Volume 3 Number 10 HEIGHTS OBSERVER

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Find out who's Best of the Heights

Audrey Wynne

Nearly 700 ballots have been cast. More than 250 businesses have been nominated. The "polls" are closed. Now it's time to reveal who you chose as the "Best of the Heights."

The annual Best of the Heights awards will be presented Monday, Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m., at Motorcars Toyota, 2950 Mayfield Road. The awards recognize the most popular Cleveland Heights and University Heights businesses.

Presented by FutureHeights, the Best of the Heights awards began in 2005. Some community favorites from previous years include Nighttown's outdoor dining and Whole Foods for its green efforts. Among this year's 20 categories are Best New Business, Friendliest Staff and Best Place to Take the Kids. According to Deanna Bremer Fisher, executive director of FutureHeights, "It's important to recognize innovative and successful Heights businesses that contribute to the unique character of the Heights community."

The Oct. 18 event will feature the awards ceremony, live music from the band oldboy and a new venue. "We are

Newly-formed CH-UH School Facilities Committee seeks public input

Deanna Bremer Fisher

An ad hoc committee, created by the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Board of Education to analyze the district's facilities, held its first meeting on Sept. 28 at Wiley Middle School. While this and future committee meetings are open to the public, no members of the public attended.

Superintendent Doug Heuer opened the meeting by thanking attendees for volunteering to serve on the committee. "I have yet to discover a community where there did not simultaneously exist a great community and a great school system," he said. "I don't believe one can exist without the other." He spoke of the many outstanding Heights alumni who have "changed

continued on page 5

Sustainable fun at Open Green Mapping Party on Oct. 9

Sarah Wean

FutureHeights invites volunteers to help map the sustainable feaatures of the Coventry Village neighborhood at a mapping party and launch of the Sustainable Heights Open Green Map on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 1-3:30 p.m. at the Coventry Village Library. A cross between an informal field trip and hands-on workshop, the party is open to anyone who would like to contribute.

Participants will venture into the neighborhood by car, bicycle, or on foot, to record social, cultural and sustainable resources and take them back to

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"mapping central," where they will be immediately uploaded into the interactive online map. All are welcome to learn the online system for future mapping in other neighborhoods.

"It's called open mapping because anyone can take part," said Deanna Bremer Fisher of FutureHeights. "We want people to have fun, learn about the neighborhood, and help launch community asset mapping in Cleveland Heights and University Heights."

The event is part of Sustainability Week, sponsored by the Sustainable Heights Network.

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FutureHeights' Deanna Bremer Fisher (left) with Laura Griffith, owner of Restore (formerly Cut Hair Studio), 2009 Best of the Heights Friendliest Staff winner.

thrilled to be at Motorcars Toyota this year," says Gina Cheverine, president of the FutureHeights board of directors. "The new location allows us to accommodate more guests than ever before."

If you would like to see if your favorites win, or just enjoy a fun evening on the town, tickets for the event can be reserved online for \$12 at www.futureheights.org, or purchased at the door for

Audrey Wynne is a public relations professional with the Fairmount Group and a member of the FutureHeights board of directors.

Vote for Cuyahoga County's future on Nov. 2

Check out our voter's guide, which begins on page 11

Marissa Williams

Last November citizens of Cuyahoga County voted for a new county charter government that would replace the board of three county commissioners with a county executive and 11-member county council. In this year's important Nov. 2 election, citizens will elect these new officials.

FutureHeights, the nonprofit that publishes the Heights Observer, has compiled a Voter's Guide to provide readers with answers to key questions. FutureHeights contacted the candidates for county executive and candidates for districts 10 and 11 with questions developed by our fellow Observer newspapers. To be as fair as possible, all candidates were allotted the same word count for their responses. Photos are courtesy of the candidates.

The Voter's Guide begins on page 11.

Public comments on development plan

Kristin Hopkins

So, what would you do to make sure Cleveland Heights remains a prosperous, desirable city in which to live, work, shop and recreate? That is the basic question the Cleveland Heights Strategic Plan 2010 strives to answer, and the city has asked residents to respond.

So far, about 28 residents and organizations have commented on the plan via the city's website, www.clevelandheights. com, and more than 50 people attended the public hearing on Sept. 13.

The primary focus is to find ways to increase the city's tax base, with the highest priority on "strategies that will increase population, average household income and commercial tax revenue." Yet a number of comments received so far raise concerns about the increasing number of vacant houses, the difficulty residents face trying to sell their homes and the number of houses slated for demolition.

For many, addressing the reasons that people are moving out of Cleveland Heights is more important than planning to build more houses and condominiums—let alone offer any kind of tax abatements.

Others recommend that the city start small to address obsolete housing characteristics that contribute to the loss of population.

While the plan addresses development issues throughout the entire citywith considerable focus on retail districts and new housing opportunities—many commentators zeroed in on the three paragraphs that identify alternative scenarios for the future of the former site of Oakwood Country Club.

At the public hearing, Councilman Dennis Wilcox, chair of the Council Planning and Development Committee, reiterated that the city does not own the 97-acre property, but that it is included in the plan "because of its significance." Of the 29 online posts, 17 recommended the parcel be retained, either in part or in whole, as open space. The plan does not make a recommendation for Oakwood; it only summarizes the development possibilities and their impacts.

Some residents also took the opportunity to comment on the state of current recreation facilities, and many identified the need and benefits of more recreation as their justification for wanting to see Oakwood remain as open space.

FutureHeights and others requested that the city include maps that identify where problem areas are concentrated, where assets, such as historic properties and schools, can be leveraged, and which "locations are a priority for what kind of improvements."

In addition, some stated that it would be easier to understand the rationale behind each strategy if more documentation of existing conditions, such as age distribution of current residents and characteristics and locations of renters, were included.

The plan is intended to guide future decisions of the Planning Commission, administration, City Council and "all who invest and develop in Cleveland Heights."

Yet, some observed that the plan is more like an overwhelming "to-do" list with little guidance for where to start. At the public hearing, resident Mark

www.heightsobserver.org

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Letters Policy Letters to the Editor

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

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

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Opening Up the Observer



Bob Rosenbaum

There are two noteworthy events related to the Observer

this month.

First is the FutureHeights Auction. It's one of the primary fundraisers for the organization that produces the Observer each month. FutureHeights is all about civic engagement, and the Observer is its largest project—giving voice to anyone who wants to lead or participate in dialogue about the community.

The auction is conducted online, so you don't need to dress up or put on a party smile. The bidding runs from Oct. 15 to Nov. 21, at www.BiddingForGood.com/FutureHeights. If you appreciate the Observer, then please support FutureHeights and the auction. There's some neat stuff to bid on,

While the Observer is having tremendous success, it doesn't yet cover all of its expenses. FutureHeights depends your donations—and auction purchases—not only to publish the Observer, but also to conduct its other community programs.

Which brings us to the other noteworthy event: the annual Best of the Heights awards, honoring the local businesses that Cleveland and University Heights residents deem the best in their categories.

The awards are different this year. Nobody knows in advance who won. Nominees will all be at the Best of the Heights party, waiting to hear the announcement of winners.

The party begins at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 18 at Motorcars Toyota, 2950 Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights, an interesting place for such

It also happens to be the official launch celebration of the Heights Independent Business Alliance (HIBA) the new organization we've been telling you about for the last few months, consisting of locally owned and operated businesses. HIBA's launch is another one of the positive developments nurtured by FutureHeights, and it promises to become a point of pride for anyone who lives and shops in the Heights.

Tickets to the party are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. You can make your reservation at www.futureheights.org.

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

To write for the Observer, simply register at our Member Center: http://heightsobserver.org/members.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Let's think of the future and make recreation cuts equitably

In a few years, when the smoke clears and all this economic turmoil is behind us, we will be left with the results of the decisions we are making right now.

Once Denison Pool is gone, it's gone. Do we want to bulldoze the city's newest pool, one of only two public pools in the city, and the one serving the part of the city with the most children and the most poor children?

Cuts have to be made somewhere, I accept that. But let's look at all the recreation facilities that we have, in all parts of the city, and make the cuts equitably.

Let's crunch numbers, discuss solutions, sort through facts and let reason prevail. For example, the city cites the need for more pavilions in the

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parks, because of the high demand for them. Denison Pool is scheduled to be demolished to make way to build more pavilions. Part of the reason pavilions are in such demand is that they cost \$25 to rent all day, and are open to groups outside of the city. Is it cost-effective to pave over a pool in order to put up picnic tables?

Soccer fields and skating rinks are also wonderful amenities, and I am glad they are here. But soccer and hockey are team sports. Swimming is something we can all enjoy, and learning to swim is something all children should have access to.

At our Denison Pool potluck, lots of people talked about learning to swim at Denison, their kids doing the same and how the pool was a place for summer recreation for their families when they became single parents, and money was

Keeping Denison Pool open is in best interest of our community's future. We should think big and about the long-term success of Cleveland Heights and begin the long, difficult process of collaborating with other cities to build a first-class indoor swimming facility in our area.

Fran Mentch

President, Severance Neighborhood Organization, www.heightsSNO.org.

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Naming a new police chief for Cleveland Heights: Little ado about something

Bob Rosenbaum

The Observer does not take editorial positions. Though I am a board member of FutureHeights and chairman of its committee to oversee operation of the Heights Observer, what follows is my personal opinion as a lifetime resident of Cleveland Heights. It has not been endorsed or supported in any way by FutureHeights or the Heights Observer.

Martin Lentz-on the Cleveland Heights Police Department for 51 years and its chief since 1974—will retire at year-end. He has a reputation as an innovator and leader—to the point that his most noted innovations now seem routine. But our city has some serious public safety issues. With gangs and despair in poor communities on our boundaries, armed robberies on neighborhood streets, and the effect of 1,500 vacant/foreclosed homes, our police officers have their hands full.

I have high regard for the work they do, but I am not alone in my concern that—while speeding is firmly under control on Mayfield Road-maybe the criminals are gaining ground.

In 2009, a couple folks in the Fairfax neighborhood invited people to a meeting with public safety officials to discuss crime; more than 200 showed up. What they seemed to want was a different relationship between the police department and those it is sworn to protect. They wanted a partnership—to somehow participate in making this community safer and better.

But the message they got—intended or not—was dismissal. They felt as if they'd been told that the only real problem is their perception that there's a problem.

If the police department now needs a new leader, I hoped our government would use the moment to bring a nextgeneration approach to the job—a strategy that seeks to engage those who are being protected.

That's why I was so concerned in July, when I asked Mayor Ed Kelley how the new police chief would be chosen. He told me city council has nothing to do with it; it's the city manager's job and that's the law. That struck me as a bit dismissive.

More recently, on behalf of the Observer, I asked the same question of City Manager/Public Safety Director Bob Downey (see page 3). He didn't describe a thoughtful, serious process; he provided a bureaucratic brush-off, saying it's just a civil service promotion based on an exam taken by internal candidates. The implication is that he has limited discretion over whom he appoints.

When I asked some simple followup questions, such as when the exam was scheduled and who is on the Civil Service Commission that reviews the results, he declined to answer, prompting me to file a disclosure request (now in city hands) under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

What I'm hearing is that the selection of a police chief isn't really anybody's job; it just sort of happens.

But I believe selecting a police chief

continued on page 5

Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights



AUGUST 16, 2010

All council members were present.

Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition

Representatives from the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition thanked city council for its support of the biking community. They also presented a petition with nearly 500 signatures asking the city to continue to make Cleveland Heights a more bicycle-friendly community and outlining their plans to begin this process. Mayor Ed Kelley expressed support and said that the city will respond to the plan in two weeks.

Firefighter layoffs

A resident complained that, over the course of a year, firefighter layoffs would cost the city more in overtime costs to deal with emergencies than what the city saved with the layoffs.

Floodplain regulations

Council passed an ordinance to adopt floodplain regulations for the properties within Cleveland Heights that are located in flood zones. This legislation will affect only one home in Cleveland Heights.

Nuisance properties

Council declared two properties to be nuisances and authorized abatement. Both properties were considered to be hazardous to the health, safety and welfare of potential occupants and the public and also a blighting and deteriorating factor in the neighborhood, adversely affecting neighboring property values. Exterior improvements will be made to the property at 2638 Queenston Road. The house at 2236 Rexwood

Road will be razed and the cost will be a lien on

Seats open on commissions and boards

For residents interested in serving on the city's boards and commissions, the city's website lists current vacancies including some for the Citizens Advisory Committee, the Commission on Aging, the Landmark Commission and the Recreation Advisory Board.

Assessment Equalization Board

Council passed legislation to appoint two Assessment Equalization Boards, one to hear objections to the estimated assessments for a portion of the expense of street lighting and another to hear objections to the estimated assessments for a portion of the expense of improvement and maintenance of streets and shade trees on tree lawns. State law requires the Assessment Equalization Boards and the city's legislation appoints three nonresidents to serve on the board and sets a public meeting for Aug. 24. After the public meeting, the boards will report recommendations to city council.

LWV observers: Kirsten Karakul and Lisa Peters.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

All council members were present.

Mayor Kelley honored Louisa Oliver, retiring executive director of the Heights Parent Center, with a proclamation of appreciation. All council members joined in praising Oliver's contribution to the quality of life in Cleveland Heights through her leadership as an advocate for families and children.

Objections to pool closings

Two residents expressed frustration with the closing of Denison Pool and the Cain Park Wading Pool, as well as this year's reduced swimming season at Cumberland Pool, which opened later and closed earlier than in previous years. Maintaining that the city had not been transparent in its decision-making, they expressed a desire for a public hearing. Mayor Kelley responded that an annual facilities review meeting, where residents are welcome to express their views, will take place soon. He added that next year the city is considering limited hours for Cumberland Pool for Labor Day Weekend, but only if there is sufficient staffing available. He stated emphatically that Denison Pool will not reopen and that there would be no public hearing

Street assessments

Council approved legislation relating to assessments for street lighting and the street/forestry program. The legislation approved the report of the Assessment Equalization Board that heard objections to the estimated assessments for street lighting at an Aug. 24 public meeting. The city has raised the assessment due to First Energy's change from mercury vapor streetlights to sodium vapor streetlights. The assessment is to be collected in the years 2011, through 2013 at the annual rate of \$1.02 per front foot.

Council also approved the report of the Assessment Equalization Board that heard objections to the estimated assessments for improvements and maintenance of streets and shade trees. This assessment is to be collected in the years 2011 though 2013 at the annual rate of \$0.78 per front foot.

Variances from escrow requirements

Council amended the city code to provide a procedure for granting variances from the escrow account requirements. The requirement for depositing funds in an escrow account may be varied by the city manager if the applicant: 1) can demonstrate that special circumstances necessitate the variance in order to make the sale and repair of the property financially viable; 2) the purchaser has the financial capability to correct the listed violations within a reasonable period of time; and 3) the variance is in the best interests of the city and its residents.

LWV observers: Katherine Solender and Kirsten

These reports have been abridged due to space restrictions. More information about these Cleveland Heights City Council Meetings can be found online at www.heightsob-

These meeting summaries are abstracted maries have been edited and prepared by Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to mbarnes9515@gmail.com or join through Google groups using "lwv-chuh observer reports" as a search phrase

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

CH responds to question on selection of new police chief

Bob Rosenbaum

The chairman of the Observer's editorial committee asked City Manager Robert Downey the following questions: Given the pending retirement of Police Chief Martin Lentz, what is the process for selecting the new police chief? What criteria are deemed of high importance for the next chief, and how were those criteria established? Robert Downey's aanswer follows.

At the end of this year, Police Chief Martin Lentz will be retiring after many years of dedicated service. As the residents of Cleveland Heights well know, Chief Lentz has served our community with distinction. His firm grasp of the law and his work ethic and discipline have set the standard for the entire police force. His understanding of our diverse community has been a vital part of our city's success and stability. Regionally, he has worked collaboratively with other law enforcement agencies for the good of our residents.

Over time, he has instituted numerous innovations that have been copied by other cities throughout the country, such as officers who live in our community taking their cars home and parking them in front of their homes for visibility, computers in every police car linked to law enforcement databases, and the creation of a bomb squad unit. In addition, he established the Police Academy that has trained officers from all over the region. The academy has received the highest ratings for education and training.

Our goal is that the next chief will be able to continue this tradition of excellence and dedication. Our expectation is that the new chief will continue to maintain our innovative programming and the discipline of our day-to-day operations. In addition, as technology adapts and evolves we anticipate that it will continue to bring improvements to the police department and the safety of our community.

Under the city's Charter and Codi-

fied Ordinances, the position of police chief is a "classified" position and is governed by the city's Civil Service Rules and Regulations and by state law. Therefore, the process for appointing a police chief is through promotional examination. The people eligible to take the exam are persons who have served as police captains on the force for at least 12 months. The exam is provided by IPMA (International Public Management Association), an independent testing service. The results of the exam are reviewed by the Civil Service Commission (consisting of three Cleveland Heights residents) and they certify the results. The commission then gives the results to the city manager and a police chief is selected.

The city council and city manager are confident that the police department will continue to be the finest in the area.

On Sept. 23, Bob Rosenbaum, as a regular Observer volunteer and the individual who handled this correspondence, asked these information in a couple of weeks. follow-up questions:

- Has the civil service exam been administered yet? When?
- If not, when will it be administered? If so, how many people took it?
- Who are the three members of the Civil Service Commission?
- When is the commission scheduled to meet to review test results? (The meeting didn't appear on the city's online calendar, which showed events only through September.)
- When do you intend to make a selection?
- When the results are presented to you, what kind of latitude do you have in making the decision? Do you need to accept the highest score, or are you able to consider other
- If so, what other factors, specifically, will you consider to be most important?
- Perhaps rendering all of this moot, do you know yet who the next police chief is, or who it is likely to be?

Downey's response was, "This is the city's response at this time. More







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Bears were the least of my problems



Anita Kazarian

Donna, the camper across the way, was curious. She came over

and invited us to join her clan for dinner when, at dinnertime, she saw that I was still trying to start my campfire. In fact, I had just started burning my little twigs, but all the wood was damp from earlier rains and I had not brought lighter fluid, as Donna had. She saw my effort and said "That will never start! You don't have enough wood on it." She then proceeded to take the pieces of bark I had segregated and dump them on my twigs, completely killing off my little fire. Thanks Donna.

I demurred with all the grace I could muster. I was not going to be deterred from cooking my hotdogs, baked beans, corn on the cob and baked potatoes. (I forgot to bring the marshmallows.)

After she left, we finally started the fire and managed a great bed of coals to cook the dogs and corn. While opening the beans, the can opener blade snapped into pieces. So it, and the half-opened can of beans, went into the trash. The potatoes seemed too much trouble at this point, and they ended up becoming hot German potato salad for dinner the next night.

Clearing skies had been in the forecast, so we decided not to bring a tent, but to sleep out in the open, under the stars. Wouldn't you know it! Rain clouds came in after dark, obliterating the stars in the night sky. Time to improvise! We managed a lean-to with tarps. One tarp was for ground cover; the second tarp, supported by two golf umbrellas acting as tent poles, made the lean-to. The third tarp (lucky we had a third) went over the bags.

I am not an intrepid camper. I prefer warm, dry, clear starry nights. This was my first life experience sleeping in the rain. Amazingly, it turned out to be fun. I don't like tents and the lean-to concept was perfect—the best way to

be outdoors and stay dry in the rain. It was pretty cold on Saturday. I had on my JCU tee shirt, a hoodie, a very heavy CWRU sweatshirt, a jacket and my hands in my pockets most of the evening. But it was toasty in the sleeping bag, with just my hoodie to keep my head warm.

I prefer "primitive" camping—no electric, no water, no hook-ups of any kind. The primitive sites at this campground were close to electrically equipped campsites. Lights-out is usually around 10 p.m. It was a pretty quiet area to begin with and it took me only about 1/2 second to fall asleep once my head hit the ground.

But, at some point after lights-out, I woke to hear Donna and at least one member of her group (they had three adjoining campsites) talking loudly. It turned out that Donna and her friend were drinking some pretty potent beverages. Where were the park rangers, I wondered.

Morning comes early at camp-grounds, and the next day dawned clear and bright. The showers were already busy, and it's usually the women's showers that get all the children. Moms, why do you leave a six-year-old alone in a shower stall with the lock on their side? One exasperated mother began counting angrily to three, but gave up at two, knowing full well that her little darling was unfazed by any threat she could make to get him to unlock the door.

It is so much more peaceful to camp in the woods where there is no one else nearby, but that is a luxury not found anywhere near the Heights. Ah, back home in the Heights, for a quiet, peaceful night. Home is nice!

Tell me about your summer adventure—it might make a great story for the *Heights Observer*.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional and a longtime resident of University Heights. She can be reached at anitakazarian@gmail.com.

University Heights City Beautiful Commission winners

Anita Kazarian

The annual City Beautiful Commission awards ceremony will be held in University Heights City Hall, Council Chambers on Tuesday, Oct. 12, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. A total of 24 homes were selected by the commission this year for recognition in the 2010 Beautiful Home Awards.

The Curb Appeal category received 12 awards; Best Kept Secret Back Gardens, 7 awards; Eco Garden, one award; Best Front Doors, one award and Set a Spell, three awards.

Winners will be presented a certificate and sign for their yards by Mayor Susan Infeld and City Beautiful Commission Chairperson Steven Bennett. This year's winners are invited to march in the 2011 Memorial Day Parade with the members of the City Beautiful Commission.

A reception will follow the ceremony. University Heights residents are invited to attend.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional and a 29-year resident of University Heights. Contact her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.

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University Heights City Council Meeting highlights

SPECIAL MEETING - AUGUST 23, 2010 All council members were present.

JCU zoning decision appeal

Residents of Carroll Boulevard and Kerwick Road filed an appeal against the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) decision to approve a "transitional use special permit" allowing John Carroll University (JCU) to use the residential property at 4070 Carroll Boulevard for R.O.T.C. offices and administrative activities with conditions.

Planned use of the property

The duplex, now owned by the university, would house approximately 10 offices for faculty and staff to be used during daytime hours. No classes would be held, nor any weapons or military vehicles kept there. Students might come to speak with a professor. The house is across the street from the Dolan Science Center and adjacent to a parking lot on one side and homes on the other. JCU plans to replace the roof and make some minor alterations inside. On the exterior JCU might add a flagpole.

Transitional use permit

The transitional use permit is used when a property is within 150 feet of more restrictive zoning. Unless JCU asks to rezone the property to U5 (university property) the university would continue to pay property tax. Maria Alfaro-Lopez, general counsel to JCU, said the university has no plans at this time to seek a change in zoning for the property.

No action taken

Council tabled the decision, but Law Director Ken Fisher noted that the appeal must be decided upon at the next council meeting on Sept. 7.

Eastside Departments Group Enforcement

Council approved a motion adding Beachwood to the communities participating in the EDGE (Eastside Departments Group Enforcement) program. Council also authorized an agreement with the cities of South Euclid, Shaker Heights, Euclid and Beachwood for the interchange of police personnel, equipment, and services. Two of the cities still need to approve the agreement before it can go forward. Police Chief Stehlik said the agreement would enable the cities' police departments to reduce training and personnel costs.

Garage and residential sales

In light of the Sun Press article noting that University Heights had a longer advance notice requirement than other communities, council approved reducing the requirement from five days to one business day.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

All council members were present.

JCU's zoning request for ROTC offices

At a special meeting regarding John Carroll University's request for a transitional use permit to use the house at 4070 Carroll Boulevard for offices and administration of ROTC, council worked out a compromise proposal that included five conditions in addition to those



from the Board of Zoning Appeals. They were as follows: the building must be approved by the building commissioner; all staff and visitors must park across the street by the Dolan Science Center; no signage is allowed on the house; John Carroll must send a letter to the mayor certifying that it will not seek a change in the tax status for this property, and another letter certifying that the university will not purchase any additional properties nor seek additional zoning changes on any houses on specified streets.

Legal counsel for the university responded, making significant changes to council's proposal. A letter from President Niehoff had a more positive tone, but spoke only of the university being willing to work with the city on the city's strategic planning process, and made no mention of the university's strategic plans.

Council discussion

Council members felt that the university had responded negatively to their proposal. Councilwoman Frankie Goldberg said she sees a pattern of the university working outside its public master plan, going property by property and that it had to stop. Mayor Susan Infeld said the university was a vital part of the community, and she saw the university's response as being positive and cooperative.

Council action

Council voted down a motion by Councilman Frank Consolo to uphold the residents' appeal to reverse the zoning board's approval of the transitional use permit with Councilwoman Frankie Goldberg and Councilman Philip Ertel supporting the motion along with him. A motion by Councilman Kevin Patrick Murphy to deny the appeal for reversal but to accept the zoning board's decision along with the additional conditions was passed with Councilmen Steven Sims, Kevin Patrick Murphy, Steven Bullock and Councilwoman Sue Pardee voting yes.

2008 payment not made

Finance Director Jennifer Esarey had just found that a 2008 payment of \$1.9 million was never made to the bondholders of University Square. The city takes in payment from businesses in University Square, reports the numbers, and within 10 days transfers the funds to the bondholders. A portion of this payment should have gone to the CH-UH City School District. The affected parties have agreed to a delayed payment schedule. Esarey is working to determine if the funds are still available or if they have been used for other city expenses.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

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

See disclaimer on page 3.



Free smoke detectors for UH residents

Anita Kazarian

Each year, nearly 3,000 people in the United States die in home fires. Over half of these deaths occurred in homes with no, or nonworking, smoke alarms. These are the grim statistics from the National Fire Protection Association.

Do you have a smoke detector in your home? Is it in good working condition?

This year's Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 3–9, aims to educate people about "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With." Smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a fire in half, and as a resident of University Heights, you can get them

For the past 25 years, University Heights has had an ongoing program to give and install free smoke detectors to any UH resident who requests one, while supplies last.

Typically, most houses need about six smoke detectors, one for each level,

including the basement, and one in each bedroom. How many do you have?

A sign posted in front of the University Heights City Hall in October, reminds people to set their clocks back to standard time and, more importantly, to change the batteries in their smoke detectors. When was the last time you changed the batteries in your smoke detectors?

According to Executive Captain Steve G. Ineman, a 28-year veteran of the UH Fire Department, the age of your smoke detectors matters. While the battery component may work for as long as 20 years with a new battery annually, the smoke sensor in the unit may not.

Ineman said the smoke sensor in the unit is different and has a shorter shelf life. "Just because your battery works, doesn't mean the sensor for the smoke is still calibrated to get you out in time." Smoke detectors typically have a shelf life of five years. How old are your smoke detectors?

Last year, when University Heights had its first house fire fatalities in over 30 years, Captain Ineman applied for, and won, a grant to purchase state-of the-art smoke detectors for UH residents.

"We are taking a proactive approach to these horrific incidences," Ineman wrote in the grant application.

With nearly \$82,000 in grant money, the UH Fire Department purchased 3,883 First Alert combination ionization and photoelectric smoke detectors. Each unit is equipped with a 10-year lithium battery, eliminating the annual battery changing ritual. The UH Fire Department will install a smoke detector and provide a free fire home safety inspection. But you have to call with your request. Contact the fire department at 216-321-1939. Today! Right now!

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional, a 29-year resident of University Heights, and a frequent contributor to the Heights Observer.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT continued from page 1

Chupp said the plan identifies goals and ideas, but it needs a more clearly articulated vision, an analysis of the city's strategic advantages, and strategies to deal with the city's deficits.

An online post urged the city to transform the draft into a document that inspires "local citizens and businesses to rally behind all the tasks that must be done." Overall, residents and local organizations appear to support the work accomplished so far, but underscore that "we're all in this together," and that the city should continue to engage citizens as partners in setting the course for the future.

There is still an opportunity to comment on the plan. To view it, go to www. clevelandheights.com. E-mail devplan@ clvhts.com to let the city know what you think.

Kristin Hopkins, AICP, is a land use planner with the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission and a resident of the Roxboro neighborhood.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE continued from page 1

the world" and asked the committee to think about "what facilities need to be in place to attract greatness."

The committee consists of a crosssection of the community, including representatives from the school board, civic leadership, school administration and faculty, the fine arts, athletics, the cities of Cleveland Heights and University Heights, the design and construction community, the financial community, current parents and those whose children attend private and other nonpublic schools.

The committee is charged with analyzing the district's facilities needs and developing multiple facilities options for the board to consider, including renovation vs. new construction, grade configuration, number of facilities, timeline for implementation and an approach for funding. The group will work over a nine-month period, culminating with a presentation to the board on June 21. The public is encouraged to attend each of its six meetings and the meetings of its four subcommittees.

The committee will begin by reviewing a report by the Ohio School Facilities Commission that was released in April 2010 and contains a comprehensive assessment of all of the district's facilities. The OSFC report graded each building on 23 criteria and rated each aspect satisfactory, borderline or poor. Overall it rated the district's buildings "borderline."

The report also suggested that the district has an excessive number of facilities, which are costly to maintain. The report mentions that none of the buildings is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, but several might be eligible.

The OSFC projected that enrollment would decline from the current 5,953 students to 5,380 by the 2019–2020 school year. The OSFC report provided two sample plans. One would demolish

or decommission all existing structures and build a fewer new facilities. The other would renovate four of the elementary schools. No decisions have been made and the committee and school board are not required to choose either of the sample plans in order to be eligible for state funding.

The district is eligible to receive state funding for up to 14 percent of approved renovation or new construction projects, according to a formula set by Ohio law. The district would have to find other sources for the balance.

Channel 22 plans a future broadcast of the Sept. 28 meeting. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Dec. 8, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at Roxboro Middle School.

Other committee meeting dates are:

Thursday, March 10, 2011 at Monticello Middle School library;

Thursday, March 24, 2011 at Cleveland Heights High School social room;

Thursday, May 19, 2011 at Boulevard Elementary School cafeteria;

Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at Wiley Middle School cafeteria.

All meetings begin with networking at 6:30 p.m. The business meeting begins at 7 p.m. and concludes at 9 p.m.

Steve Shergalis, director of business services for the district, serves as the point person for the project. Interested residents are encouraged to contact him, or any member of the committee, with their thoughts about the condition of the district's buildings and needs for the future.

Sheraglis can be contacted at 216-320-2005 or s_shergalis@chuh.org. For more information about the committee, a full meeting schedule, and a copy of the OSFC's report, visit www.chuh.org.

Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and a member of the district's school facilities committee.

CH POLICE CHIEF continued from page 2

in 2010—after a generation of status quo—is a both a big deal and a great opportunity. I'm not asking for it to be done in public. I don't believe it needs to be a referendum on Martin Lentz. I just want to know that the right people are taking it seriously.

But those people seem to respond as if an ordinary citizen like me is somehow overreaching by giving it a

Yes, the process is defined by law; city council has had 36 years to legislate its improvement. The city manager could have satisfied me simply by providing a more serious answer to my questions. Those inconvenient options have been dismissed.

So, sometime soon, someone who gained most or all of his experience working for Chief Lentz will quietly get the job. I'll be pleased if he brings the kind of innovation that Cleveland Heights so valued back in 1974. But, I won't be surprised if such thinking simply gets dismissed.

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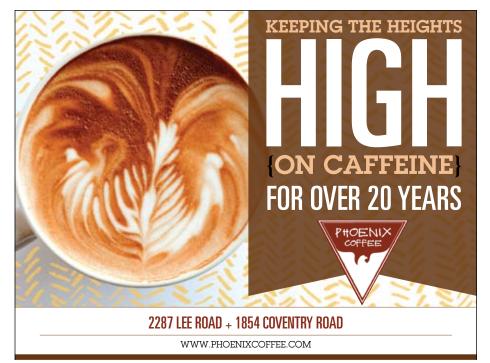
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Noble Library surplus sale announced

Dean Schnurr

During the September board meeting of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, members voted to hold a surplus sale at the Noble Neighborhood Library as part of the renovation process.

"As part of the renovation, we will be replacing most of the furniture, including tables, chairs and display units," said Library Director Nancy Levin. "Some of the current furniture will be reused in other buildings, but there is also a substantial portion that will be made available to the general public through a surplus sale."

Items available include chairs, desks,

tables, stands, study carrels and much more. For a complete list of items currently available, refer to the website, www.heightslibrary.org/page/surplus.

The surplus sale will be held on Monday, Oct. 11. Doors will open to the public at 10 a.m. and the sale will conclude at 2 p.m. All purchased items must be removed on Oct. 11 and all sales must be completed in cash.

Community members must arrange for removal and transportation of any items that are purchased.

Dean Schnurr is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

What's going on at your library?

Coventry Village Library

1925 Coventry Road, 216-321-3400 Babysitting Clinic, Oct. 13-15, 4 p.m. Step Out of Time, Thursday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m. Baby Sign Language, Saturday, Oct. 16, 11 a.m. Video Games for Wii Folks, Thursday, Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600 Current Issues, Thursdays, Oct. 7 & 21, 7 p.m. Little Songs, Wednesday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Treasures of Heaven: An Introduction, Tuesday, Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m. Library After Dark: Teen Costume Party, Saturday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m.

University Heights Library 13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

The Senior Spot, Wednesdays, Oct. 6-27, 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, Oct. 6-27, 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.r. Knitting Circle,

Thursdays, Oct. 7 & 21, 6:45 p.m. Mystery Evening: Tana French's In the Woods,

Thursday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.

Cedar Center Whole Foods Market

13998 Cedar Road, 216-932-3918 Stories, Snacks and Crafts, Tuesday, Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Library holds third annual photography contest

Dean Schnurr

The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library is excited to announce its third annual photography contest, sponsored by Cedar Center Motophoto.

Submissions for the contest will be accepted from Sept. 1 through Oct. 10. Participants may drop off submissions at any of the Heights Libraries.

A total of three photos may be submitted by each person. Submission may be color or black and white and must be mounted onto white $8\ \text{I/2}\ x\ \text{II}$ sturdy matte board. Photos must be no larger than $8\ x\ \text{IO}$. A completed entry form must be attached to the back of the matte board.

For complete instructions and submission forms, please see the Heights Library website, www.heightslibrary.org/page/photocontest.

Beginning Oct. 25, the finalists will be displayed as a traveling exhibition at each branch so that the public can vote for their favorites.

Five prizes will be awarded to the best overall photographs (color or black and white). All prizes will be redeemable only at Cedar Center Motophoto. Winners will be announced on Nov. 29.

The first-prize winner will receive a one-year membership to Motophoto's ClubMoto, one portrait session and one 10 x 13 portrait, 50 free 4 x 6 prints from digital media, one 50-percent-off coupon for an enlargement printed up to 24



x 36, and a \$25 gift certificate toward a custom frame order. A full list of prizes is available at the library website.

All participants are welcome to stop by the Cedar Center Motophoto for 50 percent discounts on prints and \$2 mounting fee per image.

Dean Schnurr is the marketing and community relations manager for the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library.

New writers clubs for youth

Cynthia Larson

This fall Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library and Lake Erie Ink are presenting four creative writing workshops for youth.

The In the Middle Writers clubs (4th-8th grade) meet each week from 3:30 to 5 p.m: at Coventry Village on Mondays, University Heights on Tuesdays, and Lee Road on Wednesdays.

The Teen Writers club (6th–12th grade) meets every Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Lee Road.

These programs are free and are funded by the Heights Library, Reaching Heights, and other community partners. Students may attend every week through Nov. 17, or participate on a drop-in basis.

The writers clubs will explore a variety of genres, while remaining true to Lake Erie Ink's primary objectives of giving youth a voice, a space to experience the power of creative expression,

and an audience (by sharing their work orally and in a published anthology). The writers clubs are not only for students who already love writing, but also for students who have a lot to say and sometimes feel as if no one is listening.

The writers clubs and Lake Erie Ink are an outgrowth of the poetry club programs formerly held in five CH-UH schools, and were facilitated by Amy Rosenbluth and Cynthia Larsen.

Lake Erie Ink and Heights Library are seeking volunteers to help with the afternoon groups. All you need is a sense of humor and an open mind.

For more information, e-mail cynthia_larsen@sbcglobal.net or go to www.heightslibrary.org/pdf/check_us_out/cuo.pdf

Cynthia Larsen is a Heights resident and a guerilla writing teacher in Cleveland Heights, who engages in small skirmishes to protect and revitalize the role of creative writing in education.



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Stan Soble



Heights IBA seeks members

Alex Quintana and Dawn Mongelluzzi Quintana

The newly formed Heights Independent Business Alliance (HIBA) is seeking members. Business owners, nonprofits, community organizations and concerned citizens are invited to join us in the effort to strengthen our local economy.

The Heights Independent Business Alliance works to build a vital Heights economy based on independent, locally owned businesses. HIBA unites locally owned independent businesses, citizens and community organizations to support the unique culture of the Heights through public education; cooperative promotion, advertising and purchasing; by creating a strong and uncompromising voice for one-of-a-kind independent businesses; and by engaging citizens in guiding the future of the community.

HIBA is looking forward to moving ahead with new initiatives, but needs community support. Now through Nov. 1, HIBA is offering a charter membership special of \$80. It will be \$100 after Nov. 1.

For more information and to obtain



a membership form, www.shophiba.com. Visit HIBA's Facebook Fan page, www. facebook.com/shophiba, to show your support by hitting "LIKE," posting news from your business, or posting other news that our community should be

Join us for our formal launch party at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 18, at the Future-Heights 2010 Best of Heights Awards. Find out which are the favorites among Heights residents, and show your support. Tickets are \$12 in advance. The event will be held at Motorcars Toyota, 2950 Mayfield Road. For more information, visit www.futureheights.org.

Alex Quintana and Dawn Mongelluzzi Quintana are owners of Quintana's Barber and Dream Spa on Taylor Road and cofounders of the Heights Independent Business Alliance.

Necklaces, earrings, cuff links and bracelets are among the available options in JewelZ, the new jewelry line at Sundaez Tanning in Cleveland Heights. Owner Pamela Cooper says the addition offers everyone

Sundaez adds jewelry line

Kelli Fontenot

A new jewelry line featuring costume, modern and sterling accessories is what Sundaez Tanning owner Pamela Cooper calls a "hidden treasure trove" in Cleveland Heights.

Cooper's enthusiasm for the gems is evident. Grinning with excitement, she holds up a cameo pin, fishes around in the basket of options for a moment, and then brandishes a pair of sterling silver hoop earrings and a shiny braided bracelet."This one is from Italy," she said in a hushed tone, folding the delicate bauble over in her fingers. "I put out a lot of different styles—vintage, pearl, artsy pieces. There's an assortment and something for everyone. That's part of finding a treasure."

From classic sterling silver chains to sassy clip-on earrings, the range of styles in Cooper's new jewelry line aims to please both newcomers and the salon's current clientele, she said. In the shop's window, Cooper has displayed a trunk overflowing with colorful beads -a sampling of the selection of gems awaiting shoppers who venture inside. The tanning salon has been a fixture in Cleveland Heights since 1986, but the jewelry line is brand new, Cooper said.

In what she calls "a fluke," she piled some random items, acquired from a friend in the jewelry business, on a table outside Sundaez during a recent neighborhood festival, and the response was surprising, she said. "People came over and they just loved it. One girl came in and said, 'Are you going to do this every week?' I knew I was on to something," she said.

The biggest draw, Cooper said, is the price tag. "People come in and they can't believe the prices. Especially with the economy, it's a way for someone to update their accessories at low prices and the inventory's always changing." The jewelry starts at \$1. The line, which Cooper calls "JewelZ," includes \$2 necklaces, \$3 cuff link sets, \$4 rings and a collection of sterling silver jewelry starting at \$9.95. Catering to crafters, Cooper is also selling bags of broken jewelry for \$1. "It's a fun way to recycle pieces," she said. "I used to love making jewelry, and I thought it'd be fun to offer that to artists. Everyone's looking for something different."

The lack of cookie-cutter items echoes the salon's attitude toward clients who come to tan, Cooper said. "We treat each customer as an individual. We know their names and we match them up with a lotion," she said, gesturing toward a wall of shelves supporting neatly labeled baskets of lotion. "We're going for clean and relaxed."

The salon also recently expanded its offerings with the Sun Capsule Eclipse, an upright booth Cooper said will give clients "the fastest tan on earth," adding, "There are only two of these in Ohio." The salon provides a range of other tanning options, including UV-free tanning with DHA, a sugar cane-based ingredient, according to Cooper.

Visitors who stop in and mention this *Heights Observer* article before Nov. 30 can receive a free visit to the Sun Capsule Eclipse with any tanning purchase.

Kelli Fontenot is a journalist living in Cleveland Heights.

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CH-UH Board of Education

Meeting highlights LEAGUE OF



All board members were present.

Honoring Louisa Oliver

Louisa Oliver was honored for her service to the Heights Parent Center. She has retired from Family Connections, the new name for the combined Heights Parent Center and the Shaker Family Center.

Music programs

Success of the summer music camp was described after a small barbershop group from the camp entertained the board. The fall musical at Heights High will be Beauty and the Beast on Nov. 4 to 7, 2010. Twelve Heights students made the All-State Choir, and 12 made the Cleveland Orchestra Choir. An all-schools concert will be held on April 11, 2011 at Severance Hall.

District website

This summer, staff redesigned the district's website. In addition, Superintendent Heuer recognized staff that worked this summer to get the buildings ready for the fall.

State report card

The state report card showed Roxboro Elementary School rated effective and only a few students away from excellent. Boulevard and Noble elementary schools went up one level and Wiley Middle School, two levels.

Race to the Top grant

Joseph Micheller, director of educational services, reported on the Race to the Top grant and said that he believed the district would get over \$1 million from the program. Selection for these grants favored districts with a good plan for academic improvement.

AVID program

Allison Byrd, coordinator of secondary curriculum reported on changes in the AVID (Advancement Vic Individual Determination) program. Many changes dealt with teachers who will be mentoring students. To help AVID students work better with their teachers, ninth and tenth grade students in the program will be assigned to only two of the small schools.

Grants approved for submission

The board approved the following grants for submission: Title I School Improvement, to the Ohio Department of Education for \$75,000; and Early Childhood Education, to the Ohio Board of Education for \$88,000.

LWV observer: Adele Cohen.

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

See disclaimer on page 3.



Heights High improves Washington Boulevard entrance

Joy Henderson

Cleveland Heights High School's Washington Boulevard entrance received a summer facelift with an architecturally appropriate door and window, brick pavers, trees, ground cover, benches and an antique replica street lamp.

This entrance was once the back door of the building, designed at a time when most students arrived at the school by trolley car or on foot and entered on Cedar Road. However, with changes in transportation, many students and staff began arriving to school by car and the Washington Boulevard door became the main entrance. To make the entrance more attractive, the brown dumpster was relocated to the loading dock area in the summer of 2009.

While retrofitting the entrance was important, CH-UH Director of Business Services Steve Shergalis is clear that this small retrofit does not address the building's major needs.

"We performed several summer renovation projects at the high school and they all have one thing in common," Shergalis said. "They let us maintain a minimally acceptable education experience for our students. The building is very old and, as the Ohio School Facilities Commission reported in April, it just isn't suited for a 21st-century education. Our operations staff has to work incredibly hard all summer and through the year just to keep it usable."

Until it can be replaced or renovated, the staff will continue to retrofit the building to make it usable for students and

Other improvements made to Heights High last summer include:

- · A section of the cafeteria was converted into the café-style Outtakes, scheduled to open in October.
- The lobby in front of the Auditorium was recarpeted and modular blockstyle furniture was added.
- The parking lot was repaved; there are now six visitor parking spots.
- Lockers in the boys and girls swimming pool locker rooms were replaced.
- Lockers in the boys and girls south gym locker rooms were replaced. The basketball offices near the south
- gym were renovated. • The air circulation system in the west
- gym was updated. • Hallway digital clocks were installed; the clocks count down from four minutes between classes, telling students exactly how
- The stationary risers in the choir room were removed; new tile was installed.

much time they have to get to class.

• The football field press box was up-

Joy Henderson is the parent/community liason for heights High.

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CHHS Barbershoppers sing at Indians Game

The Heights High Barbershoppers sang the National Anthem at the Cleveland Indians Game on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 as part of a fundraiser for The Ronald McDonald House.

Heights Marching Band hits a high note

Joan Drushel

The 85-member Cleveland Heights High School marching band is back on the field, entertaining audiences at football halftime at Heights Crawford Field. The band is directed by Brett Baker. He is assisted by elementary school instrumental teacher Robert Adamson, percussion specialists Dan Allie, Larry Smith and 2010 CHHS graduate Alphonso Davis.

Three students assist as band managers. Drum majors this year are Hailey Nowacek and Caitlyn McGaugh. Section sergeants are seniors Catherine Holt, Diana Drushel, Jon Tarnay, Paul Stroud, Michael Heard, head sousaphonist Eli Wildey and head percussionist Gordon Gustafson.

The season began in August with two-week band camp, where the members learned pregame, stand tunes, marching, and the halftime routine. This year's routine features songs by Earth, Wind and Fire, including "In the Stone," "September," "Fantasy" and "Let's Groove."

The officers worked hard this year to introduce fun activities and section and freshmen awards for group motivation

and bonding. The band dance committee, led by Camille Harris, developed and taught the band dance for halftime. The band is now beginning to learn a new routine for the second half of the season.

"This is the best marching band season since I have been here," said drum major Hailey Nowacek. "It has been a lot of fun. The officers have done more than expected to work as a team." Manager Shoshanna Klein agrees, "The officers are really working well together."

"This has been a fantastic group to work with," said assistant director Robert Adamson. "The student leadership is phenomenal. They are always doing something productive, even while waiting for instructions from the directors. Many of them have even gone beyond the class rehearsal time and run independent sectionals on their own time."

The marching band performs at all home football games, two away games— Bedford and Euclid—and the Memorial Day ceremony in the spring.

Joan Drushell, a Cleveland Heights resident, is the mother of two Heights High graduates, and a current senior and freshman.



Fairfax Fall Festival is Oct. 16

Mike Spencer

Join us for the return of the Fairfax Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fairfax Elementary School. Last held in the early 1990s, the festival is sure to be fun for the entire community.

The Fairfax PTA invites you to enjoy traditional fun and games as well as inflatables, a cake walk, bobbing for apples, face painting, pumpkin decorat-

ing and a bake sale. Plan to stay for lunch; there will be a variety of culinary delights prepared by the Fairfax community. Locally grown pumpkins, apples, cider and fall decorations will be available for

Contact Jon Hodges at jhodges24@ aol.com for information on ticket prices and preorder information.

Mike Spencer is corresponding secretary for the Fairfax Elementary PTA.

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Heavenly Harps

Trina Struble, harp Jody Guinn, harp Friday, October 29 Saturday, October 30

Funtastic Flute

George Pope, flute Friday, November 19 Saturday, November 20

Piano Pals

Joela Jones, keyboard instruments Friday, January 14 Saturday, January 15

Chillin' Cello Martha Baldwin, cello

Friday, April 29 Saturday, April 30

Triumphant Trumpet

Jack Sutte, trumpet Friday, May 13 Saturday, May 14

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Halloween Spooktacular! Sunday, October 31

The Cleveland Orchestra; Sasha Mäkilä, conductor Wear your Halloween costume and join us for some of the most deliciously spooky and magical music ever, in a thrilling afternoon of Halloween fun with special guests, Enchantment Theatre Company.

The Firebird Sunday, January 9

The Cleveland Orchestra; James Feddeck, conductor Watch your child's eyes light up as the Academy Trainees of The Joffrey Ballet and members of the Cleveland School of Dance help to bring this magical tale to life.

Peter and the Wolf Sunday, April 17

The Cleveland Orchestra; Sasha Mäkilä, conductor In a twist on this popular introduction to the orchestra, Peter tries to outwit a fearsome wolf that threatens the orchestra and the audience alike. With special guests, Magic Circle Mime Company.

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Communion of Saints students and staff celebrate the school's achievement at a blue ribbon assembly.

Communion of Saints School honored as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Natalie Reiss

The U. S. Department of Education has selected Communion of Saints School (formerly known as Saint Ann School) in Cleveland Heights for a National Blue Ribbon award. The school joins the ranks of 254 public and 50 private schools honored this year. Only six private schools in Ohio earned this award for 2010.

"We have a long tradition, dating back to 1916, of educating students for academic success," said Principal Meg Cosgriff. "People may not realize that there is a thriving school in the buildings on the corner of Coventry and Cedar roads. Hopefully, this award will let the community know what a treasure we are to the area."

The Blue Ribbon program is part of a Department of Education initiative to identify schools across the nation with outstanding leadership and teaching prac-

tices. Communion of Saints School was recognized as "academically superior," meaning that students, regardless of their background, scored in the top 10 percent of the nation on standardized tests.

'Schools honored with the Blue Ribbon award are committed to achievement and to ensuring that students learn and succeed," said a press release by U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "Their work reflects the conviction that every child has promise and must receive a quality education."

Cosgriff attributed the school's success to active, supportive families and to the students, who personally value education and appreciate the importance of hard work and goal setting for future achievement. In addition, she said that the staff of Communion of Saints is particularly skilled at challenging and motivating students to work to their potential.

The Blue Ribbon designation ac-

knowledges the hard work of the entire learning community, including students, staff members and families. In addition, the award recognizes schools for innovative instructional methods. Communion of Saints is particularly proud of its success in integrating technology into the classroom. Having SMARTBoards in every classroom and a fleet of more than 100 laptops enables teachers to tailor lessons to students' interests. "We know that students today are digital natives," said Cosgriff. "The faculty at Communion of Saints School is working hard to educate children using the language they know best."

Cosgriff, along with Communion of Saints kindergarten teacher, Barb Nicoletti, will attend an awards ceremony Nov. 15 and 16 in Washington, D.C., to represent the Communion of Saints community.

For more information about Communion of Saints School, visit http:// saintann.us/School.html.

The U.S. Department of Education created the Blue Ribbon Schools award 28 years ago, to honor schools that have set and maintained stringent academic goals. For more information, visit www. ed.gov/programs/nclbbrs/index.html.

Natalie Staats Reiss is a freelance writer living in Cleveland Heights. Her daughter, McKenna, is a 5th grader at Communion of Saints School.

SUSTAINABLE FUN continued from page 1

Everyone is welcome to attend, including families and children. No previous experience is needed. Bring a digital camera (and USB plug) to add photos if desired, and dress for the weather. The event is handicapped accessible and near public transportation. All attendees will receive a Phoenix Coffee thank you gift.

Mobile mappers go to www.opengreenmap.org to see "What's Green Nearby" and to download an iPhone map app. To view and contribute to the map online go to www.futureheights.org.

Sarah Wean is a community volunteer who lives in the Coventry Village neighborhood.

New program teaches Heights High students to write film scripts and to make movies

Jacalyn Elfvin

The new Script to Film afterschool program at Heights High will teach students how to write professional-quality film scripts and then to turn their scripts into films. The program is funded by a grant from Reaching Heights and will be taught by Jeff Glass, the media production teacher, and Bill Kramer, a freelance writer and frequent substitute teacher at Heights High.

During the first semester, students will meet once a week to learn scriptwriting from Kramer. The goal is for each student to write, revise, and polish a short film script that will be submitted to the Scenarios program (www.scenariosusa.org), a nationwide scriptwriting contest that asks for submissions in mid-December.

During the second semester, regardless of the outcome of the contest, student scriptwriters will join with members of Jeff Glass's video production club to film as many of these scripts as possible. "In the course of filming these scripts, additional students—and some adults—will be enlisted to act and help with costume and set design. The finished movies will be shown during a film festival evening for Heights High students, faculty and interested members of the community," Glass said. The films will also be submitted to the local public-access television station.

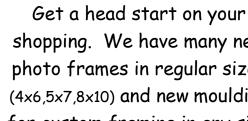
This past year, Kramer conducted scriptwriting workshops to multiple English classes in conjunction with the Scenarios program. A significant number of students entered the contest, and six Heights High students reached the semifinals, more than from any other school in the Cleveland area. One of the Heights High students became a finalist, competing with students in New York City and Texas.

Heights High English teacher Kathleen Scully said that she'd rarely seen students as enthusiastic about writing as they were after taking part in the scriptwriting workshop. Scriptwriting is not generally taught at the high school level. Still, it is a wonderful way to allow students self-expression. Students are not bound by conventional writing requirements. For instance, dialogue does not have to be written in sentences. Slang can be used when appropriate and descriptive passages are minimal. Students are taught to see the world in terms of action and dialogue.

"Students who are perplexed by having to write long, descriptive paragraphs find that kind of requirement to be virtually nonexistent. The result, for many students, is liberating," Scully said.

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

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Matt Dolan

Candidate for County Executive Republican

If elected County Executive, what goals would top the list of things that you'd hope to accomplish during your term in office?

- Restore the public faith in public servants by running the County with honesty and integrity
- Replace our silo service delivery system of human services with a wraparound service system; making individuals one step away from dependence and one step closer to independence;
- Establish Cuyahoga Forward, a one-stop-shop for business development; and
- Implement job descriptions and requirements that match skill sets, thereby creating measurable standards to determine results

What approach would you take to working with the new County Council to keep lines of communication open in order to achieve consensus on major county wide objectives?

I view the role of the Council as providing a check for the Executive and generating policy initiatives. In order for the County to be successful, the Council must think in broad, countywide terms and avoid becoming territorial. I intend to make it very clear that I expect this of the Council. If there are Council Members that do not share this perspective and act as roadblocks to the County's progress, I will not be shy about using my position to make it clear to voters they should not be re-elected.

How will Cuyahoga County voters know if the new government structure is working as envisioned?

While changing a culture takes time, I will make it immediately apparent to voters that I intend to hold the County to a higher standard. My first day in office, I will issue an executive order requiring ethics training and instituting a strict gift policy that will be enforced. County employees will be evaluated on their merits and those that perform well and embrace a spirit of innovation



www.matthewdolon.com

and creativity will be rewarded while those that do not will be let go. With this culture shift, County operations will focus on delivering the highest quality services with less hassle and less waste.

Do you believe the new structure has the potential to spark economic growth and job creation in Northeast Ohio?

Yes, I will restore the public/private sector relationship, bringing back the intellectual and financial investment to our community. I will create Cuyahoga Forward, establishing a one-stop-shop for business development. As Executive, I will be the strong leader to maintain economic development as a priority.

Do you see a need for further "tinkering" with the County Charter to improve prospects for a successful transition?

The Charter is meant to serve as the guideline for the operation of County government. As such, it is intentionally vague so that it may withstand the test of time, allowing the administration of government to be fluid and dynamic. If changes are necessary, they will become apparent fairly quickly as the new government begins to conduct business.

Edward Fitzgerald

Candidate for County Executive
Democrat

If elected County Executive, what goals would top the list of things that you'd hope to accomplish during your term in office?

I plan to clean up the corruption and restore confidence in county government—the FBI can and will only take care of a piece of this—the highest ethical standards must be set and met among all county employees and departments. Second, I will work to build on the strengths of our county to retain and attract jobs; third, as we redesign county government, I will ensure that the stellar health and human services currently provided through the county continue, even as government systems and departments consolidate; finally, it is clear that safety and security are a paramount concern and the county can and should player a larger role in ensuring the safety of all of our neighborhoods.

What approach would you take to working with the new County Council to keep lines of communication open in order to achieve consensus on major county wide objectives?

I will use the same approach I have used in Lakewood; I will work with the council members, share information in a transparent fashion and share credit for accomplishments.

How will Cuyahoga County voters know if the new government structure is working as envisioned?

This is a complicated question due to the fact that many voters do not fully understand the new structure—I speak with voters constantly whose primary questions surround the mechanics of the new structure. Fundamentally, though, I believe the mandate was for an ethical, efficient system. Voters will be able to judge that based on the high quality of human services being maintained while the government operates with a high level of transparency and seizes opportunities for job growth.

Do you believe the new structure has the potential to spark economic growth and job



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creation in Northeast Ohio?

The new structure can spark economic growth by being able to articulate a clear strategy which can be embraced in the region. I have long been a proponent of a county executive form of government in order for those interested in economic development to have one person and place to speak with when looking to invest or grow. While there will still be others involved—municipalities, the state, etc.—this will greatly enhance the role the county can and will play in such efforts.

Do you see a need for further "tinkering" with the County Charter to improve prospects for a successful transition?

The strongest points were in [the charter amendment's] consolidation of much of county government into a more functional structure. I disagreed with the process in which the charter was developed because it lacked transparency; I believe it was a mistake to consolidate all of the budgeting and financial authority.

I believe we need to address these items. I also think it is likely we will discover other items to be improved once the system is in place and that it might be helpful to have some at-large members of the county council.

Ken Lanci

Candidate for County Executive Independent

If elected County Executive, what would top the list of things that you'd hope to accomplish during your term in office?

The top priority is to create jobs for the people in Cuyahoga County. I have been creating good jobs for 40 years. I will aggressively market our region to bring new jobs here by developing the www.CuyahogaJobs.us website, a database of the county's physical assets and human resources.

I will restore the people's trust in their public servants, first leading by example. I will also establish the Commission on Public Integrity to root out corruption and incompetence.

I will overhaul the appraisal process, hiring only qualified professionals, to make sure property taxes are fair and accurate

A major function of county government is providing health and human services. I will make sure the safety net is working effectively and efficiently.

What approach would you take to working with the new County Council to keep lines of communication open in order to achieve consensus on major county wide objectives?

I will do what I have always done as a manager and CEO. I will have an open door policy and be accessible. I will involve them in the processes so they will have a good understanding of what's going on and they will be well informed when it comes time to make decisions.

When will Cuyahoga County voters know if the new government structure is working as envisioned—and how will they know?

Their lives will be better. They will have better job opportunities and pay fair property taxes. They will see billions of dollars of economic development. Young people will stay in their hometown where they have opportunities to succeed. There will be less of a strain on the safety net because the people of Cuyahoga County will be working again. Voters will experience the excitement



www.kenlanci.com

of living in a county undergoing a renaissance. Greater Cleveland will again be "The Best Location in the Nation."

Do you believe the new structure has the potential to spark economic growth and job creation in Northeast Ohio? If so, how might that happen?

The structure is definitely more business friendly. It has the potential to spark economic growth and job creation if the right person is executive. I have 40 years of experience in business working out mergers, acquisitions and turnarounds. These skills are exactly what the new county executive needs. The structure allows the executive to negotiate with businesses and work out deals and contracts which can be brought before the council for approval. It takes a business person to understand business needs. I will go out and market Cuyahoga County to the rest of the world to bring new business and development here.

Do you see a need for further "tinkering" with the County Charter to improve prospects for a successful transition? If so, what changes would you hope to see incorporated?

Not yet. I supported the charter and believe it sets us on a positive course. I have been doing mergers and acquisitions my entire career, and am confident in my ability to make this work for the people. I can't wait to get to work for all of the people.

David Ellison

Candidate for County Executive Green Party

If elected County Executive, what goals would top the list of things that you'd hope to accomplish during your term in office?

- An energy upgrade on all county-owned buildings to make them more energy efficient with procedures for evaluation
- A county-wide land use and management plan that successfully engages all the municipalities
- A Laborers and Artisan Corps of suburban and inner city youth, 16-60 resulting in tangible, ecologically sensitive capital improvements to our built environment
- A state chartered Bank of Cuyahoga County, dedicated to investing in the county, prohibited from selling mortgages, trading in derivatives and committing usury.

What approach would you take to working with the new County Council to keep lines of communication open in order to achieve consensus on major county wide objectives?

The door to my office will always be open to any Council member who wants to come talk to me. The Executive is not included in the Council's proceedings. The Council can ratify the Executive's decisions, appointments and recommendations, or it can try to fight the Executive's decisions. My approach will be to do the job the Charter sets out for the Executive in a way that includes the Council's recommendations when appropriate. I will present my executive decisions to the Council in a way that is clearly justified and understandable.

How will Cuyahoga County voters know if the new government structure is working as envisioned?

I envision the new structure being conducive to collaborative problem solving. I want the wisdom of each of the council members and appointees and interested citizens to contribute to the decision-making process of the new government. The new structure will work when



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it balances its budgets, provides necessary and expected services and regains the confidence of the public. The ultimate success of the new government structure will be measured in how it fulfills the stated goals of prosperity for all county residents.

Do you believe the new structure has the potential to spark economic growth and job creation in Northeast Ohio?

It's possible if we stop sending our money away and utilize strategies for keeping more of our money circulating in the local economy. We need to build our capabilities for self-reliance. We need to utilize the land, buildings, natural resources and human resources of Cuyahoga County for the benefit of Cuyahoga County and its residents. We need to find ways for people to gain more financial independence.

Do you see a need for further "tinkering" with the County Charter to improve prospects for successful transition?

I'd like to see the council chosen at large in a system of preferential or "Instant runoff voting, where even if your first choice didn't win a seat, your second choice might. Candidates would be elected if they received a "modicum of support".

Tim McCormack

Candidate for County Executive Independent

If elected County Executive, what goals would top the list of things that you'd hope to accomplish during your term in office? My primary objectives would include advances in the following three areas: Code of Ethics: With the now pervasive admissions of guilt throughout our regional public agencies, it is clear that 1) formation 2) adoption and 3) strict enforcement of the nation's most effective public Code of Ethics must be the first priority of this transformed county government. It must be first because, no matter how vital human services and economic development are in our scheme, all will fail if we cannot trust those spending our money. Jobs: Government is most helpful when it performs its vital public functions so efficiently as to create the sense and reality of well-being within the community. When there is good government in a community it serves as one of the major incentives for people who want to work and live there. Good government wisely utilizes its resources in concert with private and non-profit entities. It works in supportive ways to encourage starting up and maintaining employment. **Education:** It's imperative that we see that every child succeeds. We must embrace the regimen that every child born into this community be provided with the encouragement and tools to live up to their highest potential. It is humanity's highest responsibility. When any child falls short of his or her potential, we all lose. Cuyahoga County's infant and early childhood education approach is a promising beginning that needs to be expanded upon in every space where a child's future is being shaped.

What approach would you take to working with the new County Council to keep lines of communication open in order to achieve consensus on major county wide objectives? Establishing friendly relations now during the campaign—and holding full, open, weekly caucuses to review policy, as well as daily contact

with council as needed. Ultimately, I would travel



www.timmccormack.com

priorities on a regular basis.

How will Cuyahoga County voters know if the new government structure is working as envisioned? It will become clear soon based on the tone set, adoption of the Code of Ethics, and Volunteer Councils continuing their work.

Do you believe the new structure has the potential to spark economic growth and job creation in Northeast Ohio? Jobs are created and maintained in the largest part by private initiative. Private creativity remains our best hope for our future financial security. Government's role as a positive partner in this equation is vital. Government on its own cannot replace private entities in performing the vital function of job creation, but it can and should be an essential partner in the equation.

Do you see a need for further "tinkering" with the County Charter to improve prospects for a successful transition? Do you know that when you include the judges we elect in Cuyahoga County, 56 countywide officials are elected within our county alone-3 commissioners, 7 other elected officials, and a total of 46 judges. Wow! How many elected officials do we really need to work well? How about reducing Cuyahoga County elected offices to the fewest number essential to ensure the best government? There are three great reasons to do this. The first is to bring us good government. The second is to save vital resources. The third reason is to successfully win a vote to adopt the plan of a smaller, less expensive, consolidated Cuyahoga

Don Scipione

Candidate for County Executive Independent

If elected County Executive, what goals would top the list of things that you'd hope to accomplish during your term in office?

As a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident, promote our successes throughout the county.

- Consolidate and re-engineer county business systems, adopt a collaborative method of service delivery, and increase productivity 25%. In four years, be saving \$200 million each year. \$200 million for tax cuts and investment in jobs and prosperity.
- Have an transparent and responsive county government by implementing Ethics Workgroup recommendations. County business will be online. There will be no "missing" files. Create jobs and prosperity by promoting the healthcare technology industry and stimulating business expansion by reducing taxes and buying local. What approach would you take to working with the new County Council to keep lines of communication open in order to achieve consensus on major county wide objectives?

Begin working with Council on November 3rd to jointly determine high level appointees. Open business systems will allow Council to view participate in the decision process and avoid surprises. Teamwork and respect will be the hallmark.

When will Cuyahoga County voters know if the new government structure is working as envisioned?

Purging the remaining political appointees, cronies, and double dippers will close the book on corruption and increase worker morale. In four years, government will be 30% smaller and cost \$200 million/year less to run. \$200 million that can be used to cut taxes, deliver better service, and invest in the future.

Do you believe the new structure has the potential to spark economic growth and job creation in Northeast Ohio?

Build upon good county programs that can be models of regional cooperation and lay the foundation for jobs and prosperity.

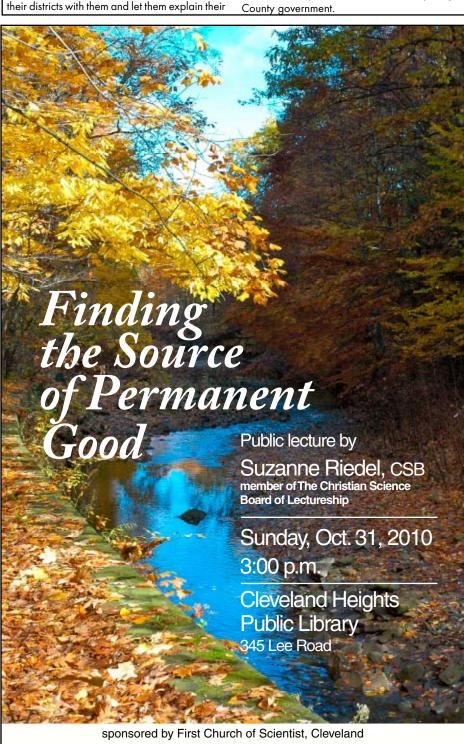


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- Education. Focus on early education the most cost effective way to curb illiteracy, build a competitive workforce, and cut the demand for social services. The return on this type of education initiative is 7-15 times the investment. By third grade, every student must be able to read, write, calculate and understand nutrition and wellness.
- Healthcare. Offering Cuyahoga County's healthcare plan to local municipalities will reduce local government healthcare insurance costs and improve the mix of paying to indigent patients at Metro Health, thereby lessening the burden on taxpayers.
- The healthcare industry is Cuyahoga County's leading employer. I will vigorously promote our growing health care technology industry and tie it to a successful Medical Mart
- Foreclosed properties. Go after all 10,000 foreclosed and vacant properties. I will work with the judiciary and state lawmakers to ensure we have means to expedite land banking in a cost-effective manner and keep foreclosures out of the hands of absentee speculators.

Do you see a need for further "tinkering" with the County Charter to improve prospects for a successful transition?

The Charter-which I believe in, helped write, and am committed to—culminates twenty years study. It is a human endeavor, so there will always be plenty of room for tinkering. That's why we framers set an early date for its review, and planned succeeding reviews every five years thereafter.





Matt Brakey

County Council Candidate-District 10 Republican

Describe the duties of the members of the County Council.

First, it is important to draw the distinction between "duties" and "powers;" duties being what the new Council has to do, while powers being what the new Council can do.

The duties of the new Council include setting up a structure for managing county properties and bureaucracies, approving the budget, creating a development plan, developing a code of ethics, etc. However, it is the powers of the new Council that county residents should be concerned about.

The powers of the new Council and Executive are extremely broad. Yet the real concern is the language that introduces these powers: "All powers of the Council shall... include, but not be limited to the following" (twelve powers listed).

Because the powers are not limited to the twelve powers, we must look to the rest of the charter for any limitation. Other than some vague language about respecting municipal rule, there are no limitations given to this new government's power. Therefore, other than state and federal law and their respective constitutions, there is no limit to the power of this new government.

I believe that it is power that causes corruption: Absolute power corrupts absolutely and this new government has near absolute power.

Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

I want to serve on the new County Council because I want to restrain the power of this new government; I want to allow Cuyahoga County to regain its rightful place as one of the leading economies in the country; I want to stop so called government "economic development" projects like the medical mart, which are nothing more than a wealth transfer from taxpayers to special interests; I want to slash the sales tax, which is the highest in the state of Ohio by 3/4 of one percent.



www.mattbrakey.com

What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

I am President of Brakey Energy, a company that provides comprehensive energy management services to many of the largest companies in northern Ohio. Though unlike most businessmen, I do not want to run government like it's a business: I want to run government like it's a government. I recognize that government is wholly different than business.

I am very studied in Austrian free market economics; it is a great passion of mine. I am also well studied in political philosophy. I list among my influences David Hume, Friedrich Hayek and Malcolm X. I will bring these influences to my governance.

What will you do in your first weeks?

This is a very good question. My answer is that I have no clue whatsoever. Any candidate who tells you that they do is being disingenuous.

The new government is going to have to work closely with the transition committee. It's going to be chaotic, messy, and the blind will be leading the blind. I would encourage readers to have tempered expectations.

How will we know that you are doing a good job?

The quality of my performance will be directly correlated to how much I'm attacked in the press by the existing establishment. If people are not complaining about me, it means I've sold out.

Julian Rogers

County Council Candidate-District 10 Democrat

Describe the duties of the members of the County Council.

The County Council serves as the legislative arm of county government. The primary role of the Council is to provide oversight over the operation of county government and to serve as a balance to the powers of the County Executive. The new Council will play an instrumental role in the transition of the current county government structure to a new structure. It is critical that the new Council have a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of these departments so that the county can operate efficiently and with no disruption in services to residents during the transition.

Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

I believe that Cuyahoga County can become a striving community where families want to live and businesses wish to locate. My life, both professionally and privately has been devoted to making a difference in the lives of people in our community. I would like to create a county government that is run efficiently, provides the highest quality of services and operates in a manner that is open to the public, fair and corruption-free. This will require a commitment to the highest ethical standards among all members of the Council, the County Executive and all employees of county government. The voters are expecting change and a better government and I am dedicated to meeting their expectations.

What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

I have been a resident of District 10 for over 36 years and I understand the complex issues facing this community. I have served in high-level positions with large organizations and have a clear understanding of what it takes to problem solve, build consensus and provide oversight within a large institution such as the county government.



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I served on the executive management team for seven years at the state's largest school district. I helped manage 77,000 students, 14,000 employees, 124 facilities, 600 school buses and a budget of nearly \$1 billion. Through my time with the Cleveland Schools, I gained an understanding of the type of leadership and organizational structures needed for a large organization to run efficiently.

Additionally, I have served on the Board of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and as the founding executive director of a state-wide public education advocacy organization

What will you do in your first weeks?

In the first weeks, it will be important for members of the new Council and the County Executive to establish a strong working relationship, conduct a financial and performance audit of each County department and approve the leadership appointments referred by the County Executive. The Council must also enact and adhere to a strong ethics policy that will apply to all county employee and elected officials.

How will we know you are doing a good ich?

The first indication will be a higher level of trust in county government among county residents. We will see greater savings of taxpayer money while maintaining or increasing services. More people will have a better understanding of the role and functions of county government and will know how to access the services it provides.

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Michael Troy Watson

County Council Candidate- District 10 Independent

Describe the duties of the members of the County Council.

There will be 11 Members of the County Council. This should prepare the County for 11 New Watchdogs over the public interests. The duties other than as described in the Charter Article III are more responsibly described as a duty to return Cuyahoga County to being a government of honesty, reliability, and an open government of the people.

The citizens of Cuyahoga County will being given a new LIGHT TO ILLUMINATE EVERY CORNER OF their County Government for open examination of the millions of dollars that the Council will control, where no light has shone

Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

There are Democrats...DiMora, Russo, and the Local Democratic Machine Politics. There are Republicans...Continued partisan politics.... and there are INDEPENDENTS...a true and fresh NON-PARTY APPROACH. Sarah Palin is a Leader of the Tea Party. The entire Tea Party Movement is a result of the partisan abuses of the Democrats and the Republicans. Many of us intend to hold our collective noses when we vote in November. How many of us would like to vote "None of the Above"? Well, they can by a "Non-Party" vote for Michael Troy Watson..."I am not one of them!"

What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

Harvard Law School (P.I.L.), Cleveland-Marshall College of Law (J.D.), NRA Certified Gun Trainer, Real Estate Self-Employment, and the survival skills of a Lifetime. I am a primary caregiver for my Elderly Parents, (Thomas S Watson Sr. (91), and Geraldine Watson (86), so I have an intimate knowledge of the concerns of the Elderly. I am determined, ambitious, and, the will



to persevere. I am young enough to understand and work hard and old enough to 'know better' this makes me the better candidate.

What will you do in your first weeks?

We will need to examine the Millions of dollars in contracts that are, even as we speak, being let out to contractors who will both legitimately and fraudulently use the taxpayers dollars with reckless abandon. When the contracts are frozen and examined with the exception of the operating budget necessary to serve the public interests, they can be reissued through the New Council if they were truly in the best interests of the people

How will we know you are doing a good job?

That is not hard...just ask!! Come to my office... online by website...call...email...snail mail. I intend to disseminate info about every vote and action. Eventually, it is important that the citizens can see, touch, and feel the results of what they have done. They cleaned house of Partisans and..."I am not one of them!!!"

I am a Student of Islam, a supporter of the Tea Party, and an Independent who was a Reagan Republican. (I have the Awards and Certificates to prove it) and an 'Obamacrat' (Obama for America, Ward 5 organizer). Today, I am before the Electorate as an Independent for Council....."I am not One of Them!!!"

Rich Devor

County Council Candidate-District 11 Independent

Describe the duties of the members of the County Council.

The main duty of a member of County Council or any other political office is to represent the will of the people with honesty and integrity. They should work to reduce the tax burden on the citizens as well as keeping debt to a minimum and never passing debt onto future generations. Finally, the Council should work to reduce the size of government.

Why do you want to serve on County Council?

I feel like I have to get involved in politics because I can no longer watch elected officials ignore the voices of the people and do what is in their own interests. Many people have given up because they no longer feel that their elected officials do what is in their best interests. This is what I strive to change. I want to show the citizens that I work for what integrity and honesty is about. I hope to restore their faith in the system and inspire them to become educated and involved. I also want to create a better future for the younger generations. If we sit back and do nothing, the kids will grow up and ask "why didn't you do anything?" What will be our excuse? We just need to do what is right.

What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

My qualifications include having a high level of integrity and honesty. I also have a working knowledge of American history and the intended role of government in our lives and economics. I am by no means an expert in these fields and I am constantly learning, but I have a solid understanding of them.



http://rdevorjr.com

What will you do in your first weeks?

Being that this is a completely new structure for county government; the first couple weeks will be hectic. I imagine I will spend some time getting to know the fellow council people, and working out the final details for meetings, offices, etcetera.

How will we know you are doing a good ich?

You will know that I am doing a good job when the county budget gets reduced, taxes are lowered, we become more business friendly, and the citizens become more educated and

Kathryn Gambatese

County Council Candidate-District 11 Republican

Describe the duties of the members of the County Council.

Fiduciary and legislative as stated in the Charter: write or amend ordinances or resolutions including: appointments, establishment of departments, policy, procedures, contracts. Oversee and approve annual tax budget, operating budget, capital improvements program and appropriations. Be a check and balance to the Executive. I have done this for 21 years on Richmond Heights Council.

Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

To provide accessibility and accountability to resident and business taxpayers. To protect and sustain 50% of core county services that are health and human services. To promote economic development by reducing impediments so businesses and residents want to work and live here. To review the Justice System budget for resources to fund reentry and new programs. To turn the tide of foreclosures.

I was elected Chair of the Cuyahoga County Mental Health Board and led the consolidation of two boards, Mental Health and AOD (Alcohol and Other Drug). We became the new ADAMHS Board July of '09.

My experience leading the transparent and inclusive process that created more efficient effective services and savings could be applied across county departments to improve outcomes. We can reduce redundancy and waste by integrating departmental silos as we redistribute the insufficient tax dollars and other revenue.

ADAMHS Board 1st year savings:

- Administrative Cost saved \$1.9 million
- Personnel Cost: with 30 fewer positions saved \$2.5 million.
- Facility Cost: Board is saving \$440,000 each year of a ten year lease for offices.

What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

An early proponent of Reform, as board member



www.kathrynegambatese.com

and officer for 16 years on the Northeast Ohio City Council Association, Inc. (noccassoc.org) our programs looked at regionalization: Air service and Port Authority needs, collaborative opportunities of joint Fire Districts, purchasing consortiums, the foreclosure crises, benefits of revenue tax sharing and initiatives like The Fund For Our Economic Future. Fragmentation of 57 municipalities with hundreds of taxing agencies thwarts development. Other boards includes: Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce; President for 6 of the 12 years on a Girl Scout Board for 3 counties. My consensus building and vision planning skills helped improve each.

What will you do in your first weeks?

The Charter outlines initial establishment of how council will run itself, set up committees, assign or hire new staff, and make appointments. Institute ethics training for everyone including employees. Keep my campaign web site for routine communication to my District; engage in team building of the Council, Executive, and staff; review and analyze the organization structure; develop a vision and strategic plan for the next 3 years.

How will we know you are doing a good

By sustaining critical services as we reorganize. Witnessing improved services, improved employee morale, and improved work ethics. By reviewing and meeting the benchmarks set for ourselves through measurable outcomes. When business and new residents line up to move here.

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Sunny Simon County Council Candidate-District 11

Democrat

Describe the duties of the members of the

County Council.The County Council is the legislative branch of

the new County government which will provide the checks and balances needed to oversee the County Executive.

The duties of the Council include, but are not limited to, adopting and amending the County's annual budget, confirming executive appointments, establishing an ethics policy and crafting rules and procedures for board appointments. The Council also has a duty to create a program to facilitate education and job training opportunities for individuals in the County. Council has been empowered to enact ordinances and resolutions to stimulate economic development.

Why do you want to serve on the County Council?

I have a passion for revitalizing inner ring suburbs and for reversing the pattern of urban sprawl. I am committed to making our neighborhoods more livable, walkable and safe to raise our families. I also see a need to strengthen the County Land Bank to address and manage the foreclosure crisis. I am excited to move the County into a green economy and help create a best land use practice to provide a more sustainable pattern of land development and conservation throughout our District.

What qualifications do you bring that make you the most qualified?

My accomplishments as a South Euclid Councilwoman for almost 12 years and as Council President include the establishment of the position of Economic Development Director, smart and green development, the South Euclid Dog Park, the South Euclid Humane Society, and leadership to build consensus among council members and the administration.

My experience as an attorney, volunteer juvenile court magistrate, mayor's court magis-



www.sunnysimon.org

trate, and as a guardian ad litem for children, has enabled me to be involved in every aspect of the judicial system and to interface with health and human service agencies on frequent basis.

I am also a member of the National League of Cities Energy, Environmental and Natural Resources Policy and Advocacy Committee. This Committee develops policy through consensus among members from throughout the country on matters such as energy policy and noise

What will you do in your first weeks?

The Council will create and establish a functional council body, including the forming of committees, electing a council president, and hiring a clerk of council to enable the Council to govern. Council will pass an ethics policy and address ethics training for employees. Council will study the make up of the many boards and agencies and review the appointment process and their efficiency.

How will we know you are doing a good job?

I plan to have town hall meetings in the different municipalities in the District and stay in communication with residents through the internet and hopefully by webcam.

The people will be able to see results and the new Council's transparency and open door policies. It is an exciting time for our region.

Parenting Q & A

Ellen Barrett

Ellen Barrett, a parent educator at Heights Parent Center (now known as Family Connections) for the last 12 years, fields questions from parents about the daily ups and downs of parenting. If you have questions you would like Ellen to respond to, email her at ebarrett@heightsparentcenter.org.

Q. My husband has been anticipating Halloween all summer, and is really excited to take our 15-month-old out trick or treating this year. We've picked out the perfect (and cute!) dinosaur costume, and want all the neighbors to see him, but I'm worried about scaring him. I don't want to disappoint my husband, but also don't want to upset our son. How can we all enjoy Halloween?

A. Halloween is a favorite holiday for both parents and kids. Costumes, pumpkin carving and colorful decorations allow for expressing creativity and humor. But scary masks, strange glowing lights and frightening images and music can take the fun out and leave kids scared and confused. Adults sometimes forget that children might not understand even the simplest of Halloween traditions, like wearing different and often uncomfortable clothing, or going door to door encountering many new faces.

Most kids can experience all the fun and whimsy of Halloween if parents protect them from the scary sights and



sounds, and keep in mind each child's age and temperament.

Here are a few tips to make Halloween enjoyable for all:

- Read Halloween books with kids ahead of time, so they'll know what to expect. Try *Trick or Treat* by Melanie Walsh or *Mouse's First Halloween* by Lauren Thompson (for toddlers) and *By the Light of the Halloween Moon* by Caroline Stutson (for preschoolers).
- Make sure the costume you choose is a familiar character and is comfortable to wear. Stay away from masks and bulky costumes, so your child can see well and walk easily.
- Take your child to only a few familiar neighbors while it is still light, and skip houses with elaborate decorations.
- Consider organizing a neighborhood party or going to a community party.
 These events tend to be more childfriendly and focus on games and activities rather than blood and gore.
- If your child seems at all hesitant or fearful, wait until next year. By nature, some kids are more fearful or hesitant. As the parent, you are the best person to

gauge that.

Make sure you and your husband have a chance take part in all of the prefestivities with your son, such as pumpkin carving, roasting pumpkin seeds and simple decorating so you can help him learn about the fun and festive parts of Halloween. Let your son ease slowly into the scarier elements as he grows and matures.

Heights High All-American lacrosse player receives Scholar Athlete award

By Joy Henderson

All-American lacrosse player Meg Lentz received the Farmers Scholar Athlete award. The presentation took place at the Sept. 16 Cleveland Heights vs. Maple Heights football halftime show on Fox 8

The award is given to students who excel both in the classroom and on the athletic field.

Lentz has a 4.5 GPA, is a top scorer on the Heights team and, as her All-American status suggests, she plans to attend a Division I college to play lacrosse.

"Receiving this award is a great honor," Lentz said. "I like that it recognizes women's lacrosse. Our team works so hard, and I love getting exposure for our sport."

In July, she received All-American first team designation as a sophomore. Heights senior Eve Tranchito, who is now playing lacrosse for the University of Oregon, was awarded the All-American honorable mention. Four girls in the Cleveland area were recognized.

Lentz said she likes the creativity



Meg Lentz

offered in her sport.

"There are so many ways to score in lacrosse," she said. "And everyone makes a difference on the field." She plays midfield and said she enjoys the versatility of that position.

Lentz's academic interests include math, economics and French. She is interested in several schools, but said she will definitely apply to Ohio State, Stanford, and Northwestern universities. All are ranked in the top 20 for women's lacrosse.

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



For more information, call 216-421-5806, ext. 100 or visit www.TheMusicSettlement.org
11125 Magnolia Dr., Cleveland, OH 44106

Ruffing Montessori is honored for its commitment to sustainability

Carol Provan

Ruffing Montessori School has been named a 2010 Emerald Award winner by *Crain's Cleveland Business* for successfully implementing sustainable practices that trim costs, increase cash flow and reduce the school's environmental footprint. Ruffing recently completed a campus renovation using sustainable building techniques and materials, and achieved LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification this year, making it the first LEED-certified building in Cleveland Heights.

Honored for having scored high on the "triple bottom line" (profits, people, and the planet), Ruffing has lowered electricity costs by 10 percent, created a healthier and safer building, reused Ruffing's respect for the environment inspired its campus redevelopment and sustainability initiative. The school has developed a unique, green curriculum centered on activity-based learning, following the Montessori method and using the building's green features as a working lab.

its existing site, recycled 80 percent of the demolished construction materials and transformed the school's learning environment.

Ruffing's respect for the environment inspired its campus redevelopment and sustainability initiative. The school has developed a unique, green curriculum centered on activity-based learning, following the Montessori method and using the building's green features as a working lab. At every age level, students are introduced to increasingly complex ideas about sustainability and stewardship.

Some of the high points of the school's recent campus renovation include a 53 percent savings in energy costs over the minimum required by code, access to natural light from 90

percent of the school's indoor spaces, a 28 percent decrease in water use and the production on site of five percent of the energy used by the school. Ruffing credits a recent four percent increase in enrollment in part to the school's heightened environmental consciousness. Head of School Gordon Maas noted that, because of its environmentally friendly building and unique green curriculum, Ruffing will continue to send ambassadors of sustainability into the world year after year.

Ruffing Montessori was established in 1959 and serves a student body of 315, ranging in age from toddler to eighth grade.

Carol Provan is director of development for Ruffing Montessori School.

Geauga Family Farms offers winter CSA

Michele Bandy-Zalatoris

Sad to see the summer farmer's market season coming to an end? Can't get enough of those delicious fresh vegetables? The Geauga Family Farms Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program is expanding its program to include the winter season. Enliven holiday meals with certified organic goodness, laugh at Northeast Ohio's winter as you enjoy local produce, or just

get your fix of the good stuff as long as possible (next summer season is only 35 weeks away).

In a Community Supported Agriculture program, members of the general public can become partners or shareholders of a local farm by purchasing a portion of that farm's growing season. In return, members receive a weekly delivery of fresh produce from the farm. By investing in the farm at the beginning of the growing season, members

provide money to the farm when it is most needed.

Each week during the summer season, Geauga Family Farms CSA delivers fresh, organic produce to several pick-up points throughout the Heights. Nearby pickup sites include St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Ruffing Montessori School in Cleveland Heights, First Unitarian Church of Cleveland in Shaker Heights and the Mandel Jewish Community Center in Beachwood.

The farmers of Geauga Family Farms have been planting crops to try a winter program this year. Shares would include items such as potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, lettuce, kale, winter squash, pumpkins, brussel sprouts, broccoli, apples, eggs and a baked good each week (whole wheat bread or pie). There will be one share size at \$25 per week, delivered.

Shares will be sold in six-week blocks. The first block will start in early November and go through mid-December. The second block will run from early January to mid-February, and the third block from mid-February to late March. Each block will cost \$150, with applications and payment due two weeks before the start of the block.

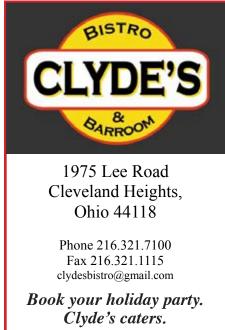
Geauga Family Farms is trying to gauge levels of interest and areas, so that it can work on finalizing pick-up sites. The pick-ups would occur on Saturdays.

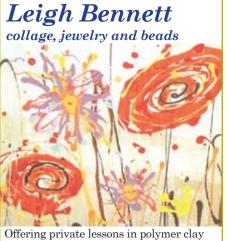
The shorter commitment of a winter share is a great way to find out if the CSA way of eating works for you.

For more information on the Geauga Family Farms organic CSA program, go to www.geaugafamilyfarmsllc.org or e-mail bandyz@sbcglobal.net.

Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris is a Cleveland Heights resident with an interest in local food and a background in urban design and planning.







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Coventry area Unitarian-Universalists hold event to improve shared gardens

Walter Nicholes

Unitarian Universalists live by a set of Seven Principles, one of which translates easily into "We should care for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things." It's a brief step from here for many Cleveland UUs to commit themselves to sustainable life in some of its many modes.

"Sustainability on the world level is vastly complicated," says Rev. Colin Bossen, minister of the Unitarian-Universalist Society of Cleveland, located at 2728 Lancashire Road near the heart of the Heights Coventry area. "But we're achieving some sustainability in Cleveland Heights by converting unused lawn and space around our building into productive community gardens."

The society's agriculture grew from an initial visit last year by Nicole Wright of Ohio State University Extension, and Craig Bourne, a resident of Musicians Towers, the 13-floor senior housing building directly across from the society. Plans conceived at the meeting were presented to the society board, enthusiastically approved, and then the work began.

Sandy McCurdy, a Musicians Towers resident, assigned plots on a first-come basis. UU member Marie Nightingale



Late season tomatoes are proof of a bountiful year

staked them out, while husband Ken, with Towers resident Robert Cramer and local attorney Matthew Schupe, rototilled the rock-hard, clay-based lawn into workable shape. Then individual gardeners did the rest—fertilizing, working the soil for planting, watering, harvesting and cleanup. "It's a service we planned for low-income neighborhood residents, many of them senior citizens. This year one of the Bhutanese refugee families adopted by the society selected and worked a plot," said Rev. Bossen.

Until now, gardeners carried water across the street from Musicians Towers to the plots, but this will change. As part of Sustainability Week, the society plans to hold a public Potluck & Rain Barrel work party on October 9, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the society, to install two rain barrels on the east side of the building, complete with hoses, to provide collected rain water for the gardens.

"It's turned out to be a good situation for the society," said Rev. Bossen. "We're combining a service to the community while making our property more attractive and sustainable. It's only a small effort but imagine the impact if all communities across America converted unused or abandoned public spaces into neighborhood gardens. That would be transformative. The society plans to expand the gardens where feasible in the future."

Contact Rev. Bossen for more information at 216-932-1898 or 216-702-5538.

Oct. 6 is international Walk (or Bike) to School Day

Mary Dunbar and Nancy Dietrich

Oct. 6 is official Walk or Bike to School Day at Canterbury, Fairfax, Gearity and Roxboro elementary schools. But anyone can use this opportunity to join with others in celebrating International Walk to School Day and Cleveland Heights-University Heights Sustainability Week.

Studies show that aerobic exercise results in a higher energy level and a greater ability to focus on school work. Walking or biking to school also helps a child to develop independence

and mastery of his or her environ-

Cleveland Heights and University Heights make it easy with compact neighborhoods, sidewalks, low speed limits, and, of course, crossing guards. In fact, just a generation ago, our sidewalks were filled daily with youngsters coming and going on their own to our community's public and parochial schools.

To help your child participate, you

might want to cover the route together ahead of time, organize neighborhood youngsters to go as a group, or simply lace up your own shoes and go along for the walk or ride. Oct. 6 might just be the start of a new and healthier way of life for your family.

Mary Dunbar and Nancy Dietrich are members of the Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coalition.

Adults can also play at Oct. 9 event

Marissa Williams

Bring your children, your grandchildren, or just your inner child for an afternoon of games in the Heights. The Sustainable Heights Network and *Fumy Times* are sponsoring "A Play Date in the Heights" from 4–6:30 p.m. on Oct. 9. The event is part of Sustainability Week, and is an opportunity to connect with nature, play and enjoy the fall weather.

The central meeting spot for the event is the Coventry P.E.A.C.E Park. Play stations will be set up all around the park, playground and library. Participants will be able to listen to stories, play nature games and explore. Once you have had your fill of fun and games, enjoy some refreshments and relax.

Marissa Williams is a graduate student at CWRU and intern at FutureHeights.



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HeightsWrites

Poem for October 2010

Student guidelines you won't find in any glossy college literature.

—Meredith Holmes

You Feel Me?

Advice to a Young Scholar, on Her Way to College

By Claire McMahon

Every day

There is some work to be explained.

Directions to be known

At the start.

There's a list at least

You must follow,

To get ahead.

You've got to write and talk

Your way out of things

Sometimes;

You can't ever hide from that.

You've got to show up.

Even if you are drunk or hung over,

You've got to be there

To hold yr place in line.

He drank every day, you see,

And still was a famous musician.

So you are competing with that.

Get it, kid, I mean it,

You dig?

Start there,

And begin.

Claire McMahon has an M.F.A. in writing and poetics from Naropa University: The Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics and a Ph.D. in 20th-century American and British poetry from Kent State University. She is coeditor of MoonLit Poetry Journal (Drag City Press, Chicago) and the author of a book of poems titled, Emergency Contact (Van Zeno Press, Cleveland). She has taught at Lake Erie College, Baldwin-Wallace College, Cuyahoga Community College and Chancellor University.

Heights Youth Theatre presents 'Pippin'

Ellen Sindelar

Heights Youth Theatre launches its 2010–11 season with *Pippin*. The 1972 musical—with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and book by Roy O. Hirson was originally choreographed and directed on Broadway by Bob Fosse.

The story chronicles a young man's search for true fulfillment, leading Pippin, the son of Charlemagne, to seek out life's truths in the glories of war, the comfort of women, the seduction of power, and ultimately in the simple joys of family. Along the way, Pippin gives us classic songs, such as "Magic to Do," "Corner of the Sky," "With You" and "Morning Glow."

This concept musical promises to be a thought-provoking, high-energy, multimedia production that will be both a visually electrifying and an emotionally stirring theater experience.

The HYT cast includes 60 talented students in 1st through 12th grades, many from the Heights area; and pro-

fessional musicians playing the score. Leading cast members are Patrick Mooney (Pippin), David Levitz (King Charlemagne/Lead Player), Christina Ciofani (Berthe), Brett Castro (Lewis), Katie Wilkinson (Fastrada), Lillian Sindelar (Catherine) and Philippe Kogan (Theo).

Pippin will be presented in the Wiley Middle School Auditorium at 2181 Miramar Blvd., University Heights, Friday, Oct. 29, Nov. 5 and 12, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 and 13, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 14, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$9, \$8 for seniors and children under 6. Box office opens 45 minutes before each performance.

Call 216-780-2235 for information regarding tickets and group seating or visit www.heightsyouththeatre.org.

Ellen Sindelar is president of Heights Youth Theatre, a University Heights-based nonprofit organization committed to providing quality children's theater and she also directs a masters program in diversity management at Cleveland State University.



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James Joyce meets Monty Python at Nighttown

Nighttown Academy of Poetry & Letters rises again October 24 to benefit the Friends of the CH-UH Library

Bruce Hennes

Last year, two award-winning Cleveland Heights residents, Irish actress Derdriu Ring and her good friend, *Plain Dealer* columnist Regina Brett, conjured up the Nighttown Academy of Poetry & Letters, as well as Wise Up!!, the fictitious troupe's first event. The literary extravaganza, best described as James Joyce meets Monty Python, comes alive for the second time on October 24 for Wise Up!! Chapter 2, a fundraiser benefiting the Friends of the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library. Last year's inaugural event was a total sellout, raising more than \$7,000.

This year's event features a local cast of celebrities, literary greats, and friends of the arts, each of whom will read and bring to life a short poem or piece of prose. The readings are interspersed with musical numbers with literary themes.

The all-star cast of this year's Nighttown Academy of Poetry & Letters currently includes, at press time, Cinda Williams Chima, Derdriu Ring, Regina Brett, Margaret Bernstein, Leon Bibb, George Bilgere, Eric Broder, Tony Brown, Mark Dawidziak, Mansfield Frazier, David Giffels, Richard Gildenmeister, Michael Heaton, Susan Infeld, Meredith Holmes, Ed Kelley, Scott Lax, Sarah May, Kevin McGinty, Kristin Ohlson, Steve Presser, Brendan Ring, Les Roberts, Afi Scruggs, Joan Southgate, Laura Taxel, Stuart Warner, Phil Metres, Loren Weiss, Thomas Mulready, Tricia Springstubb, Ann Trubek, Martha Towns, Michael Roizen, Charles Michener, Don Rosenberg, Eric Schmiedl, Nick Koesters, Dan Coughlin, Eric Coble and Dorothy and Reuben Silver.

The Friends of the CH-UH Library won't be the only beneficiaries of the evening's activities. Two local independent bookstores near to the hearts of bookloving Clevelanders—Appletree Books and Mac's Backs—will sell books that evening, with the proceeds of those sales staying with the bookstores. The Friends of the CH-UH Library will also host a silent auction, with all event-related dollars donated to the Friends of the Library. That auction has already started online at bit.ly/wiseupchapter2auction

Wise Up!! Chapter 2 is Sunday, Oct. 24 at Nighttown, located at the top of Cedar Hill in Cleveland Heights. There will be two separate shows, each featuring half the cast, at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., with a separate \$25 per-person admission charge for each 90-minute show (\$30 at the door).

Wise Up!! Chapter 2 is sponsored by Nighttown. Reservations can be made by calling the CH-UH Public Library at 216-932-3600 ext. 234 or online at www. heightslibrary.org/page/friends. Directed and produced by Derdriu Ring and Regina Brett, Joe Hunter serves as music director.

"We sold out two shows last year, so advance reservations are indeed a must!" said Ring and Brett in unison.

Bruce Hennes is the vice president for institutional advancement for Nighttown Academy of Poetry & Letters.

Behind the scenes at Dobama is a box office gem

Evan Komito

Dobama Theatre's 2010-II season has gotten off to an intense, thought-provoking start. While "the play's the thing," no one enters without a ticket and so Charlotta Enflo's face is the very first one you will see at each production.

Enflo, who joined Dobama in December 2009 as box office manager and development associate, points out that meeting the Heights theatergoers is the best part of her job. "They know that each Dobama production will be a unique experience," she says, "and they

are very vocal about it."

She feels the excitement and anticipation in each exchange. A recent graduate of Goldsmiths, University of London, England, with a master's degree in arts administration, Enflo sees each ticket purchase as an opportunity for building a relationship, which is vital to Dobama's future.

Coming to Cleveland Heights from England is somewhat of a homecoming for Enflo. Born in Sweden, she moved to Kent, Ohio, when she was five years old. Her father is a mathematics professor at Kent State University. The right equation for Enflo combines ticket sales, grant-in-aid funding, and charitable donations, all of which add up to a fiscally healthy organization. All three components are included in Enflo's job description.

Now that Dobama has established its location on Lee Road, Enflo is gratified to see the number of returning season subscribers. She has also seen growth in the number of new subscriptions. She's developing her skills at filing grant applications, but it is the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with each Dobama supporter that she relishes most.

Contributors at every level are very much appreciated, and this year new benefits and special events are being planned for supporters at the "Spotlight" level and above. In addition, Enflo hinted that a special fundraiser is being considered for Spring 2011.

Name tags for subscribers, free coffee in the lobby, new gallery displays (curated by Gunter Schwegler), and a semi-annual newsletter are some of the ways that Enflo and the Dobama staff are making patrons of this unique Cleveland Heights theater company feel that the troupe's 51st year will be something special.

Welcome Enflo to the Heights the next time you are at the Dobama box office. *The Walworth Farce* by Enda Walsh



Charlotta Enflo enjoys greeting heights theatergo-

concluded its run on Oct. 3. Next up will be *Dead Man's Cell Phone* by Sara Ruhl, opening Oct. 29.

Evan Komito is a resident of Cleveland Heights and occasional contributor to the Heights Observer.

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Recipe for an impromptu potluck

Lisa Gaynier

"Gerald's been gone for five years and I still haven't learned to cook for one," said a widowed friend recently. Sam is single and doesn't know how to do anything in the kitchen but heat up pizza. Margaret and Jerry are empty-nesters, as are my husband Mike and I.

I think we all look for community. I've written about my lovely neighborhood and extended family in past postings. For instance, how our neighbor, Pam, invited Mike and me to a party the day we moved into the neighborhood. And how my exercise group meets for a potluck dinner party on the last Sunday of every month. We don't exercise together any more, but we sure know how to eat!

And, oh, did I mention how ridiculously busy we all are? My friend Linda and I have taken to scheduling play dates six months in advance. These dates are not for our kids; they're for us! Mike says no one will believe me when they read this, but it's true.

Scheduling play dates is one solution, but another I've devised is the impromptu potluck. Here are my ground



Neighborhood gardens make a congenial setting for an impromptu potluck gathering.

I don't wait for the weekend. We all

have to eat—even if your contribution is store-bought from Zagara's; it's the companionship we seek.

ple aren't guests; they're my friends.

I don't clean the house. These peo-

I think we all look for

community. I've writ-

ten about my lovely

neighborhood and ex-

tended family in past

postings. For instance,

and me to a party the

how our neighbor,

Pam, invited Mike

day we moved into

the neighborhood.

I don't get out my fine china. Did I say, these people are friends?

I invite someone from work who's in the same boat, especially if they're new to town. It's a great way to bond with a colleague. It's also a terrific recipe for building community.

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.

Heights Observer offers free media workshops

Bob Rosenbaum

To help people feel empowered to contribute to the community conversation, the Heights Observer is offering the following workshops this fall. All are held from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road, in Meeting Room B. Workshops are free and open to the public. Reservations (http://bit.ly/9egGro) aren't necessary, but are appreciated.

Tuesday, Oct. 5: You too can write

the news, by Bob Rosenbaum. Basic reporting and writing for community journalists.

Tuesday, Oct. 12: Editing for community journalists, by a panel of journalism professionals and instructors who edit for the Heights Observer. Why,

Tuesday, Nov 23: Photography for community journalists, by Greg Donley. How to take better newspaper

what and how editors work.

photos, and how to submit them for publication in the Heights Observer.

Tuesday, Dec. 7: The Media Meltdown: What happened to newspapers and magazines, and what's next, by Bob Rosenbaum, who in addition to his work at the Observer is a media consultant. An overview of the economics and other industry trends that shape today's news business.

Bob Rosenbaum is the chairman of the Heights Observer editorial committee and member of the FutureHeights board.

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HEIGHTS OBSERVER CROSSWORD

Here are the headlines from pages 1-2 of the September Heights Observer. Find and circle these words in the letter array, where they may run (forwards or backwards) horizontally, vertically or diagonally (see marked example "THE"). Though words (like "the") may repeat in the headlines, each generally appears in the array only once.

Headlines

Music Settlement halts plan, but talks continue; Ohio wins Rade to the Top; CH-UH students will benefit; New business alliance partners with FutureHeights in Best of the Heights awards; Cleveland Heights Bicycle Coaltion petitions CH City Council to improve bicycle infrastructure; Motorcars opens eco-friendly car wash; New documentary on minority-owned businesses; Swim team wins second place; Meet author Dan Chaon; Workshops for becoming a true Observer; How to Walk to School movement gains traction here; Enthusiastic volunteers are helping the Heights Observer thrive.

Submitted by Robert Haas.

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A small empire



By Eleanor Mallet

We've had the women's movement, the

mommy wars, the mommy track, the splash of infant brain research and even the Baby Einstein products.

But none address this constant: What's a parent or caregiver to do at 4 p.m. when, alone again, one child is pitching a tantrum on the kitchen floor and the baby is shrieking in his crib upstairs?

In the American ethos, raising children has always been a private affair—in the family, maybe extended family. Somehow you would simply know how. Meanwhile, those to learn from have faded away. Grandparents and other family more often are not around. Neighborhoods, strangely, can be isolating places. Family and community have shredded.

Some, however, watching this happen quietly stepped up. Heights Parent Center began 28 years ago as a place for parents and children to come to play, listen, share the problem of the day, laugh and socialize, feel embraced and learn.

The program settled into Milliken School for more than a decade. Then four years ago it moved to Taylor Academy. The CH-UH City School District donates the space.

On Aug. 1, the program merged with a similar one, Shaker Family Center in Shaker Heights. The new organization is called Family Connections.

The drop-in center at Taylor Academy is a bright room filled with child activities. Two boys, around three years old, zoom in circles chasing each other with fire hoses made of large pop it beads. How do I know they are fire hoses? Because of the "psushing psushing" sounds they are making to spray.

"I came first to Baby and Me, said Julie Mokotoff, mother of two-year-old Luca. "I get support for myself and meet other parents. We share our experiences in a warm creative environment."

A dad gets up from the table to warm a bottle for his four month old. A mom sitting next to him delights in holding his baby. Another boy with a head full of curls also runs in circles with a toy stroller. "Slow, slow," his mother urges, with little result.

"It is time for family support to be recognized as critical for healthy communities," said Joanne Federman, the director, who headed the Shaker program. "The occasion of Heights Parent Center's longtime director Louisa Oliver's retirement seemed the right moment. The merger is part of her

"We have had years of informal collaboration," Federman said. "We believed that a more formal partnership would help get the word out on what we do to



Luca Mokotoff, 2, and his mom Julie at Family Connections, Taylor Academy.

foundations, the county and the state."

Indeed, the merger has made for a small empire. Each community has a drop-in center with programs, such as a series on the stresses of parenting. It also has programs at the libraries: The Play N Learn Center at the Shaker Main and Little Heights at the Lee Road Library. A number of programs reach out to the home and to parents and children in the schools.

"Initially we were focused on coming to us," said drop-in coordinator Ellen Barrett. "Increasingly, we go to where parents and children are. More and more, the schools see the importance of a program like ours." In all, the program serves about 2,000 children a year, from infancy to eight years old.

Family Connections may not have the cachet of a Gloria Steinem or a Baby Einstein, but it's in the trenches where the real work of raising children goes on.

Family Connections is holding an information and fundraising breakfast, "Strong Families Build Strong Communities," from 8 to 9 a.m. on Nov. 3 at the Cleveland Heights Community Center. Call 216-321-0079 to make a reservation. The event is free, but contributions are welcome.

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

Air, space and women

Anita Kazarian

Cleveland Heights residents Jean and John Piety went back in time on Sept. 3, when the International Women's Air & Space Museum (IWASM) was transformed into a 1940s canteen for its annual pre-air show party. Swing dancing, period costumes, food, raffle baskets and imaginative decorations in the museum kicked off "Swing Back in Time," honoring women in aviation and space history. Canteen guests enjoyed a unique view of the air show planes in the airport's grassy area overlooking the runway, which was opened up for the party. Where else can you be up close and personal with six of the Navy's Blue Angels?

Jean Piety has been a member of the IWASM for many years. She was the manager of the science and technology department of the Cleveland Public Library where she developed her interest in aviation and space history. Retired,

Piety continues as archivist for the Cleveland Technical Societies Council, a consortium of technical societies in the Greater Cleveland area

Toni Mullee, the executive director of IWASM, appreciates supporters and volunteers like the Pietys. Mullee said, "We love volunteers! Volunteers help at special events, do research for exhibits, and file information on women pilots in our research center."

According to Mullee, this genderbased museum serves a unique purpose, 'to preserve the history of women in aviation and space, a history that is rarely told in-depth at other aviation museums or in history books." When the founders of the museum realized, way back in 1976, that the history of women in aviation was not being preserved, they began collecting that history. As a result, the museum has an amazing collection.

The museum is actively involved

in inspiring young women to consider careers in aviation, space or related fields by holding two summer camps annually, one focused on engineering and one focused on aviation. The museum also hosts career exploration events and career shadowing programs.

Some of the careers Mullee said are available to women in aviation and space "include the obvious ones, such as pilot, flight attendant, mission specialist, and engineer, but there are many others out there, including airport management, air traffic control, marketing and related medical professions."

The museum is opening its new Aviation Education Center on Oct. 8. This hands-on room will introduce children to science and math concepts, history and careers in aviation and space. The museum's educational efforts in promoting careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), to students throughout Northeast Ohio, makes this museum critical to the future of our region, according to Piety.



Cleveland Heights resident Jean Z. Piety (left) and Toni Mullee, Executive Director, IWASM.

Space Museum is located in the Burke Lakefront Airport, 1501 North Marginal

Museum admission is free and exhibits are open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. The Fay Gillis Wells Research Center and gift shop are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 216-623-1111 for more information or visit www.iwasm.org.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional and a 29-year resident of University Heights The International Women's Air & Contact her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.





The third annual Ride for Miles was held Sunday, Sept. 26, at John Carroll University. Around 420 riders participated. Four bands and 23 restaurants donated to the event, which raises funds for the Miles Coburn Environmental Seminar to educate people about the global climate change emergency. Next year's ride is set for Sept. 18, 2011. Learn more at www.rideformiles.org.

Noble Road Presbyterian hosts costume party

Carol Phillips

Noble Road Presbyterian Church will host a Family Fall Costume Party and Funky Disco Dance from 6 to 10 p.m. on Oct. 30. The church is located at 2780 Noble Road, Cleveland Heights. Admis-

sion is \$5 per family, \$3 for adults, and \$1 for children under 16 years of age. For more information, call 216-382-0660. Who will you come as?

Carol Phillips is secretary for Noble Road Presbyterian Church.

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Mini-course on saving money

Gail Jackson

You can save money if you want to. By doing small things and changing some of your habits, you can start to put your pennies into a nest egg that will soon build into real dollars. You'll find it easier to make these changes if you have a purpose for your savings, such as to create an emergency fund, add to your retirement account, go on a family vacation or pay for holiday fun.

The first strategy to try is the "dollar a day" concept. Challenge yourself to save just one dollar a day. At the end of the year, you'll have \$365! For people who haven't been able to save before, this can be a good start. You can modify this strategy to suit your own situation; for example, you can try to save a dollar for each day that you work, or people in a two-income household can share the challenge so each wage earner saves 50 cents per day.

A second strategy is to do simple home repairs yourself. Cleveland Heights residents can get hands-on skills training on various home repairs at the workshops offered by Home Repair Resource Center. You can borrow the how-to DVD's, books and handouts available through HRRC's Resource Library. If you have a computer, you can even learn how to do home repairs on YouTube!

A third strategy is to take some simple actions to reduce energy consumption. Install florescent light bulbs, unplug appliances when not in use, put a thermal blanket on your hot water tank, and change your furnace filter regularly. You'll see real savings on your utility bills.

A fourth and final strategy is to spend less than you earn. Start by going through your bills to see if there are any optional services you can eliminate. For example, do you need premium cable or could you just rent a movie from Redbox? (Redbox is a vending machine where you can rent movies inexpensively.) Do you use your cell phone much, or could you replace it with a pay-as-you-go phone? Do you need unlimited text messaging on your cell phone? Can you use the ATM of your own bank, rather than paying a fee to use one from another financial institution?

The first strategy to try is the "dollar a day" concept. Challenge yourself to save just one dollar a day. At the end of the year, you'll have \$365! For people who haven't been able to save before, this can be a good start.

Every month HRRC offers the Power of a Personal Budget Workshop that helps people rethink how they prioritize their spending and share cost-cutting strategies for saving money. This workshop, as well as the others in HRRC's Financial Fitness series, is presented at the Lee Road Library, 2345 Lee Road, from 6 to 8 p.m. Visit www. brrc-ch.org for the dates or call 216-381-6100

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

Community events

Sustainable Heights Week

Tour a solar-powered house, ride your bike to the farmer's market, hike Doan Brook or participate in a Green Assets Mapping Party in historic Coventry Village. Most events are free and many are family friendly. Visit www.sustainableheightsnetwork. blogspot.com for a full list of events. For more information, e-mail the network at sustainablehts@ gmail.com or call 216-320-1423. Sustainable Heights Network

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Meeting Room B, Lee Road Library FutureHeights

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