spirk Design Associates—while most were replaced by buildings ranging from mediocre to unsightly.

Morton’s reporting leaves the reader to draw his own conclusions. One view

is that this is a chronicle of another great loss for Cleveland Heights and Cleveland. Ursuline College can be commended for becoming good stewards of several of these properties, but when Ursuline no longer needed them, Case Western Reserve University demolished them. Indeed, the destruction of the residences on Carlton Road by CWRU is tragic and myopic.

Euclid Avenue was a victim of an era. Many decades later, from the late 1960s to as late as 1999, both Cleveland Heights and Cleveland were still failing to protect some of their greatest and most unique assets, showing a lack of vision and insensitivity to the history and fabric of a neighborhood.

Hugh Fisher is a resident of Fairmount Boulevard and coauthor of *Euclid Golf Neighborhood*, published by Arcadia.



The Overlook of Cleveland and Cleveland Heights, \$21.99, Arcadia Publishing. Available at local retailers, such as Mac’s Back and Appletree Books, online bookstores, or through Arcadia Publishing at www.arcadiapublishing.com or 888-313-2665.

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Dobama previews 51st season

Evan Komito

It was less than 24 hours after the lights went down on the extended run of the season's biggest hit at Dobama. The set had already been struck, so you might think it would have been a good opportunity for the troupe to do a little resting on its laurels. Think again.

At a reception held at its Lee Road home on June 6, Dobama's board members and directors talked with subscribers about what had been accomplished during the theater's 50th season. They were equally eager to cast a spotlight on the plans for the 51st.

Board President Bill Newby recounted the long hours and hard work that took place last September to get Dobama's new home ready for a full season. All available resources were put to work, and the smiles on subscriber faces told Newby it had all been worth it. The power of the press was abundantly clear, as rave reviews for *Humble Boy* led to full houses and an extended run.

Managing Director Diane Boduszek was pleased to announce plans for both new and ongoing programming at Dobama. Leading the way this summer is the 32nd-annual Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival, inspiring the creation of plays by area 1st-through-12th graders. This year, festival judges received more than 300 manuscripts, from which 21 have earned awards, seven will be presented in showcase productions, and an additional three will be staged for more mature audiences in Night

Kitchen productions.

The nurturing of local theatrical talent is also a key component of Dobama's mission. Aspiring actors should take note of the Dobama Emerging Actors Program. Aimed at high school and undergraduate college students, this comprehensive month-long program focuses on acting technique, and culminates with performances for the public during the last week of July. Other ambitious plans include a Playwrights Gym to give emerging playwrights a chance to workshop their scripts with local directors; a new collaboration with Kent State University that will bring MFA students to the Dobama stage; and Late Night Productions, an effort to bring edgy plays to twenty-somethings during the season.

The sound you hear from the basement of 2340 Lee Road is the buzz of activity that it takes to secure Dobama's place in the community for years to come. Artistic Director Joel Hammer plans to present plays and playwrights that are new and different. In fact, 98 percent of Dobama's mainstage productions have been Cleveland, American or world premieres. That will continue during its 51st year with Enda Walsh's award-winning *The Walworth Farce*, Sarah Ruhl's captivating *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, Paul Rudnick's outrageous comedy *The New Century* and Annie Baker's off-Broadway hit *Circle Mirror Transformation*. Arrangements for a fifth mainstage production are still in the works.

Boduszek announced that Dobama



DIANE BODUSZEK

At a reception to preview Dobama's 2010-2011 season, director Scott Miller congratulates board president Bill Newby for a successful 50th year.

is the recipient of a Cuyahoga Arts and Culture general operating support grant, starting January 2011. Plus, Dobama is one of only four nonprofits selected to use the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture marketing database. Boduszek encourages season ticket holders to attend special subscriber nights for behind-the-scenes views of

each play, insights into the art of acting, and talk-back sessions that explore the scripts in depth. Check www.dobama.org for scheduling updates and production notes.

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

Klezmer music and comedy at Cain Park

Bert Stratton

Hop in the Ford Tsuris (Yiddish for "trouble") for a clutch-popping trip through the states of klezmer, Yiddish swing, Tin Pan Alley and spoken word in the production "Driving Mr. Klezmer."

Bert Stratton, leader of the Yiddishe Cup klezmer band, performs comedic prose sketches and plays clarinet, accompanied by "chauffeur" Alan Douglass on vocals and fuel-injected, mood-enhancing piano. This show has no brakes. It is a nudnik/beatnik comedy/music duo.

Stratton and Douglass are original, and active, members of Yiddishe Cup, which has performed throughout the United States, including the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, Boca Raton JCC, University of North Caro-

lina in Greensboro, the City of El Paso, and the Chautauqua Institution.

The band's music, produced by Douglass and Stratton, was in the 2006 movie "Harley, Son of David" a Canadian film that played at the UK Jewish Film Festival in 2006, and the exhibit "Chagall and the Artists of the Russian Jewish Theater, 1919-1949," presented at the Jewish Museum in New York City in 2008 and 2009, and San Francisco's Contemporary Jewish Museum in 2009.

"Driving Mr. Klezmer" will be performed Thursday, July 29, at 7 p.m., in Cain Park's Alma Theater. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$23 day of show. For more information, contact www.cainpark.com or 216-371-3000.

Bert Stratton is a Cleveland Heights resident and leader of the klezmer band Yiddishe Cup.

Local artists take Long Road back to Elektra's '60s heyday

David Budin

Last summer I read *Follow the Music*, the autobiography of Jac Holzman, the visionary founder and longtime president of Elektra Records. Elektra became the premier label of the original singer-songwriter movement in the 1960s. Reading the book, I realized that 2010 is the 60th anniversary of the label's founding.

Because my group, Long Road, has performed in Cain Park's Alma Theater for the past few years, and always with a themed concert, I decided that Elektra would make a great theme for a 2010 concert. Long Road's show, on Tuesday, July 27, is titled "The Power and the Glory: A Tribute to Elektra Records in the '60s."

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$23 the day of the show, and are available through Cain Park: 216-371-3000 or www.cainpark.com.

That means we get to play songs by all of Elektra's major '60s artists, including Phil Ochs, Tom Paxton, Tom Rush, Judy Collins, Tim Hardin, Tim Buckley, Bob Gibson, Hamilton Camp, Fred Neil, and even Theodore Bikel and the Limelighters. And because Rush and Collins were the first artists to record songs by James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Leonard Cohen and Jackson Browne—even before those artists recorded their own songs—we'll do those, too.

The singer-songwriter movement, in which those artists played major

roles, proved highly significant for several reasons. Among them is that the songs helped to spread the messages of the day, more effectively than at any previous time in history. There were many messages to be spread, given the number of burgeoning social movements of the time. Of course, all of these artists wrote plenty of love songs, too. Another of their long-lasting legacies is that from that point on, almost all folk and pop musicians have written their own songs.

I used to write all my own songs, too. But I "retired" from performing for a long time, and when I began to perform again, I decided that there were too many great songs that most people haven't heard, or haven't heard for a very long time. So Long Road mostly performs these, in intricate arrangements involving combinations of 16 instruments, with lots of vocal harmony.

Long Road's musicians have played professionally for a collective total of more than 200 years, and all have local roots. Kevin Richards, Ray DeForest and I all live in Cleveland Heights. Shaker Heights native Celia Hollander Lewis and her husband, Charlie Lewis, used to live in Cleveland Heights, but now live in Athens, Ohio. Bob Sandham, who also used to live in Cleveland Heights, lives in Chesterland.

David Budin, leader of Long Road, is a lifetime Cleveland Heights resident.

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Heights doctors trip the light fantastic

Linda Gilmore

Heights doctors have found that the graceful movement of the Viennese waltz, the sophistication of the fox-trot, the romance of the tango, and the smooth flight of the quick-step ballroom dance are not only fun but may provide health benefits for the body and mind.

While researchers at such institutions as the Mayo Clinic and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine have reported on the health benefits of dance, Heights doctors know from personal experience that dance is a good way to condition the body, increase stamina and flexibility, improve balance, aid memory, and relieve stress while having fun at the same time.

R. John Leigh, M.D., and Diana J. Leigh, LISW, have studied ballroom dancing for seven years with award winning teacher and choreographer Dick Blake. Initially motivated to prepare for three weddings they were attending in 2003, the couple has remained serious students of dance, taking two one-hour lessons per week.

Leigh, the Blair-Daroff professor of neurology and professor of neuroscience and biomedical engineering at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and director of the ocular motility laboratory at the Cleveland VA Medical Center, recommends dance to his patients with neurological disorders, to improve balance.

When asked what he and his wife liked most about dancing, Leigh responded, "the thrill."

James Jacobberger, Ph.D., and his wife, Suzi, have studied dance with Blake for 18 years. Recently celebrating their 43rd wedding anniversary, Jacobberger recalls how Suzi enrolled the couple for lessons as a 25th anniversary gift. They have been dancing ever since.

Through dance they experience the joy of movement and romance Hollywood-style via Blake's choreographed routines, similar to those of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

"If I had been born with a different body, I might have enjoyed doing this professionally," quipped Jacobberger, professor of oncology and director of the cytometry and microscopic imaging core at CWRU's Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Deborah Lonzer, M.D., who teaches in the pediatrics department of the CWRU School of Medicine, and is chair of the department of community pediatrics at the Cleveland Clinic, has been taking weekly dancing lessons for more than 10 years.

As an advanced student, Lonzer has demonstrated various dances with Blake in charity dance exhibitions. Proficient in many dance styles, She has perfected triple turns in the jitterbug, and dances



Linda and Grover Gilmore learned to dance for a wedding and haven't stopped yet.

the cha cha at a professional level.

Grover C. Gilmore, Ph.D., dean of the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences at CWRU, felt pressure to learn

to dance for his daughter's wedding. He signed up for lessons. "I didn't want to embarrass myself on the dance floor with my daughter, and I knew if anyone could

teach me to dance, Dick Blake could." Gilmore and his wife, have been taking lessons with Blake for over three years.

Ellen S. Lazarus, Ph.D., who has taught in CWRU's anthropology department, and Stephen R. Lazarus, L.L.B., associate professor of law at Cleveland State University, have been studying dance with Blake for 16 years. Originally wanting to learn to tango for a family wedding, the couple continued

**"Come, and trip it as ye go,
On the light fantastick toe."**

—John Milton

lessons for the sheer enjoyment of dancing together. "Our lessons provided us with a scheduled time together each week. That means a lot to us," commented Stephen Lazarus.

When asked why doctors find dancing so rewarding, Blake remarked, "Dancing is fun whether you are a beginner, an advanced student, or a professional dancer. The only limitation is your imagination." Dick Blake's studio is located in Beachwood. For more information, call 216-831-5463, or visit www.dickblake.com.

Linda Gilmore has lived in Cleveland Heights for 35 years. Currently manager of interdisciplinary programs at Case Western Reserve University, she will retire in July to pursue personal interests, including ballroom dancing.

Local surfing film coming to Cedar Lee

Scott Ditzenberger

Northeast Ohioans will get another chance to see "Out of Place: A Portrait of Surfing in Cleveland, Ohio," a film about people who surf in Lake Erie. The film played to three sold-out screenings at the Cleveland International Film Festival in March. "Out of Place" provides rare insight into the lives of some of these surfers, including Cleveland Heights's own Rich Stack.

"He basically steals the show," says codirector Darrin McDonald. "You just love characters like Rich, who are so dedicated to the lake."

While surfing is normally viewed as a warm-climate and ocean activity, Lake Erie surfers rely on harsh fall and winter storms for waves. This film has made people aware of the shockingly cold conditions the surfers endure. The region's weather, with Cleveland as a backdrop, makes for some striking imagery. The soundtrack, by all local musicians, enhances the mood.

The film premiered at the New York Surf Film Festival at Tribeca,



"Out of Place" chronicles Lake Erie surfers.

winning the Audience Award for Best Feature. Invitations to screen in California, New Zealand, Hawaii and the Netherlands soon followed. "It's been fun traveling," says McDonald, "but we love the home crowds most of all."

The screening of "Out of Place," which coincides with the exhibit Lake Effects at the Heights Arts Gallery (next

to the Cedar Lee Theatre), takes place on Saturday July 24, at 4 p.m., at the Cedar Lee.

For more information visit www.outofplacemovie.com.

Scott Ditzenberger is a filmmaker who loves Cleveland Heights, especially the Cedar Lee Theatre. He directed "Out of Place: A Portrait of Surfing in Cleveland, Ohio."



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Special assembly at Heights High: how safe is the water?

Peg Weissbrod

On May 27, a select group of Heights High students participated in a special assembly in the school auditorium. Their topic was water quality, specifically that in the Dugway Brook Watershed.

The assembly was the culmination of an unusual student-community collaboration. Participating students were from Janett Korb's 9th-grade honors biology class and Steve Warner's and Samantha Greene's special education classes in science and English. Teaming up with Transition Coordinator Laura Stuart-Lilley, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the City of Cleveland Heights, students collected data about water quality in portions of Dugway Brook.

The brook is part of the Dugway Brook Watershed, a nine-square-mile basin. It flows through Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Shaker Heights, South Euclid, East Cleveland, Cleveland and Bratenahl before emptying into Lake Erie. A section of the brook



Cleveland Heights High School biology students present findings at a special assembly on water quality.

flows behind the Cumberland Pool.

According to Richard Wong, director of planning and development for Cleveland Heights, the city received an EPA grant of \$238,726 to make the Cumberland parking lot safer for the watershed. Wong contacted the school to suggest an educational component to the project.

Data collected by the students will be used to compare water quality before and after changes have been made. The changes include bioswales to capture rainwater, allowing it to seep slowly into

the ground instead of flowing directly into the brook.

Working with Domenica McClintock and Laura Travers from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Korb's biology students learned water-sampling protocols and volunteered their time to test samples from Dugway Brook. They collected samples from four different sites along the brook, and tested them on four different days.

The students presented their test results at the assembly. Emily Klein and Alex Radivoyevitch reported on the pH levels and turbidity of the water. Ethan Tucker and Nate Schuck measured the amount of phosphates they found, while Samantha Clark and Lily Gould looked for the presence of dissolved oxygen and chlorine. Zoe Cook tested the water for fecal coliform bacteria, and Japera Benson measured the amount of nitrates in the water.

The students explained that they wore protective gear when obtaining

the water samples. But when asked by an audience member whether the brook was "stinky" after it rained, Lily Gould gave an emphatic "Yes!"

Warner's and Greene's classes studied ways to keep pollution out of our drinking water. They produced a video encouraging their fellow students to follow smart water practices in their daily lives. The classes also designed an educational handout on ways to protect the watershed.

When Zoe Cook was asked whether the project might lead her to pursue a career in science, she gave a qualified "yes," but added that she was "more interested in forensic science than water management." Classmate Japera Benson hopes to study psychology, but believes the project helped prepare her for the many science classes she will need to take in college.

Peg Weissbrod is a freelance writer and a Heights High alumna.

Map your 'hood

New Open Green Map asks citizens what makes their neighborhoods tick

Sarah Wean

Parks, social services, green buildings, recycling centers, volunteer activities, community gardens, libraries, historic districts, street festivals, people and organizations—these community assets are examples of important contributors to the sustainability of Cleveland Heights and University Heights.

Now the public will have easy online access to information about them all.

The new Sustainable Heights Open Green Map, a member of the global Green Map® sustainability mapping movement, is up and running and invites direct community input.

Starting with a few sites, the map will grow over the next year through the ongoing participation of the public.

"We're in the beginning phase of mapping," said Deanna Bremer Fisher,

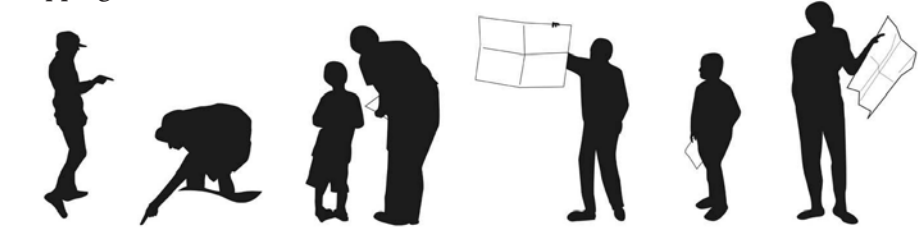
director of FutureHeights, sponsor of the program. "This map will be created by the community. Right now we're opening up the map for direct site submissions. Further down the road, we'll be working with students and local groups on mapping projects."

Residents are encouraged to turn their own asset-mapping into a family or neighborhood affair—or even a mapping party.

"Mapping is fun," says Fisher, "and our residents are definitely the neighborhood experts. We hope they'll take a look around, chart their assets, and share them with the world."

Access the map at www.opengreenmap.org and a printable mapping form at www.futureheights.org.

Sarah Wean is a community volunteer.



City of CH seeks nominations for awards programs

Heights Observer Staff

The City of Cleveland Heights' Community Improvement Awards Committee and the Cleveland Heights Landmark Commission are accepting nominations for their annual awards programs.

Residents may nominate a deserving homeowner for a Community Improvement Award or a Tender Loving Care Award. Residents who have worked hard to improve their property may nominate themselves. For a property to qualify, the improvements must be visible from a public right-of-way and must make the area more attractive. Residents may nominate a property for restoration, renovation, an addition, outdoor furniture or sitting areas, lighting, new construction, signage and painting or excellent maintenance.

Residents may also nominate a property for the annual Historic Preservation Awards. Properties that have undergone recent exterior and/

or interior preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive use, landscape restoration or sympathetic additions may be eligible. The Landmark Commission will review the nominations and select final award recipients whose properties meet criteria created in the spirit of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, which are detailed on the nomination form.

For nomination forms, visit www.clevelandheights.com.

The forms should be completed and returned to the City of Cleveland Heights, 40 Severance Circle, by Aug. 1. The winners will be honored at the Community Improvement Awards Ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 30.

For more information about the Community Improvement Awards, call the community relations department, 216-291-2323. For more information about the Historic Preservation Awards, call 216-291-4885.

COVENTRY continued from page 11

that the entire movie series would be canceled, Eric Kaufmann, president of Coventry P.E.A.C.E., assured residents that the program would continue. Fello agreed. "I think they should continue to go on," he said. "You can't spoil it for the thousands of people at the fair and, hopefully, the hundreds who come to the movies [just] because a handful of people don't know how to behave themselves."

"If we give up the movie series it sends the wrong message," said Presser. "We should come out in numbers. This is our neighborhood and we will not be run out of our own backyard."

Attendance at the July 1 showing was described as an average size crowd for such events held in the past.

Anna Schade is a senior at John Carroll University and a summer intern at the Heights Observer.

HRRC workshops make home remodel affordable

Rebecca Stager

Larry Coleman returned with his wife, Lisa Lock, to his home town of Cleveland Heights in 2006 after 27 years away, purchasing a house on Scarborough Road just west of Lee Road. Built in 1917, the house had undergone a major remodeling in the 1930's, with the addition of glass block walls, rounded corners, and other art deco features. Since then, however, the house had been let go, and was now a "serious fixer-upper" with more than 80 point-of-sale violations.

Early on, Coleman discovered the hands-on workshops offered by Home Repair Resource Center. He enrolled in electrical and plumbing classes and started to remodel the five bathrooms in his house, none of which were in working order. Coleman, who describes himself and his wife as pretty adventurous, jumped right into the one that was least problematic, and moved on to more

serious remodeling—including completing a half-bath that literally started out as a hole in the floor. Perhaps their biggest project was the kitchen, a project that involved gutting walls, creating an entryway, and constructing a countertop, in addition to plumbing and electrical work. Coleman credits HRRC's workshops with preventing problems, although he admits to making a few mistakes along the way. Even with those errors, he is sure that doing the work himself was much cheaper than hiring a professional, and he takes satisfaction in how his skills have improved.

Coleman also learned plaster repair at HRRC. Although he repaired walls throughout the house, he adamantly declares that he "hates plaster." So, for the ceilings he designed a system of removable OSB panels that provide easy access to run new electrical, water and drain lines for the bathrooms above and fit nicely with the décor of the home.

Self-described "perfect green citi-

zens," Coleman and Lock are regular customers of the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store and have given new life to items "rescued" from tree lawns. Their current project is the master bath, where Coleman removed an old ceramic shower stall and opened up the area for a Jacuzzi tub, installed electrical and plumbing lines, and is now designing the surround and counters.

"Training in art teaches you to think out of the box," he explains, when asked about his approach to a project. A professional photographer and videographer, who also studied industrial design, he is willing to experiment with new materials in different ways. He thanks HRRC for helping him to bring to life the vision he and his wife have for their home.

Becky Stager, home repair education program coordinator at HRRC since 1989, is always excited when workshop attendees use the skills they learn to improve their home.



The half-bath after renovation.

LARRY COLEMAN

Painting aluminum siding: is it a good or a bad idea?

Don Milewski

Many Northeast Ohio homes that were built in the 60s, 70s and 80s were finished with aluminum siding. Homeowners were led to believe that the exteriors of their homes would be "maintenance free." If your home was built or re-sided during that time, you have undoubtedly realized that this is not the case. Because of exposure to the sun, most aluminum siding becomes "chalky" and faded after about 15 years. Once this

happens, the original baked-on enamel coating washes off with heavy rain.

If this describes your home's exterior, you may be looking for a way to improve its appearance. Many homeowners are quick to dismiss the idea of painting their aluminum siding for fear that it will chip off. But is complete replacement your only option?

Possibilities of paint

Actually, repainting your aluminum siding is a great solution, if it is done

correctly. Under normal circumstances, a properly completed job will last upwards of 15 years. Most homeowners will power-wash their siding before painting it, and this is an essential step. The key to a long-lasting job, however, is to hand-scrub the entire exterior surface with detergent.

Many people—even some painting contractors—skip this step because it's very time consuming and requires a lot of elbow grease, but this single step can make your paint job last up to four times longer.

It is also important to note that some companies mix bonding additives to the paint before applying it, claiming this enables them to skip the power-washing and scrubbing steps entirely.

At Neubert Painting, we have found that this solution is not effective because the paint still needs a sound surface with which to bind.

Thinking about replacing your aluminum siding with a vinyl product? Consider this. First, it is much more cost-effective to repaint aluminum siding. In fact, refinishing aluminum siding is approximately one-third the cost of new vinyl siding. Moreover, vinyl siding is not as maintenance free as you might think. After about 15 years, the vinyl begins to fade and lose its finish as well. Finally, while vinyl siding manufacturers may offer a dozen or so color choices, paint offers almost unlimited color options.

Better to hire a pro

While it is possible to repaint your aluminum siding on your own, keep in mind that the materials and equipment needed for the job are expensive. This cost, combined with the extensive prep work exterior painting requires and the difficulty of mastering a paint sprayer—it's harder than it looks—might make housepainting too challenging for most homeowners.

If you decide to hire a professional for your siding project, research the contractors who advertise this service. Ask for references that go back at least five years. This will give you a better idea of the quality of their work and the longevity of their completed jobs. Also, check with the Better Business Bureau. A good contractor should have an "A" rating, or at least will have resolved any complaints made against the company. Be sure that all job specifications, including the products that will be used, length of time to complete the job, and any warranty information, is spelled out in the contract.

Repainting aluminum siding is a viable and economical solution. Getting a professional result, however, requires intense surface preparation, high-quality products and proper execution of the project from start to finish.

Don Milewski is operations manager for Neubert Painting in Lakewood, Ohio.

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Chan awarded Zonta Scholarship for the second year

Elizabeth Leitch

Maria Chan was presented with a Zonta scholarship award for the second year at the “Cocktails and Cabaret” event at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven on April 17. Chan was selected because of her outstanding leadership, community service and scholastic achievement. She has just completed her freshman year at MIT where she is studying chemistry and Arabic. She plans to eventually earn her Ph.D. in biochemistry.

During her freshman year, Chan contributed to service projects, such as court-appointed social advocates. She recently joined the Lippard Research Group's chemistry department with the goal of learning nitric oxide's role in the human body.

Chan traveled to India this past January and had the opportunity to study contemporary and Mughal architecture.

To find out more about the Zonta Club of Cleveland, visit www.zontacleveland.org.



Maria Chan

Elizabeth Leitch is a public relations practitioner experienced in providing media relations and community relations strategies for small businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Heights Observer in London



Annalena Weissman of Cleveland Heights, soon to be a seventh grader at Ruffing Montessori, takes a pause to read the Heights Observer in front of Big Ben in London.

The Nettelhorst Revolution



By Eleanor Mallet

Jacqueline Edelberg came to town to talk about innovation—a key word in education—but she actually put forth a surprisingly retro idea: the neighborhood school.

Edelberg, with school principal Susan Kurland, wrote a book about their experience with a Chicago public elementary school. Theirs is a story about the energy and creativity that is unleashed when moms, whose bonds were forged on the play lot, connect with strong, capable school leadership.

“We believed that we were entitled, that the system should work for us,” Edelberg said.

I had the same conviction when my children were about to enter school: I live here and pay my taxes, why shouldn't my children go to school here.

The book, titled *How to Walk to School: Blueprint for a Neighborhood School Renaissance*, was Edelberg's topic when she spoke to about 25 people at the Lee Road Library in June.

Eight years ago, the Nettelhorst School and the East Lakeview neighborhood were alienated from each other. Almost all the children were bused in from seven overcrowded schools. The turnover of students was over 50 percent a year, and only 30 percent were functioning at or above grade level.

Edelberg loved her neighborhood, which she compared to Tremont in Cleveland. Rather than move to the suburbs, a group of eight moms decided to meet with the principal, Susan Kurland.

“What do I have to do to get your kids here?” Principal Kurland asked, after hearing them out. The women returned the next day with a five-page list. “Let's get busy,” Kurland said. “We have a lot of work to do.” A partnership was born.

The building was uninviting. Artists painted the halls and classrooms with murals. “We woke it up,” Edelberg said. “Schools should be delicious. We rebranded it. We got the message out that the school was open for business. We gave tours to anyone.” The group raised \$500,000 in donated services and items, such as paint, artists' time, plumbing and electrical work and carpeting.

At the end of nine months, 78

parents signed up their children for preschool. They kept on working. They made the school the center of the community. It became Water Station #8 for the Chicago marathon. They brought in a market. Parents volunteered in the classroom, which also served to enhance their trust in the school.

Less competent teachers left within the first two and a half years. Test scores of 9- to 11-year-olds were on a par with any private school. As the neighborhood children filled the classrooms, the district stopped busing.

Nettelhorst became a community school. Artists and musicians were given free space if they contributed to the curriculum. Extracurricular classes, such as karate and ballet, were held after school.

“The idea was to absorb the goodness of the community,” Edelberg said. “But,” she insisted, “money did not power the Nettelhorst revolution. People did. Nettelhorst is a product of good leadership and the neighborhood buying in.”

Many forces erode neighborhood schools: busing, working parents, security issues, poverty, the divisiveness of race and class, mobility and more.

Public schools are in a tough market, competing not only with private and religious schools, but also with charter schools and voucher programs. Edelberg, however, is not daunted. Nettelhorst, she believes, can hold its own with any school.

Joan Spoerl, whose son will enter Fairfax Elementary in the fall, initiated the invitation to Edelberg to speak in Cleveland Heights. “She is me eight years ago,” the author said, looking over at Spoerl. “[Potential school advocates] are at every sandbox in America.”

Is the Nettelhorst experience unique? Of course it is. But every school is a living organism, and each must solve its own problems. To the public school naysayers, Nettelhorst is a shining example of what can be done. For more information about Edelberg's book and the Nettelhorst revolution, go to www.howtowalktoschool.com.

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

Join the book discussion July 14 and August 19 at 7 p.m. at the Lee Road Library.

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Cedar Lee invites the Heights to “Rock the Block”

Kelley Robinson

Cedar Lee business owners aren't letting the economy get them down. Instead, they are focusing on summer activities and customer appreciation.

Recognizing that consumers have many options when it comes to shopping, dining or essential services, the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District wants to thank customers for continuing to support local businesses.

Each month, on popular patio locations in the district, free “Rock the

Block” events offer hearty appetizers, soft drinks, door prizes and live music courtesy of the Cedar Lee SID. The first event occurred on the new patio of the Cedar Lee Pub & Grill, and featured the tropical melodies of the University of Akron Steel Drum Band Trio.

The next appreciation event will take place on July 22 at 6 p.m. at Brennan's Colony, and features the indie rock sounds of Northeast Ohio favorite, Zach. One of the door prizes includes an overnight stay at the Lodge and Conference Center at Geneva-on-the-Lake.

The final “Rock the Block” event will be held on Aug. 19 at Anatolia Café from 6–8 p.m., and features the Summit Jazz Duo. In addition, it's the annual Family Night Out, featuring area favorites—the Euclid Beach Rocket Car and the zany balloon art of Swifty the Clown. There also will be fun activities at the Heights Library, ice cream, games and more.

Watch for further details. The Cedar Lee business owners hope to see everyone on the patio!

Kelley Robinson is the director of the Cedar Lee Special Improvement District.

HRRC spring fundraiser hits the mark

Mike Gaynier

The Home Repair Resource Center's annual spring fundraiser was a tremendous success. This year the event, which ran from April 19 through May 2, was held at Bremec Garden Center on Cedar Road.

In the past, the fundraiser featured a bagged mulch sale. Supporters placed advance orders for pick-up or delivery, with a portion of each sale donated to HRRC. This year Bremec donated a portion of every sale accompanied by an HRRC voucher, which were widely distributed and advertised in the Heights Observer.

HRRC's executive director, Kathryn Lad, said, “This year's event was terrific, and generated much excitement in the community.”

HRRC board members were on hand to provide vouchers to shoppers and information about the programs that this fundraiser will support. On the two Sunday event days, shoppers were treated to free hot dogs while they purchased plants and supplies for their gardens.

Bob Bremec, owner of Bremec Garden Centers, said, “It is great to work with HRRC because they make a real difference in the community [by] helping to maintain the vitality of homes and neighborhoods. I am looking forward to working with HRRC again next year.”

HRRC thanks Bremec on the Heights and everyone who made purchases during the fundraiser.

Mike Gaynier is president of the HRRC Board of Trustees.

Heights seniors win Wii tournament



Congratulations to Cleveland Heights Senior Center Wii Bowlers who recently won their first tournament. Pictured from left to right are: Marcelo Atanasio, Ann Holman, Ella Hopkins, Aundrey Pierce and Earlene Starks-Marshall.



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Community events

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
7:30–9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, July 15

Music & Movies Under the Stars

7:30 p.m. music by Revolution Brass Band
9 p.m. Cartoon and World’s Largest Pie Fight!
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, July 15

University Heights Summer Concert Series

The Stratophonics
7:30–9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, July 22

Cedar Lee Rock the Block

Complimentary appetizers, soft drinks and entertainment by Zach
6–8 p.m., Brennan’s Colony, 2299 Lee Road

Thursday, July 22

Music & Movies Under the Stars

7:30 p.m. music by Dave Brewer Drums
9 p.m. “Madagascar”
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, July 22

University Heights Summer Concert Series

Mark Grey & the Northcoast Jazz Collective
7:30–9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, July 29

Music & Movies Under the Stars

7:30 p.m. music by Roots of American Music Jug Band
9 p.m. “Chasin’ gus’ ghost”
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, July 29

University Heights Summer Concert Series

University Heights Symphonic Band
7:30–9 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, Aug. 5

University Heights Summer Concert Series

Frank Moravcik Polka Band
7–8:30 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, Aug. 5

Music & Movies Under the Stars

7:30 p.m. music by The Music Settlement Suzuki students
9 p.m. “August Rush”
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Sunday, Aug. 8

Discover Cedar Fairmount-Discover the Arts Festival

Noon to 4 p.m., Cedar Fairmount business district

Thursday, Aug. 12

University Heights Summer Concert Series

Straight-Six Dixie
7–8:30 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, Aug. 12

Party in the P.E.A.C.E. Park and Audience Choice Movie

6–9 p.m. music by Mo’ MoJo
9 p.m. Audience choice movie; choose the movie you want to see at www.xxx.org
Coventry P.E.A.C.E. Park at Coventry Road and Euclid Heights Boulevard

Thursday, Aug. 19

University Heights Summer Concert Series

Yiddishe Cup Klezmer Band
7–8:30 p.m., Wiley Middle School lawn, 2181 Miramar Blvd.

Thursday, Aug. 19

Cedar Lee Rock the Block-Anatolia Cafe

Complimentary appetizers, soft drinks and entertainment by the Summit Jazz Duo.
6–8 p.m., Anatolia Café, 2270 Lee Road

Thursday, Aug.19

Cedar Lee Rock the Block- Lee Road Library

Family-friendly evening includes balloon art by Swifty the Clown, free rides on the Euclid Beach Rocket Car, ice cream and games at the Heights Library.
6–8 p.m., Lee Road Library

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