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## Cleveland Heights builds on 'green' inherent in prewar suburbs

Marc Lefkowitz

Zoning was a Cleveland invention, introduced to the world at the turn of the last century when the bustling town of Euclid faced a serious challenge, known as incompatible uses. Industry was creeping east from Cleveland, and faced with the health risks of a smoke stack on a residential street, Euclid moved to separate uses—homes here and industry there. Today, many cities use zoning to uphold restriction on mixed uses, or maintain a strict separation of live\ work spaces, and thus discourage dense development of neighborhoods that are nice to stroll, ride a bicycle, or hop a streetcar to go from place to place.

Raised in a suburb built in the post-WWII boom, I was unaware of the influence the historic Supreme Court decision that ushered in Euclidian zoning had in determining the shape and appearance of every nook and cranny of my experience. Later, when I found a suburb with neighborhoods that seemed to effortlessly intertwine the comings and goings of everyday life, I thought that Cleveland Heights and Lakewood had invented green living (well before "green" was a concept I was aware of). In these streetcar suburbs, the 'bones' of compact form support a system of sus-



The Cedar Fairmount commercial district.

tainability, but that system, like a home built in the 1920s, needs occasional updates to reflect our current knowledge of what is efficient, what is 'green.'

Cleveland Heights recently hired consultants from Chicago, Camiros, Inc., to audit its zoning ordinance with

the goal of making those tradition-laden neighborhoods more sustainable, and more resilient to the onslaught of foreclosure crises and sprawl.

To not weaken the bones or the value inherent in that system is a challenge, observed some attendees at the Jan. 10 presentation by Camiros at the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center. Concerns were raised about the impact to the city's many historic districts and great buildings if zoning encourages the misconception that new green buildings are preferred to restoring what's here. Deanna Bremer Fisher, director of FutureHeights, offered a glimpse of where things could go wrong. Fisher mentioned that a new owner of an older home located in a historic district plans to tear it down and build a new, green house. The greenest house is the one that is already built, the consultants repeated throughout the night.

Camiros's findings suggested many new or clarified ordinances. These include home and commercial building owners mitigating their own impact from common activities, such as backyard expansions (calling for on-site green infrastructure to absorb rain rushing off expansions in hard surface). They recommend the city put a limit on total

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## Heights High senior featured in winter concert

Daniel Heim

Harpist Kellen Lowrie will be the featured soloist at a concert on Friday, Feb. 11. Presented by the instrumental music department of Cleveland Heights High School, it is the second of two concerts the department will present that week.

The first concert, on Wednesday, Feb. 9, features a chamber music recital in the school's social room, followed by the school's concert orchestra, a percussion ensemble, and the combined concert and symphonic bands in the auditorium.

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Kellen Lowrie

COURTESY OF THE LOWRIE FAMILY

## Reaching Heights Spelling Bee turns 20

Patrick Mullen

What do you get when you put musicians, lawyers and educators in the same room? You get a great time at the 20th Annual Reaching Heights Adult Community Spelling Bee. This year's funfilled Bee will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m., at Cleveland Heights High School.

More than 20 teams will vie for bragging rights and the coveted Big Plastic Bee Trophy. Many teams wear costumes and bring their own cheering sections—complete with signs and pom poms. Last year there was a tie for first place between the Cleveland Orchestra (Orchestral Orthographers Publicly Support Annoyingly Lengthy Acronyms) and Squire, Sanders & Dempsey (Baratarous Orthographers).



2010 Co-champions Beth Woodside, Lisa Boyko and Carolyn Warner from the Cleveland Orchestra.

This year's teams include the Ulmer & Berne Law Office (U Be Spellin), the Heights Parent Center (Know Knothings) and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library (Dewey's Decimators), just to name a few.

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## Local food author Michael Ruhlman cooks up his own line of kitchen tools

Bob Rosenbaum

Michael Ruhlman, a Cleveland Heights resident, began his career as a nonfiction author, blended in his passion for good food, and wrote a recipe to become an internationally known food expert. Now he is stirring the pot with a fledgling line of cooking tools, developed in his own kitchen.

Ruhlman, who has written eight books on food and has sold roughly 10,000 copies of his Ratio iPhone app for cooks, has now launched a small line

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Mac Dalton (left) and Michael Ruhlman with their square-tipped spoons Spanky (left) and The Spanker—the pair for \$24.

DONNA TURNER RUHLMAN

## Schools committee finds state report accurate

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Members of the CH-UH school facilities committee agreed with the state that the district's buildings need more than a Band-Aid to make them suitable for learning in the 21st century.

The committee held its second public meeting at the Roxboro Middle School on Jan 5. Representing a cross-section of the community, committee members are charged with analyzing the district's facilities, assessing its needs and developing options for the school board to consider.

Members of the building assessment subcommittee visited each of the district's buildings and concluded that no basis existed to challenge the state's assessment. A report from the Ohio Schools Facilities Commission, released in April 2010, found that the district's buildings were in "borderline" condition.

The subcommittee found good spaces and valuable cultural assets, such as the WPA-era murals at Oxford Elementary School, in buildings built in the 1920s. They also found, however, layer upon layer of old technology, inad-

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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](http://www.heightsobserver.org/members) or e-mail: [info@futureheights.org](mailto:info@futureheights.org)

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## The real truth about how we work

### OPENING UP THE OBSERVER



Bob Rosenbaum

At a party not long ago, I met a woman who, after hearing my name, said, "I want to get involved with the *Observer*."

"That would be great," I replied.

"There are all sorts of things that go on here that people ought to know," she said, waving her arms, "and I'm not afraid to say any of it."

"You should share it," I said. "Do you know how to put an article into our system?" (For the record, go to [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org) and click on the "Member Center" link at the left. The rest is self-explanatory.)

She looked at me with wide eyes. "I don't want to work through the Internet. I want to get involved. I want to be at the meetings where stuff gets done."

"There aren't any meetings," I answered. "The newspaper and website are the discussion. People get involved

by contributing their ideas for publication, and we do that via the Internet. We essentially do everything over the Internet."

She moved closer and became more animated. She was getting worked up. I now assumed, rightly or wrongly, that she had an agenda for the community but lacked the will or skill to do anything with it. So she was seeking an invitation to some magical inner sanctum where others might fall in love with her ideas and convert them into action.

There would be no such invitation; that inner sanctum doesn't exist. The *Observer's* editorial committee, a group of volunteer journalists and graphic designers, met only once in 2010—and discussed grammar, photo quality and story length. The board of FutureHeights, which owns the *Heights Observer*, discusses advertising sales and printing costs. Everything else happens right before your eyes; articles printed in each issue come together without any planning.

This is not what my new acquaint-

tance wanted to hear. "The Internet can't solve every problem. This is a community and people need to talk face to face," she said.

"You got me there," I replied. "You're right. But here's the truth: We're all volunteers. We have jobs and we work on the *Observer* part time. Via the Internet. That's how it works. And even if I did have a meeting to invite you to," I said, "nothing would happen. The *Observer* is written by people who don't wait for someone else to pick up their cause."

*To express your opinion privately, e-mail Bob Rosenbaum at [bob@therosenbaums.net](mailto:bob@therosenbaums.net). To express your opinion as a letter to the editor, register at the Heights Observer Member Center ([www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org)) and click on "Submit New Story" to contribute your letter.*

*Bob Rosenbaum, chairman of the Observer's editorial advisory committee and a FutureHeights board member, writes this column to provide transparency and understanding about the newspaper.*

### LETTERS

## A better way to redevelop Oakwood

Editor,

This letter presents an idea for a Center of Excellence along the "healthy-life/healthy-planet" continuum. It's an idea that could better serve the common good—one that addresses pressing social, economic and environmental needs of the region. Just as important, it taps into the creativity of the community's leaders. Although conceptual in nature, it has enough substance to start a dialogue.

First Interstate Properties wants to bring a group of discount retailers and chain restaurants to the portion of Oakwood Country Club it just purchased. Its plans depend on getting the land rezoned, but that effort may not work. Alternatively, other parties want all of the land maintained as green space. While that has merit, it ignores the importance of creating jobs now.

### Interrelated needs

Too many of us are in poor health because of lifestyle choices. As a result, our healthcare costs are out of control and our economic future is in doubt. We need to educate ourselves about ways to live healthier lives, and we need to remove as many barriers as practicable to help one another live sustainably.

Our community suffers from high

unemployment in general, and even higher unemployment among those without a post-secondary education. We need to enhance the capabilities of our workforce so that it can compete for good jobs in traditional settings and become more entrepreneurial, as well.

The health of our planet is in jeopardy because our stewardship is lacking. We need to rethink our approach to monitoring and protecting the natural environment, and we need to do this on both an individual and collective basis.

### Integrated response

Redevelop Oakwood Country Club, clubhouse and related buildings, into a Center of Excellence along the healthy-life/healthy-planet continuum. This center could operate as a joint venture between three of our community's leading organizations with each leveraging its respective strengths in the areas of healthcare, education and philanthropy.

At its core, this joint venture could deliver real and lasting value by using the community's intellectual and financial capital in new and novel ways. It could take a holistic approach to making our community more sustainable. It could make us all healthier, more employable

*continued on page 3*

## Cleveland Heights needs more money, not green space

Editor,

I was delighted to hear about the plans by First Interstate Properties to develop Oakwood Country Club, a site that I suspect most residents of Cleveland Heights have never set foot on, as it has historically been a private country club. I can appreciate the sentiment of many residents that this property should remain green space, but Cleveland Heights already has more parks than most inner-ring suburbs—Cain Park, Caledonia Park, Cumberland Park, Denison Park and Forest Hills Park, not to mention nearby Shaker Lakes.

Further, I applaud the developer for recognizing the importance of green space to residents and agreeing to donate 69 acres for use as green space.

Ask residents of Cleveland Heights what they dislike most about the city, and among their top three complaints, you will hear that property taxes are too high. What Cleveland Heights needs is more money.

Converting the property to public green space means that we would lose out on property taxes currently being paid by the club in the amount of approximately \$200,000 per year. Our schools would lose approximately \$135,000 per year and the city would lose approximately \$20,000. Additionally, it would cost a significant amount of money to maintain the site and provide adequate security.

Severance Center, as a point of reference, will pay a total of \$2.7 million this year in taxes, \$1.4 million of which will go to the school district. I cannot estimate what the value of First Interstate's development will be, but if it is valued the same as Severance, our schools would receive at least \$1 million more per year and the city would receive an extra \$240,000 per year. The county valued Severance at \$53 million, and I think a development at Oakwood has the potential to significantly exceed that.

*continued on page 3*



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OAKWOOD continued from page 2

and more responsible. Its healthcare partner could leverage the science of healthy living, which is known to be critical to the effort to control runaway healthcare costs.

Its education partner could leverage the science of workforce development in plant science and landscape technology, hospitality management and dietary management. Its philanthropy partner could leverage the science of community organizing and of promoting entrepreneurship in the emerging parts of the economy.

Ready infrastructure

Oakwood Country Club sits on approximately 150 acres, ranging from flat terrain to gently rolling hills. First Interstate recently purchased the roughly 60 acres comprising the flat portion of the golf course. The remaining land has a more parklike feel than the land just sold, and it provides the setting for a full complement of useable structures, including a clubhouse and large indoor tennis facility. The paved golf cart paths provide easy access to the interior of the parcel.

Operational highlights

The proposed Center of Excellence would concentrate on the basic interplay between health and wealth at the individual level, as well as at the community level. Instead of being an exclusive preserve, the center would aspire to improve the prospects of people in every socioeconomic group. It would utilize a tailored set of reinforcing mechanisms to change the way in which people manage their lives and the environment in very practical terms.

The existing clubhouse building could be repurposed to accommodate:

1. A treatment area for stress management, weight management, anger management, addiction management and smoking cessation services offered by the healthcare partner;
2. A healthy-eating restaurant operated as a learning laboratory and a profit-making enterprise by the hospitality and dietary management students of the education partner;
3. Leasable space for businesses providing healthy cooking instruction, yoga instruction, massage therapy and fitness training;
4. A business incubator with a clear healthy-life\healthy-planet focus.

The existing golf course could be repurposed to accommodate:

1. Walking trails, exercise stations, meditation gardens and play areas designed by the healthcare partner and maintained by the education partner’s plant science and landscape technology students;
2. A field station for the education partner’s plant science and landscape technology students;

SPELLING BEE continued from page 1

The contest raises funds for Reaching Heights programs, such as grants to teachers in the Heights schools. Past projects have included the creation of interactive social studies and English lessons at the high school level, a program to build relationships and prevent bullying at the middle school level, and a grant that helped kindergarten students focus on learning through sensory experiences.

Over the past 20 years, more than

3. Demonstration projects developed and maintained by the education partner’s plant science and landscape technology students, with the goal of fostering broader environmental stewardship;
4. Rent-paying urban farms to supply an on-site farmer’s market and restaurant.

The existing indoor tennis facility could be repurposed to accommodate a year-round farmer’s market offering space for rent-paying vendors selling goods from the on-site farms and other independent farming operations in the Greater Cleveland area.

Community benefits

The social return on investment for this Center of Excellence is noteworthy as it could change the way people manage themselves and the environment. It could improve the health of individuals by helping them resist a high-fat, high-salt and low-fiber diet, cope with life’s stressors and live fuller, more active lives. It could improve the wealth of individuals by providing them with integrated educational, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities and by enhancing their health-driven capacity to perform work. It could improve the health and wealth of the community by educating the public about the need to protect the environment, and by making it easier for people to become more effective stewards of the environment.

Partner benefits

This Center of Excellence would benefit every member of the partnership. The healthcare partner would benefit from the opportunity to address the healthy-living deficits of our community at an elemental, grassroots level. It would receive revenue from the delivery of on-site patient services (e.g. smoking cessation) and from referrals to its other facilities. It would have the opportunity to shape and refine the capabilities of its prospective employees in both hospitality and dietary management.

The education partner would benefit from the opportunity to strengthen the learning experience of its students in the fast-growing wellness sector of the economy. It would have the opportunity to further its educational mission at a time when the economy needs a more capable and creative workforce.

The philanthropy partner would benefit from the opportunity to enhance the community’s ability to thrive in an economy in which each person’s success will be determined by the quality of his or her unique talents and efforts. It would have the opportunity to make people more self-reliant and the community more sustainable.

*William Cimino is a resident of Cleveland Heights, a concerned citizen of the world and a management consultant.*

\$270,000 has been raised to support educational excellence in the Heights schools.

The community is invited to cheer for their favorite teams, enjoy the silly costumes, buy a chance to win raffle items and lend support to public education. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted gladly.

*Patrick Mullen is the executive director of Reaching Heights.*

MICHAEL RUHLMAN continued from page 1

of innovative kitchen products. The first of these is a pair of square-tipped acacia wood cooking spoons (the big one is The Spanker, its little brother is Spanky), reusable straining cloths and a washable hanging knife rack.

Others in the pipeline include a straining spoon, tasting spoon, bamboo pot scrubber and a four-sided meat mallet.

“The goal is to create kitchen products that don’t exist or are hard to find,” Ruhlman explained, while puttering in his well-appointed kitchen.

Picking up an ordinary wood spoon—the kind you can get in any kitchen department—he said, “Typical wood spoons break easily, and they are round, which is worthless. You can’t get into corners with them. Or they’re stupidly expensive. The Spanker is affordable and it does what you want it to do.”

The product line launched in mid-December and is available on his website, [www.ruhlman.com](http://www.ruhlman.com), or at the OpenSky shopping site, [www.shopopen-sky.com](http://www.shopopen-sky.com).

The products are aptly named Ruhlman.com and are produced by DaltonRuhlman Ventures, a partnership between Ruhlman and an old high school friend, Mac Dalton, also of Cleveland Heights. Dalton’s role is product development and sourcing. His business, Dalton Consulting Group ([www.manufactureparts.com](http://www.manufactureparts.com)), specializes in outsourced manufacture of plastic and metal parts—typically components for such industrial companies as Boeing, General Motors and Avery Dennison.

SEE MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AT [WWW.HEIGHTSOBSERVER.ORG](http://WWW.HEIGHTSOBSERVER.ORG)

CH NEEDS MORE MONEY continued from page 2

My hope and expectation is that the developer will incorporate significant community input, design a center and find tenants, while respecting the uniqueness and diversity that makes Cleveland Heights great. Additionally, I would like to see Cleveland Heights and South Euclid come up with a tax-sharing plan so that both cities share in the benefit of this development.

I think that all too often, residents of Cleveland Heights resist change. To compete in the 21st century, we need to embrace change. Development of this site can have a tremendous fiscal impact on our city and schools. Hopefully, next we can have the Top-of-the-Hill [Cedar Fairmount] and Lee/Meadowbrook sites developed.

*Kevin Smith is a resident of Cleveland Heights.*

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Dalton said he also has experience with consumer products and a wider variety of materials.

“I can do everything but sell the stuff,” Dalton said. Based on handmade prototypes, he sources manufacturing in China, and oversees mail-order fulfillment. That work is being done by Vocational Guidance Services in Cleveland, which employs a large percentage of people with physical and mental disabilities.


The business is being built on cash flow, Ruhlman said, with the first round of products ordered in small batches of just 250 units. Ruhlman has shown the products and prototypes to local chefs and received positive feedback.

Consumers seem interested, too. After 30 days of availability, Dalton said orders were coming in at a rate of three or four a day, and inventory was running low enough to reorder.

“The challenge is that I’m used to orders of 40,000 units; everything is different when you’re working with such a small order,” he said. “This first phase has been great, but we need to be talking about 10,000 units, not 250.”

Dalton also has ambition to win retail shelf space in home-and-kitchen stores. “But that’s a challenge at a whole different level,” he said—like the difference between cracking some eggs and making a soufflé.

*Bob Rosenbaum is a longtime Cleveland Heights resident and regular contributor to the Observer.*



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# Cleveland Heights City Council Meeting highlights

DECEMBER 20, 2010

Council Member Bonita W. Caplan was absent.

## Summer 2011 recreation rates

Council approved regulations and rates for entertainment and recreation programs in Cain Park and other locations for summer 2011. These will remain the same as those for summer 2010.

## 2011 swimming passes

Council established regulations and rates for admission and other services for Cumberland Swimming Pool and the Cleveland Heights High School pool for the year 2011. Newly established is an annual pass rate that combines outdoor and indoor pool usage at a 20 percent discount, for the period from Jan. 3–Dec. 16, as follows: preschoolers accompanied by parent or adult I.D. cardholder, free; students (K–12), \$70; adults (ages 18–59), \$90; adults 60 years of age or older, \$70; family, \$200.

## 2010 and 2011 budgets

Council approved minor adjustments to the city's budget for the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2010. The city will end the year with a surplus of \$134,000. Last December, council projected a \$40,053,177 expense budget.

Council finalized the city's 2011 budget. Projected general fund expenses total \$40,993,617. Council Member Mark Tumeo, chair of the finance committee, said that he expects the city to be in the black at the end of next year.

## R.I.T.A.

Council authorized the city manager to outsource

the administration and collection of the city's municipal income tax to the Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I.T.A.). Cleveland Heights will be joining about 163 municipalities around the state to pool their resources for efficient tax collection through the Regional Council of Governments. Projected savings would be \$300,000–\$500,000 annually.

## Lease changes for City Buddha

Because City Buddha, a retail imports store, has been a valuable addition to the Coventry business district, council amended the original lease to the store of the city-owned property at 1807 Coventry Road to provide for smaller rent increases. The lease, which was for a five-year term with an optional five-year renewal, had provided for sharply accelerating annual rent increases that are not realistic in the current economy.

## Domestic partners' legal responsibilities

Council enacted a new subsection to the city code to treat registered domestic partners as spouses and family for the purpose of enforcement of the city's administrative, zoning and building codes.

LWV observers: Katherine Solender and Blanche Valancy.

JANUARY 3, 2011

Council Member Bonita W. Caplan was absent.

## Oakwood Country Club

More than 75 citizens came to council to register their concerns about the proposed development of the former Oakwood Country Club. More than 20 people spoke, overwhelmingly supporting using the land as green space for recreational use. Many cautioned council about changing

the zoning and also raised the issue of the high number of currently vacant residential and retail properties throughout the city.

Fran Mentch, speaking on behalf of Citizens for Oakwood, emphasized that the developer has not yet purchased the Cleveland Heights portion of Oakwood Country Club, only the option to buy. Mentch stated that her group is still moving forward with their plans to try to purchase the land so that it can be preserved.

Mayor Kelley announced to all present that council has not received any plans from the developer. Law director John Gibbon clarified that council cannot legally comment at this time. If and when any development plans are submitted to the city by the developer, they must go through planning commission public hearings first before coming to council. The Cleveland Heights portion of Oakwood Country Club is zoned for single-family use, and any rezoning would require public meetings.

## Cleveland Heights recreation rated #1

Vice Mayor Phyllis Evans announced that Cleveland Heights was rated number one for community recreation facilities in a *Plain Dealer* survey, published Oct. 2010.

## City ends 2010 in the black

Council Member Mark Tumeo announced that the city ended 2010 in the black and thanked all employees for their help in keeping the city within its budget, while still keeping the city efficient. Tumeo expressed the belief that the city has weathered the worst of the financial crisis.

## County health services

Council renewed an agreement with the Cuya-



hoga County General Health District for public health services, including school health services, community health services, family health services and environmental health and sanitation services, based on the last census count. The mandated fee is \$184,845 with an additional \$70,000 approved for additional necessary services.

## Parking ban suspension

In order to allow on-street overnight parking and permit parking, council suspended enforcement of the overnight parking ban on specified roads and portions of roads throughout Cleveland Heights for the period ending Dec. 31, 2011.

LWV observers: Kirsten Karakul and Blanche Valancy.

Look for earlier, and often expanded, postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

These meeting summaries are abstracted from LWV observers' written reports. The summaries have been edited and prepared by Anne McFarland, Charlene Morse and Maryann Barnes. To receive e-mail postings of full reports, send an e-mail to [mbarnes9515@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Cumberland parking lot improvements to increase safety, water runoff quality

Bob Rosenbaum

The parking lot at Cumberland Park is

being reconfigured and beautified in a project designed to increase the water quality of runoff that drains into nearby

Dugway Brook.

The \$238,000 project is being funded by a grant from the Ohio EPA, according to Richard Wong, Cleveland Heights director of planning and development.

Key to the project is construction of bioretention basins that, to casual observers, will look like plant-filled medians between rows of parking spaces. Wong said they will work as filters, removing the worst pollutants from rainwater as it runs from the parking lot into the drainage system, which empties into the Dugway Brook ravine on the park's western edge.

Despite installation of the basins, the project will add five parking spaces, raising the capacity of the parking lot to 105 cars.

It also allows for some safety

improvements. In one, the driveway entrance will be rerouted to curve left on entering. This will create a buffer between the driveway and pedestrian traffic in and out of the pool area.

The bicycle path that runs down a steep hill from Euclid Heights Boulevard also will be rerouted to connect with the existing bicycle path that runs throughout the park, improving the current layout, which takes bicycles down a hill and directly into the parking lot.

Surveying work began in mid-January and the project is scheduled for completion by the time the swimming pool opens in June.

*Bob Rosenbaum, a lifetime resident of Cleveland Heights, has been visiting Cumberland since the early 1960s.*

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## Blue skies and a balmy 72 degrees

UH POINT OF VIEW



Anita Kazarian

Some childhood memories are like the cozy blanket and cup of hot chocolate that make us feel comfy on chilly, dull grey winter afternoons. I discovered this saying three small words, “Memorial Day Parade,” to University Heights neighbors brings smiles to their faces. You can just see their minds beating a path to the treasure chest of memories of past parades.

Even the most reticent enjoy sharing their stories. Typically, the day is a balmy 72 degrees, the sun is shining and the sky is clear and blue. Or, “You wouldn’t believe the downpour that started while we were in line for the 25-cent hot dogs they were selling.”

Decorated bicycles is a big one: “I have a very strong childhood memory of decorating my bike every year, riding it up to Jackson with my dad and my brothers, riding in the parade, and then ending up at JCU for a judging contest. My memory is that lots of us did this in University Heights and that it was a lot of fun.”

A couple who now have grandchildren coming to the parade warned, “Don’t change a thing! It’s great the way it is.” Guess what? Within minutes they were suggesting possible new marching units for the parade. This happens a lot, too.

Can you believe, this will be our 45th Memorial Day Parade? The parade starts near city hall and ends on the “parade grounds” of John Carroll University. The 45th will be extra special with John Carroll celebrating its 125th anniversary.

Several parade professionals said our parade is one of the best attended in the area. We don’t have the huge balloons of the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade or the fancy flower floats of the Rose Bowl Parade. So what’s the secret? Our small-town feeling of community is the not-so-secret secret.

Individuals and families from all 1.9 square miles of our city look forward to this parade. We come out to the parade route with lawn chairs, blankets, friends and family from out of town, and the family dog, of course, to experience one of the most moving holidays of our nation, Memorial Day, and enjoy that great symbol of Americana, the hometown parade.

Lined up along the parade route with our neighbors, we wave flags and chat with friends. Young children, in their front-row seats on the curb, watch wide-eyed as bands, fire trucks,

drummers, colorful flags, and—let’s not forget—the candy, all parade past them. The children sitting on the curbs on May 30, will grow up to have their own special memories of this event.

My first real parade was on July 4, 1976. I was living in a one-room studio near the Baldwin Filtration Plant while earning my MBA. A classmate invited me to Farwood Drive in Moreland Hills to their parade and cookout. Living on a nearly nonexistent food budget, I went. At first, I laughed. The parade was only children and families marching around the few streets of that little community.

The children rode decorated bicycles and tricycles. Younger ones were pulled in decorated Red Flyer wagons. Children beating drums and exercising their God-given right to make music on kazoos made up the band. We stood before the flag of the United States and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

It may not have happened exactly that way, but it is my memory, the one I cherish. I say “real” parade because everyone had a role, even those of us watching and waving to the marchers. To borrow a famous phrase from President Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, it was a parade “of the people, by the people, for the people.”

For the past 29 years, my hometown parade has been right here. That is what we do in University Heights, keep our Memorial Day Parade a hometown parade. It will be months before the Canada geese head back north, but University Heights is already gearing up for our 45th Memorial Day Parade.

Residents have already begun sending in suggestions: have a table on on the Honors Ceremony platform where residents can place photos of veterans who served our country; invite gospel choirs, steel drum bands, and a marching band representing the ethnic groups in our city; have more ethnic food vendors on the parade grounds; a DJ; and return the bicycle judging contest. Add your ideas here.

The parade committee invites you—your ideas, thoughts, memories and enthusiasm—to share in making the 45th Memorial Parade as special as the others. Join us. Meetings are held once a month; contact me for the next meeting date. And remember, the forecast for May 30 is blue skies and a balmy 72 degrees.

Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional, founder of Noah’s Landing, LLC and the parade chair for the University Heights 45th Memorial Day Parade. Contact her at [anitakazarian@gmail.com](mailto:anitakazarian@gmail.com).

## University Heights City Council Meeting highlights



DECEMBER 20, 2010

All council members present.

### McDonald’s traffic study

Mayor Infeld announced that the traffic study for McDonald’s was complete and that the information was being sent to McDonald’s.

### Used dump truck available

Mayor Infeld announced that a dump truck from Bainbridge Township was available for \$12,000. It’s a 1996 truck with 82,000 miles, with a plow and salt spreader. A new truck would cost \$150,000. The service department is looking to replace its 1986 chipper truck because parts will no longer be available. Council directed the mayor to send a letter of interest to Bainbridge Township. Councilman Bullock cast the lone dissenting vote, asking for a plan to replace the fleet instead of replacing vehicles one at a time.

### Pedestrian controls to crosswalk

A motion was made to authorize payment to the City of Beachwood for the shared cost of installing pedestrian controls to the crosswalk lights at the intersection of Green, Silsby, Beachwood and Campus roads. A serious accident occurred recently in Beachwood prompting the cities to make this change. Half the streets are in University Heights, requiring \$10,282.50 of the total \$20,565 from University Heights. The motion was tabled until discussion by the safety committee occurs.

### Property owner to come before council

Building commissioner David Menn announced that the owner of the property at 4394 Groveland Road would come before council on Jan. 4 to appeal the recent decision of the zoning appeals board. The city has taken the owner to court four times in recent years. He began repairs to his home but has not completed them, and the construction equipment has remained in front of his house. Council members were asked to review the property prior to the January meeting.

LWV observer: Wendy Deuring.

JANUARY 4, 2011

All council members were present.

### New service director

Mayor Infeld reported that a new service director, Rod Jamison, had been hired and would begin work in two weeks.

### Revocation of variance

Robert H. Weizman of 4394 Groveland Road

appealed the Dec. 8, 2010 decision of the of the zoning appeals board regarding the revocation of a five-foot front setback variance to accommodate a new two-story vestibule. His lawyer, presented council with a petition signed by neighbors in support of Weizman.

Commissioner David Menn reported that a variance requested in 2007 to build the vestibule expired before the work was done. Weizman was granted another variance with the understanding it would be completed by Dec. 1, 2010. The work was not completed and the variance was revoked. Linda Johnson, a zoning appeals board member, reported that Weizman continued to complete a significant amount of work after the variance was revoked. She said that, at the time of the revocation, the vestibule could have easily been removed and repairs to the original front would have been minimal. However, the illegally continued work made that much more difficult. Weizman was ordered to return to council in two weeks with a hired contractor, a signed contract, and a bond, with the intent of putting the responsibility for the work in the hands of a contractor.

### Property tax overpayments

Due to the successful appeal by various commercial properties, the county will deduct overpayments in property taxes made in prior years from taxes remitted to the city this year.

### Regional Income Tax Agency

Finance director Jennifer Esarey asked residents to file their R.I.T.A. taxes online, which would save the city a significant amount of money.

### Council workshop

Councilwoman Sue Pardee announced a planning meeting for a council workshop to focus on how to plan and work well together. She has two candidates to consider as a moderator for the workshop.

Mayor Infeld expressed reservations that holding such a workshop would distract council from important tasks already on their agenda. Maintaining that council must learn the skills to work well together, Councilmen Murphy, Sims and Bullock all spoke in favor of the workshop. Bullock told the mayor that he hoped she would attend.

LWV observer: Carol Gibson.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

See disclaimer on page 4.

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# Mayor Infeld assesses state of the city for University Heights

Susan Infeld, Mayor of University Heights

My first year as mayor was a busy one. I reduced City Hall staffing by 6 percent; reassigned employees to create workflow efficiencies; appointed a part-time manager of senior services; appointed a full-time finance director; updated the website and joined Facebook; established late-night hours on Wednesdays during summer; cut the cost to produce the community newsletter; cut costs for towels, linens, cleaning and office supplies, and phone services; produced a new service department policy booklet; eliminated erroneous billing from the Illuminating Company; and established appropriate fund accounting for the city's books. There was also the cleanup of financial issues from 2008-2009.

Some of the financial setbacks are still being addressed, but I believe we have a handle on the city's finances. We finished the year with a surplus of \$800,000, approximately \$500,000 more than originally projected. This is largely due to higher-than-anticipated collections from the Regional Income Tax Agency and the settlement of a large estate.

University Heights typically has an annual surplus ranging from \$100,000 to \$350,000, so this is a banner year for our city. We need to use these funds wisely and continue cost-cutting into 2011. The 2011 budget I will present to the city council will contain:

1. \$60,000 for payments due on the University Square parking garage bonds. The city is several years in arrears on these payments and will make \$60,000 annual payments for the next seven years to satisfy the debt;
2. \$200,000 for repayment to the county of 2006-2009 property tax payments that were lowered retroactively due to successful appeals to the boards of revision by commercial property owners;
3. \$100,000 to pay down short-term notes that are rolled over annually;
4. \$50,000 to establish a capital fund for equipment purchases;
5. \$100,000 for a 2011 road program to resurface city streets;
6. \$50,000 to establish a rainy-day fund to defray cutbacks from the state in monies normally returned to the city as the Local Government Fund;
7. \$65,000 for the city's required contribution to planned county road resurfacing projects: the 2011 North Taylor Road resurfacing project and the 2012 Belvoir Boulevard resurfacing project;
8. \$100,000 for the street maintenance fund; and
9. \$75,000 for the sewer maintenance fund.

The delivery of services to residents is being evaluated for efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Within the next month, a residential survey will determine the relative value of various city

services. Because budgetary constraints are projected to continue, we need to be proactive in assessing services and careful about making changes. I will make no changes to city services without input from residents.

Your city administration is committed to continuing its stewardship of taxpayer dollars. In recent months I have been meeting with the mayors of our neighboring communities to identify ways to collaborate to share resources and lower costs.

The city council will address the delivery of senior transportation, review the study commissioned in 2009 for rubbish collection, continue its evaluation of EMS billing, and consider an update of the zoning code.

Our city has been fortunate in obtaining donated funds and grant money this past year for various purposes: free First Alert fire and smoke detectors; a new pumper truck for the fire department; free medical items for the ambulances; free background checks for citizens volunteering for the Community Emergency Response Team; reduced costs for bulletproof vests; reduced costs for the D.A.R.E. program and the Juvenile Diversion program; free portable digital audio recorders and a laptop computer/mobile data terminal; and a rain garden. We will continue pursuing grant dollars to fund special programs and capital equipment purchases.

We have so many things to celebrate. Sound fiscal management has kept our city in the black. Our treasured asset, John Carroll University, continues to focus positive attention on University Heights. Our public schools have received recognition with both the state's 2010 Teacher of the Year and Treasurer of the Year awards. The building department oversaw a large number of home improvement projects with the issuance of 1,836 permits. The police department formed a cooperative agreement with nearby cities for SWAT services. The fire department performed 340 home safety inspections with the introduction of a residential fire safety program.

Our green initiatives are blossoming. We established a water demonstration rain garden with \$10,000 of grant funds from the NEORS at 2603 Ashurst Road. A community garden on North Taylor Road will open this spring, with planting sites available for residents.

I appreciate the confidence you have placed in me to work with your city council for the continual growth of our city. It is my intention to continue the delivery of services that you have come to expect, while keeping costs within our means. As always, if you have any issue or concern about the city please feel free to contact me at mayor@universityheights.com or 216-932-7800 x222.

## First wave of boomers reaches Medicare age

Anita Kazarian

If you were born in 1946, you are part of the first wave of baby boomers to reach Medicare age. This year, you are eligible to start receiving health care benefits through Medicare. You must contact the Social Security Administration to enroll; it does not happen automatically. You may sign up as early as three months before your 65th birthday. To enroll in Medicare, telephone the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213. Happy Birthday!

*Anita Kazarian is a marketing professional, founder of Noah's Landing, LLC and a long-time resident of University Heights. Reach her at anitakazarian@gmail.com.*

HEIGHTS SENIOR continued from page 1

The second concert, on Feb. 11, also features a chamber music recital, followed by the symphonic winds, a combined orchestra selection with 8th graders from the district's middle schools, and the Heights High symphony orchestra, featuring Kellen Lowrie as soloist.

The chamber music recitals begin at 6:30 p.m. and the main concerts start at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and free for seniors and children under 12.

Lowrie is one of three seniors who auditioned last October and were selected to play with the symphony orchestra. Lowrie and senior soloists Gwen Donley, who played in November, and Catherine Holt, who will play in May, distinguished themselves in the competition with their outstanding preparation and artistry.

Lowrie's solo, "Concierto de Aranjuez" by Joaquin Rodrigo, was originally written for guitar and orchestra, but the

composer also arranged a version for the harp. Lowrie's playing of this piece emphasizes the passionate and emotive sounds of the Spanish guitar.

Lowrie's mother, Lia, recalls her daughter bouncing down the stairs at age six to announce that she wanted to play the harp. Lia Lowrie found a harp teacher at the Cleveland Music School Settlement, and Kellen has been playing ever since.

At Heights High, Lowrie is a four-year member of the symphony orchestra and a new participant in the chamber music program. She is also the president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. One of her favorite musical activities is to participate in pit orchestras. In addition to the last two Heights High musicals ("The King and I" and "Beauty and the Beast"), Lowrie has played for Shaker Heights High School's "Ragtime," Beaumont School's "Once Upon a Mattress" and "Oklahoma!" as well as "The Fantasticks" by That Summer Things Productions.

Lowrie has been the principal harpist for the Ohio Music Education Association's Northeast Regional Orchestra and All-State Orchestra. She was also a member of the Jocelyn Chang Harp Ensemble, from 1999 to 2009, joining only a few months after she began to study the harp. A few years later, Lowrie began studying the Celtic style of harp playing. She took first place in the Journeyman category of the National Scottish Harp Competition in 2009.

Appreciative of all the support and encouragement she received from her teachers and fellow orchestra members over the years, Lowrie says, "I am especially grateful to my parents, Bruce and Lia Lowrie, for supporting my decision to play the harp, and especially for hauling it around. They even gave up buying the car they wanted for a vehicle that had enough trunk space for a six-foot harp."

*Daniel Heim is the director of orchestras in Heights High's instrumental music department.*



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# Architects Walker & Weeks contributed to the Heights' unique character

Chuck Miller

It would be hard to overstate the significant contribution that architects Harry E. Weeks and Frank R. Walker made to the beauty of Cleveland in the first half of the 20th century.

Here's a partial list: Severance Hall, First Church of Christ Scientist (now Nottingham Spirk Design Associates), Lorain-Carnegie (Hope Memorial) Bridge, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Epworth-Euclid Methodist Church, St. Ann Church (now Communion of Saints Parish), Allen Memorial Medical Library, Cleveland Public Library, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Public Auditorium. These are treasures we hope we never lose.

Walker & Weeks also left their imprint in Cleveland Heights, although one of their houses is now planned for demolition.

Their architectural firm started in 1911, and in their earliest years they pri-

marily designed homes for prominent local community leaders and business owners in a city that had become the sixth largest in the United States.

In those days, the streetcar lines carried people of all social classes to work and home, with only a few of the wealthiest people owning cars. Cleveland Heights offered a new clean-air place to live, up and away from the more sooty East Side that had once been the choice for Cleveland's well-to-do, especially along Euclid Avenue.

In 1911, Walker & Weeks found early opportunities for commissions on exclusive Carlton Road at the crest of Cedar Glen, designing six of the first homes in the neighborhood. These homes represented an eclectic mix of European and American revival styles, following a popular trend that moved away from the more ornate Victorian predecessors on Euclid Avenue. Not far away, in what is now the Ambler Heights Historic District, they designed the distinctive 1911



DEANNA BREMER FISHER

The James H. Foster residence in the Ambler Heights Historic District will soon be demolished.

James H. Foster residence on Devonshire Drive, in the style of the country arts and crafts homes popularized by English Architect C.F.A. Voysey. This is the house that will soon be demolished by its new owners, who intend to build a much smaller, highly energy-efficient house in its place.

By 1914, Walker & Weeks's success had earned them enough work that they were overseeing more than \$4 million in construction. Other homes by Walker & Weeks, still standing in Cleveland Heights, include the G. Buckwell residence on Chestnut Hills Drive, the F.W. Judd residence on Marlboro Road, the W.H. Prescott residence and the Armen Tashjian residence, both on Fairmount Boulevard, and the Max Hellman residence on Berkshire Road. Frank Walker is said to have especially enjoyed the close relationship that can develop between architects and home builders.

The combination of their design and business abilities eventually led Walker & Weeks to become one of the most prominent midwest architectural firms. By the mid-1920s, they had established a strong reputation as specialists in designing banks, churches and public buildings, with a preference for neo-classical styling. Even today, their legacy remains all around us.

Walker & Weeks residences represent a time when architect, builder and artisan worked as a team to build beautiful neighborhoods, one home at a time. Their work is an important part of the architectural form and fabric that has given Cleveland Heights its enduring special identity and is another reason why this place matters.

*Chuck Miller is a principal at Doty & Miller Architects and serves as chair of the Cleveland Heights Landmarks Commission.*

## New CHPD leadership offers a recap of 2010 crime stats

A HEIGHTS OBSERVER



Eleanor Mallet

I was curious about the crime statistics for Cleveland Heights.

The FBI keeps these numbers in its Unified Crime Report and they may be found on its website. But I was interested in a more personal, on-the-ground exchange in Cleveland Heights.

What better time, I thought, than when the police department has a new chief. In addition, four captains have retired and been replaced. So it's a new team.

It took time and a lot of phone calls to reach the inner sanctum of the police department, but once I did, I was invited into an open discussion with Chief Jeffrey Robertson and two of his officers.

At 6' 8," Robertson is an imposing figure. "It's why I like to sit down," he said with a smile, immediately leveling the field. He became head of the 109-officer department in early December. You might say it is a department characterized by continuity. He follows in the footsteps of Martin Lentz, who was chief for 36-and-a-half years. Robertson himself has served in the department for 30 years. Robertson is personable, uses a bit of humor and assures—in his manner and his words—that he is open and accessible to the community.

The number of violent crimes has gone down slightly in the past two years. There were three murders in 2009; there were two cases that resulted in manslaughter charges in 2010. The first was the case of officer Thomas Patton II, who died while pursuing a suspect on foot, which resulted in a conviction. The other was the case of 16-year-old Adonis Mays, who died in December, following an argument with his father, that allegedly turned physical. Christopher Mays has been charged with involuntary manslaughter.

In 2010, there were 68 robberies, compared to 70 in 2009; there was one reported rape, compared to two in 2009; there were four aggravated assaults, down

from nine in 2009; and there were 74 simple assaults, compared to 92 in 2009.

Rape, as is well known, is probably vastly underreported.

The number of burglaries, however, rose significantly, especially in December. There were 161 burglaries (30 in December alone) in 2010, up from 118 the year before.

A concentration of burglaries occurred in the area north of Mayfield Road, between Coventry and Superior roads. Robertson said police set up a detail there and recently arrested three suspects, whom they believe are responsible for many of the crimes. Detective Michael Kane said about half of the December burglaries occurred in that target area. "We will see if the numbers drop now that those arrests have been made," he said. Kane added that the department is seeing more juveniles involved in burglary.

Larceny theft dropped to 403 incidents last year—from 418 in 2009. So, too, with motor vehicle theft, of which there were 85 reports last year, and 110 in 2009.

Robertson said that in March the department plans to begin a new program called Meet the Police. On Thursdays, beginning at 6 p.m., a police officer will be available in the department's cafeteria. Anyone may come in to discuss privately with the officer anything they wish. It could be such things as vandalism of a vacant house next door, a crime they know of that has not been reported, or even bringing a child in to meet a police officer. Starting date for this has not yet been announced.

"This will be a first step in talking to each other," Robertson said. "It is a beginning that maybe will blossom. Problem-solving is a two-way street."

So, it looks as though we can look forward to more conversation with Chief Robertson and his officers.

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

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# New life for former St. Louis Church

Audrey Wynne

The new year welcomes a new congregation to Cleveland Heights. Imani Temple Ministries now proudly occupies the former St. Louis Parish buildings, which became available when the Catholic diocese closed St. Louis and more than 50 other parishes last year. The five-acre campus on North Taylor Road includes a newly renovated sanctuary, a school building and the former rectory.

Imani Temple Ministries, led by Rev. Dr. Rodney S. Thomas, is a non-denominational, Bible-based church, welcoming people of various faith traditions. The church was founded by Rev. Thomas in 2001 with 55 members and now has about 500 active members from African Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, Catholic and other backgrounds.

*Imani*, "meaning faith" in Swahili, initially held services in a Bedford funeral home before moving to other temporary homes at Lutheran East High School and, most recently, Temple Tifereth Israel. As it grew, the church considered several sites around Greater Cleveland, including former commercial properties and other closed churches, and even considered purchasing land and building. Ultimately, however, the congregation felt that God had led them to the St. Louis location. The sale was completed nine years to the day from the founding of Imani.

"We thank St. Louis and its parishioners for their many years of ministry to this community," said Pastor Thomas.



Rev. Dr. Rodney S. Thomas, Pastor of Imani Temple Ministries, and choir during the inaugural service, Jan. 2.

"We found the church to be beautifully preserved and cared for, and we hope to carry on that same sentiment as we occupy this place."

Imani is appreciative of the warm welcome Cleveland Heights has extended and looks forward to future collaborations. "Cleveland Heights has many churches doing great ministry, bold ministry, innovative ministry, and they inspire me to want to do even more of the same type of people-focused ministry," Rev. Thomas said.

The church plans to be open and available to the community for activities for young people and for civic and municipal functions. For example, the Woodside Childcare Center is housed in the facility.

Imani Temple sees a ministry of love through actions as a part of its mission, and, in keeping with this philosophy, serves the spiritual, as well as the practical, needs of the community. The church has worked with homeless shelters, drug rehabilitation facilities, and women and children in crisis.

Imani Temple Ministries welcomes the community to attend its 10 a.m. Sunday services, 6 p.m. Tuesday prayer meeting and bible study, and other weekly opportunities for worship and service. Visit [www.itm1.org](http://www.itm1.org) for further information.

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

## Sustainable Heights networks with E4S founder Holly Harlan



Deanna Bremer Fisher

The Sustainable Heights Network will host a networking event with Holly Harlan, founder of E4S, Entrepreneurs for Sustainability, at its first 2011 event on Wednesday, March 2.

For 10 years, E4S has connected people and ideas to make sustainability work for businesses and our region through a process Harlan calls "Connect. Learn. Do." On March 2, Harlan will demonstrate how her unique style of networking has helped make the Cleveland community a leader in sustainability. This interactive event will include a talk by Harlan on "The Power of Networks."

The event takes place at Bodega Restaurant & Lounge, 1854 Coventry Road. Meet at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy complimentary tapas from Bodega and a cash bar. Harlan's session begins at 6:15 p.m. and will tee up networking in the Heights from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Attendees are invited to bring their business cards to share.

Register for this free event at [www.sushtsnetwork.eventbrite.com](http://www.sushtsnetwork.eventbrite.com). For more information contact the Sustainable Heights Network at 216-320-1423 or [sustainablehts@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablehts@gmail.com), or visit [www.sustainableheightsnetwork.blogspot.com](http://www.sustainableheightsnetwork.blogspot.com).

*Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and a member of the Sustainable Heights Network Steering Committee.*

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# Parenting Q&A

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS**  
Strong Families Build Strong Communities

Ellen Barrett

*Ellen Barrett, a parent educator at Family Connections, fields questions from parents about the daily ups and downs of parenting. The same issues affect many parents. If you have questions for Barrett, e-mail her at [ebarrett@heightsparentcenter.org](mailto:ebarrett@heightsparentcenter.org).*

**Q.** My husband and I have two children and we need to build a pool of reliable sitters. We have no idea how to start. Where do we find sitters? How do we choose one? And how can we determine whether a sitter is a good fit for our family?

**A.** Whether you have a dentist appointment in the middle of the day, a meeting at your child's school or are trying to plan date night with your spouse, the task of finding a sitter can be a challenge. Here are a few tips to guide you:

- The best place to begin the search for a sitter is in your own neighborhood: at the playground, at the library or at your church. Word-of-mouth is the most useful and comfortable way to find a sitter who fits your family and will be interested in the job. Find out if local colleges have lists of potential baby sitters. John Carroll University, Notre Dame College and Ursuline College have services available to connect to students. Nanny agencies, such as Erin's Nannies, provide part-time and full-time care options. (Family Connections does not endorse any particular agency or institution.)
- Interview each prospective sitter. Ask for references to find out about the sitter's past experience, promptness, level of maturity and attitude toward kids. Has he or she taken a first aid class? If not, is she willing? There are baby-sitting classes available at the Heights Library that introduce young people to baby-sitting and provide training. Family Connections provides the library with a speaker for these sessions to help youngsters become successful baby sitters.
- During the interview ask why he or she wants to baby-sit. Most kids want to baby-sit for the money, but that shouldn't be the only reason. You want them to like kids, or enjoy holding babies, or something that indicates they'll enjoy the work.
- Once you have found a potential sit-

ter, invest time to get to know him or her. Some of the best baby-sitting experiences come from beginning with a mother's helper, a younger sitter who will be there only when you are home. Mother's helpers can provide an extra pair of hands and eyes on your child while you pay bills, prepare dinner or even take a rest. The benefits of starting with a helper often result in your being able to groom a sitter for future long-term jobs. He or she will have the benefit of getting to know your house rules, seeing how you interact with your child, bonding with your child and developing a vested interest in your family. The downside of this approach is that you won't be able to rely on him or her right away for the appointments that will take you out of the house. But, before you know it, you'll be able to run a quick errand or two as your helper grows into the job.

- Be sure to give your sitter all of the information he will need to be successful. Provide information about your child, such as routines, allergies and food preferences. Leave clear rules about television watching, bedtime and other situations that might occur while you are gone. Be sure to provide contact information for yourself, close neighbors, your pediatrician, and instruct him or her to call 911 in an emergency.
- Have realistic expectations. Remember that sitters are not parents. Their job is to keep your children safe and happy. They should not be expected to discipline your child, prepare difficult meals or clean up anything that isn't related to their tasks.
- Sometimes, sitters can provide special fun. Set them up with play dough, finger paint or other messy projects. Let them eat ice cream together or order pizza for dinner. Make it special and exciting so both the sitter and your kids will have a positive experience and want to do it again.

Baby sitters can provide much needed respite from the daily tasks of parenting. Taking the time to choose a sitter carefully will go a long way toward a comfortable and beneficial relationship. Treat your sitter fairly and he or she will reciprocate. Like any other relationship, the more you put into it the more you'll gain.

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS continued from page 1

lot coverage of impervious surface (currently, no limit has led to an average of 70-73 percent of a property being paved or built on, which is high compared to the rest of the country—they recommend the city set a 60 percent lot cover maximum).

During the Q&A, the question arose as to whether good, sustainable design can be codified. (Perhaps many in the room were thinking about the Oakwood development proposal from First Interstate Properties, the developers of Legacy Village.)

"We know the Oakwood proposal will come before city council before it can consider these [green ordinance] changes," said resident Steve Cantor, "so I want to encourage council to be strong and follow through with this."

Some of the highlights of how council could tweak the city's zoning follow:

## Large-scale development

- Offer developers density bonuses in exchange for using open space for more functional purposes, such as landscaping that serves as on-site stormwater management.
- Require buildings to be clustered to preserve open space.
- Pedestrian-scale design: Details matter, so require functional front doors, wide sidewalks and brick-lined streets, real connections to adjacent neighborhoods (paths lit with cut-off pedestrian scale lamps) and bicycle parking.

## Residential

- The city has a number of small lots (less than 7,500 sq. ft.). It must determine if the current ordinances for lot coverage (mentioned above) and the 'non-conforming' use for removing a building for open space is still acceptable. (During the public comment period, resident Vince Reddy offered that the small lots and small houses define his neighborhood's character, and zoning should encourage continuity.)
- The city should establish a stormwater runoff coefficient (a calculator) so that residents know how much green infrastructure to plant or install to offset their backyard expansions.
- Update the code to allow one-car garages for properties with one- and two-car garages. Consider greener options for garages, such as parking pads with permeable pavement.
- Allow for alternative green driveway materials, such as grass-crete and gravel-crete. (Why not the far less expensive and just-as-performance-worthy gravel?)
- Design standards for renewable energy installations, such as solar panels and micro wind turbines, chicken coops, apiaries, and deer fencing around community gardens.

- Allow urban agriculture accessory buildings, such as cold frames, greenhouses and farmstands.

## Exterior

- Follow the Dark Skies Initiative recommendations for cut-off lights.
- Design standards for electric vehicle charging stations on private lots.

## Adaptive reuse

- Allow live/work districts.
- Create specialty residential-office districts (design standards for reusing houses).

## Parking

- Adjust parking maximums down (maximums often lead to seas of asphalt).
- Allow landbank parking. Hold back on paving areas that might be needed for parking; landscape instead.
- Reduce parking requirements for car-sharing services, such as CityWheels.
- Offer incentives for compact spaces.
- Require permeable paving.
- Require bicycle parking.

## Landscaping

- Allow for naturalized lawns and native landscapes.
- Require species diversity and drought-resistant native plants.
- Require smart irrigation systems that tap into local weather forecasts.
- Allow rubber concrete and other permeable, malleable pavers around old-growth trees.
- Create tree preservation requirements.
- Institute performance-based stormwater requirements (i.e. postdevelopment runoff rate cannot exceed 50 percent of the predevelopment rate).

Rather than lots, streets are the better scale to think about and measure impact, resident Mark Chupp commented. Zoning shouldn't encourage keeping the abandoned house versus taking it down for a pocket park or wetland, especially if the greening of a vacant lot helps bring the neighborhood to the desired stormwater requirement.

(Cleveland Heights is one of 12 cities suing the Northeast Ohio Sewer District, challenging its authority to charge a service fee for many of the stormwater management techniques that the city is considering adopting as ordinance, an irony not lost on this reporter.)

What is the next step? The green ordinance audit is in the public comment period, after which the planning commission considers it before final debate and vote by council, said Council Member Dennis Wilcox. The expected timeline for passage of all or part is spring 2011.

*Marc Lefkowitz is the Web editor for Green-CityBlueLake, [www.gcbl.org](http://www.gcbl.org), where this story first appeared.*



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## Heights Library is on the cutting edge

Dean Schnurr

The way people use libraries and read books is changing, and the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library is striving to stay on the cutting edge of those changes.

Although printed copies of books remain a staple for some, many people are switching to electronic devices or e-readers to satisfy their thirst for knowledge and reading. Understanding this fundamental shift in patron use, the Heights Library will begin to circulate several electronic reading devices, beginning Jan. 24.

The statistics clearly support that readers are moving to electronic devices. In July, Amazon.com announced that for the first time, sales of digital books in the United States surpassed printed books. For every 100 printed books sold, Amazon was selling 143 digital titles. The trend has not subsided.

Moreover, last Christmas seemed to be the year of the e-reader. This hot item topped wish lists for both young and old, and manufacturers were boasting incredible sales numbers. Closer to home, the Heights Library has nearly doubled the number of digital downloads made by customers throughout the last year. The library experienced a significant peak on Dec. 27, right after Christmas gifts had been opened.

However, if the holidays were not

as kind to you, or if you couldn't find an e-reader on the shelves of the store, the Heights Library is going to give you the chance to use this new technology. Beginning Jan. 24, the Heights Library will be circulating to customers the Barnes & Noble Nook, the Amazon Kindle and Apple's iPad.

Available at the Lee Road Library, there will be four Nooks, two Kindles, and one iPad. The Nooks and Kindles can be borrowed for up to 14 days, and the iPads will be available to use within the library for two-hour periods. See information related to the special loan policies for these items at [www.heightslibrary.org/page/electronic\\_guidelines](http://www.heightslibrary.org/page/electronic_guidelines).

All items come with a variety of titles and applications preloaded. That list can also be obtained on the website.

If you are interested in these devices, but still somewhat reluctant to jump into the new technology, the library has established training classes for those who want to learn more about downloading digital books and how to use e-readers. The Library@Home course is currently being offered at Lee Road Library on Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. and will be scheduled multiple times in the spring.

*Dean Schnurr is the former 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

NIA Coffeehouse,

Tuesdays, Feb. 1 & 15, 6 p.m.

Step Out of Time for Kids: Energy Healing,  
Thursday, Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m.

Ukulele Jam,

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.

### Lee Road Library

2345 Lee Road, 216-932-3600

TheWorld of Chocolate,

Thursday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.

The Mouse with the Musical Ear,  
Monday, Feb. 14, 11 a.m.

Reading Comics,

Monday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m.

A Tooty Affair,

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m.

### Whole Foods Market at Cedar Center

13998 Cedar Road, 216-932-3918

Stories, Snacks, and Crafts,

Thursday, Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m.

### University Heights Library

13866 Cedar Road, 216-321-4700

Knitting Circle,

Thursdays, Feb. 3 & 17, 6:30 p.m.

Toddling Time,

Fridays, Feb. 4-25, 9:30 a.m.

Mystery Evening,

Thursday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE continued from page 1

equate electrical and mechanical systems, and "a host of issues that don't have quick fixes," said subcommittee member Eric Silverman. "Additions and renovations completed in the 1970s are often the source of problems in the buildings."

"The buildings don't pass the first impression threshold," said subcommittee member Dallas Schubert. The subcommittee found the buildings unwelcoming, and the fixtures old and mismatched.

Fairfax, Boulevard, Taylor and Coventry, which were built with a common plan during the 1970s "are a maze," according to Silverman. The open-classroom concept, around which these buildings were designed, turned out to be impractical, and teachers and parents soon pushed for permanent walls.

The subcommittee recommended that the district open its buildings to the public so that residents might see their condition for themselves. They also urged that any building project be adequately funded to ensure quality.

The subcommittee toured a renovated 1920s school building in Lakewood and were impressed by what they saw. The architectural features of the building had been preserved, while electrical and mechanical systems had been completely replaced. The cost of the renovation was equal to what it would have cost to build a new structure, and the operating cost was the same as that of a new building of the same size.

The educational assessment subcommittee also visited several school buildings in other districts to determine the building components necessary for learning in the 21st century. They reported that while learning is not dependent on buildings, a student's environment can have a positive effect.

The team determined that buildings should reflect the culture and values of the community, provide choices and adaptability, and strike a balance between efficiency and effectiveness.

The group recommended that the district think about the sustainability

of a building program before it is implemented; consider new grade configurations; explore opportunities for buildings to function as centers of the community; and consider new partnerships with local businesses and other community stakeholders.

Several residents commented on the reports concerning sustainable and green practices within the schools, eliminating asbestos from the buildings, and encouraging social development among students.

Steve Shergalis, director of business services for the district and the point person for the school facilities committee, introduced the members of two new subcommittees—facilities options and financial assessment. These groups will build on the work of the previous teams to create options for the school board to consider, and to assess the costs and financing possibilities.

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

The new subcommittees will present their recommendations to a meeting of the committee of the whole, on March 10 at 7 p.m. at Monticello Middle School. The public will be invited to comment on their recommendations on March 24 at the high school. The committee of the whole will meet again on May 19 at Boulevard Elementary School, and will formally present its recommendations to the school board on June 21 at Wiley Middle School.

The public is encouraged to attend any and all committee and subcommittee meetings, and to direct comments or questions to Steve Shergalis at 216-320-2005 or [s\\_shergalis@chuh.org](mailto:s_shergalis@chuh.org). For more information about the committee and a full meeting schedule, visit [www.chuh.org](http://www.chuh.org).

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



Heights Library's children's services staff show their lighter side.

## Beyond story time at the public library

Dean Schnurr

The community pool is closed for the season, and you don't want to shell out big bucks for Chuck E. Cheese. Where can you take your child for quality fun? The library, of course!

Long past are the days when bringing your children to the library meant a simple story hour. The Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library offers a veritable cornucopia of activities for children, and they're all free.

"All four branches have wonderful activities for children of all ages," reports Nancy Levin, director of the Heights Library. "The staff puts tremendous effort into researching and developing programs for children that are both fun and developmentally enriching."

Certainly there are still plenty of opportunities for story time, but other exciting programs include baby sign

language, Fancy Nancy parties, cooking for kids, Wii Wednesdays, Lego nights, puppet shows, family game nights, talent shows, Spanish language story times, arts and crafts programs, and African dance programs. This summer, the children's services department is even planning a pet show.

The children's areas have also received facelifts. From new life-sized murals to more pint-sized furniture, plus decorative window art, the spaces for children at the Heights libraries are being designed to inspire and delight the young and old.

For a full list of the children's spring programs see the February issue of *Check Us Out* or visit [www.heightslibrary.org/page/children](http://www.heightslibrary.org/page/children).

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

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# Versatile, sustainable bags, made in the Heights

Kim Sergio Inglis

In a light-filled studio in the Coventry neighborhood, designer Madeline Hoyle crafts versatile and graphically striking bags. An avid bicyclist, Hoyle is inspired by the needs of bike commuters, and is committed to using sustainable materials to produce her durable, practical line of products.

Hoyle established her company, Blicksbags, after graduating from the Cleveland Institute of Art (CIA) in 2009. A native of Miami, Fla., Hoyle moved to Cleveland Heights after graduation, and cites Cleveland's artistic community as a reason she decided to stay in the area. "I like the community here," noted Hoyle, "And it's relatively affordable, which is a huge plus. I lived in Little Italy when I was a student, and always hung out around Coventry."

Hoyle makes each bag herself, using a mix of old and new materials. Reclaimed materials include vinyl exhibition banners from CIA and the Cleveland International Film Festival, as well as found remnants from Cleveland's old textile mills, such as colorful accent straps and zippers. Hoyle pairs these recycled materials with new abrasion-resistant fabric.

"I really appreciate organization and simplicity, and I'm passionate about sustainability and the environment, so it made sense to me to pursue that in my work," Hoyle explained. "If I could use just old materials I would, but for longevity, it's practical to mix old and new—there is always a balance between the two. If I can make something that lasts longer, that's also sustainable."



Designer Madeline Hoyle in her Cleveland Heights studio, holding the Pica bag—one of eight styles in her Blicksbags line.

Blicksbags are sold locally at Cleveland's Museum of Contemporary Art store, as well as Whole Foods at Cedar Center, and Cain Park Bicycle. The full range of bags—eight styles in all, priced from \$40 to \$210—are featured on Hoyle's website, [www.blicksbags.com](http://www.blicksbags.com).

Hoyle describes her best-selling bag,

the Commuter, as "a good all-around bag, and great for bike commuting." She points out that its flap makes the bag fully waterproof, and its roomy interior features expandable pockets. Another style, the Tremont, is designed as a multi-use bag, with pivoting straps that are adjustable, for wearing different ways.

Besides bags, Hoyle's line includes four accessories: a lock holster, which enables one to wear a bike lock on a belt; a wallet, sized to accommodate a checkbook, and to fit inside Hoyle's bags; bike fenders, made from reclaimed wood shop scraps; and a chain link necklace, made from a bicycle chain link and glass seed beads. The bike fenders are made by Steven Bukowski, another CIA alumnus, and Hoyle produces the necklaces with Megan John, also a CIA graduate.

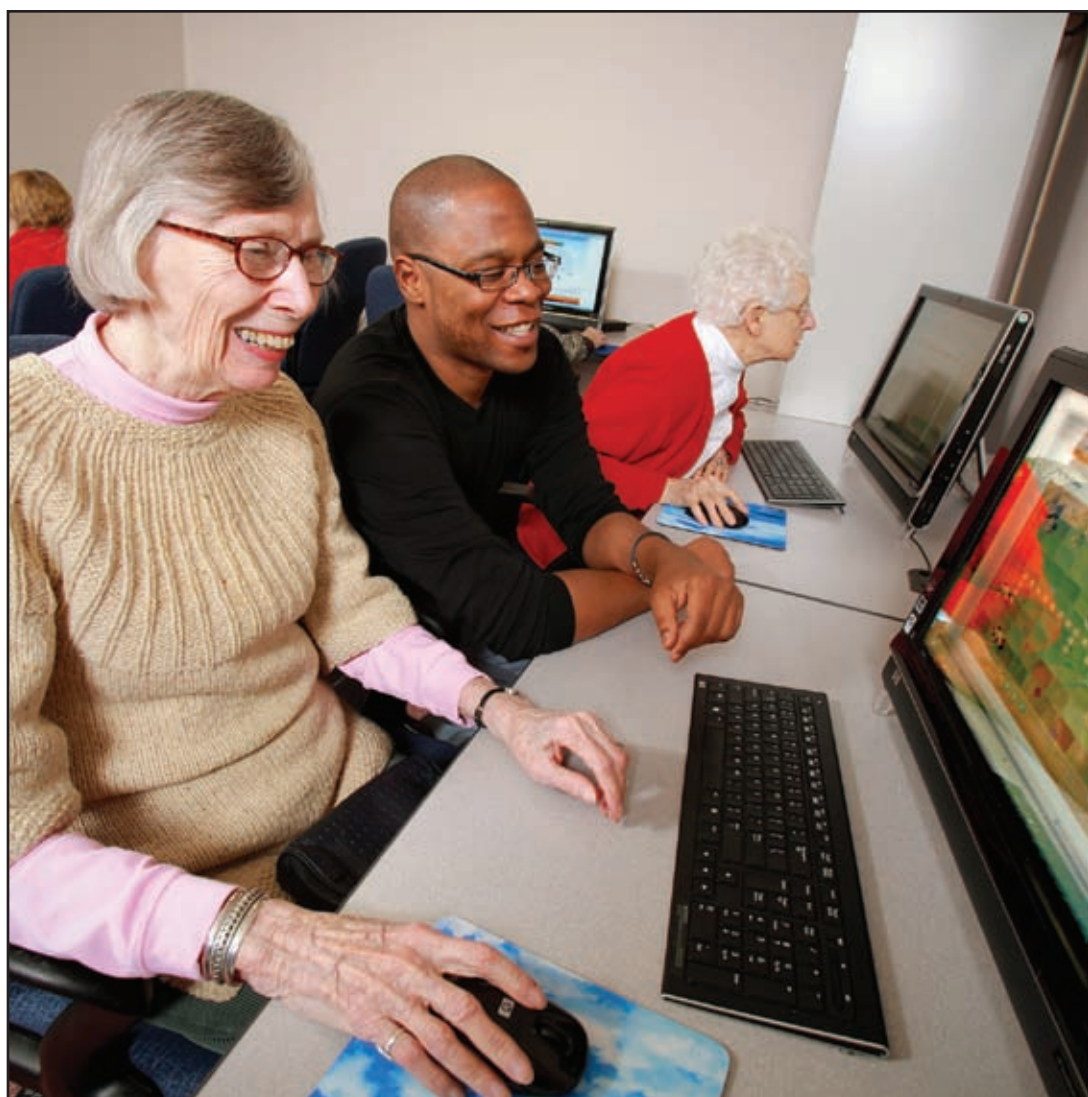
Hoyle also collaborates with other artists as a member of Aspirium, a group of individuals sharing knowledge of branding and niche marketing, to promote their products and projects.

The newest addition to the Blicksbags line is the DCo1, a messenger-style padded laptop bag, created in collaboration with Dan Cuffaro, head of CIA's industrial design department. An industrial design major, Hoyle will donate 10 percent of the sales of the DC bag to CIA.

"I am interested in applying industrial design to the crafts industry, and making individual pieces for individuals," Hoyle explained. Her bags are available as ready-to-ship versions, and are also offered with customizable features, enabling the customer to select a color scheme, for example, as well as unique embroidered and appliquéd accents.

For information on Blicksbags, as well as Hoyle's work and collaborations with other artists, visit [www.blicksbags.com](http://www.blicksbags.com).

*A former marketing professional, Kim Sergio Inglis moved to Cleveland Heights after 20 years in Brooklyn, NY.*



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## Why I'll be a school volunteer forever

### THE COMMON GOOD



By Susie Kaeser

Yesterday, on my walk home from Boulevard Elementary School, I ran into Hope. This is not her real name but it is what she represents to me: She is the first grader I tutored last year as a Many Villages volunteer.

She was late for school, but when she spotted me, her worried face lit up and she opened her arms for a hug. As quickly as we met, we departed on our separate ways. Here was the reward for my work as a volunteer: the smile and affection of a lovely young girl who is facing many hardships in her daily life, and challenges in her search for academic success.

Hope and I have a serious relationship. I was there the day she figured out that when you sound out letters slowly, then quickly, you can make words. It was a remarkable discovery that made her excited and proud every time we met. Her success makes us connected forever.

Education is a very human process. The Many Villages tutoring program, organized by Reaching Heights, places and supports volunteers in each elemen-

tary school in the CH-UH district. By increasing the personal attention to individual learners, Many Villages helps our schools respond to something educators know very well, but our legislators seem to ignore: Children are individuals. They come to school from different places, with different levels of readiness and support, and different personalities. They learn in different ways and at different speeds. Their brains work differently. Something that is obvious and easy for one child can be a mystery to another.

Attention and encouragement and practice help. Patience, time and concern from a caring adult can give individual learners some of the fuel they need to persist. Volunteers can provide that extra stuff that allows for individual difference in a policy environment and structure that all too often expects unrealistic uniformity.

Hope, like the other 350+ children at Boulevard, is special. By volunteering within my neighborhood school, I have the good fortune to be an active ingredient in this school's efforts to treat her that way.

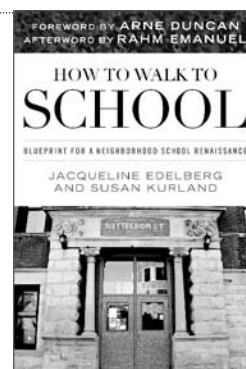
*Susie Kaeser is a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights. She is the former director of Reaching Heights and current board member of the Home Repair Resource Center.*

## Join the Walk to School movement strengthen community support for our schools

Joan Spoerl

Become involved in the growing effort to help our public schools by attending a community planning meeting on Sunday, Feb. 27 at the Lee Road Library from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The How to Walk to School movement in this community was inspired by the book by the same name, coauthored by Jacqueline Edelberg and Susan Kurland.

Local residents have been meeting, thinking, talking and



brainstorming about ways to build community support for the CH-UH schools. Now it is time for planning and executing those plans.

We welcome your involvement, however large or small, and whether or not you use the schools.

Help us to maintain a healthy and sustainable community through strong community support of our students and our schools. Come and learn about the role you can play.

For more information, contact Joan Spoerl at joanspoerl@sbcglobal.net or 216-371-3753.

*Joan Spoerl is a Cleveland Heights resident and an occasional contributor to the Heights Observer.*

## CH-UH Board of Education

### Meeting highlights



JANUARY 4, 2011

All board members were present.

#### Board positions

Eric Coble and Ronald Register were nominated and approved for board president and vice president, respectively. Board Member Karen Jones was approved as treasurer *pro tem*.

#### High school's 2011-2012 schedule

Superintendent Douglas Heuer and Assistant Superintendent Jeffery Talbert presented recommendations for the 2011-12 High School schedule, developed by Talbert and others, to move the district toward an excellent state rating.

The Ohio Graduation Test score has improved since small schools were implemented in 2006, but has since plateaued and the high school has remained at the continuous improvement state rating. The major challenges identified were:

- The ninth grade retention rate is too high. Currently 20 percent of ninth grade students fail algebra and are not promoted to tenth grade.
- At least one-third of ninth and tenth graders are in classes outside their small school, including core courses. This number increases in the upper grades.
- Choice and collaboration is difficult with the current schedule because of insufficient staff. Major changes proposed were to:
- Decrease the number of small schools from five to four. This should decrease the number of students taking core courses outside their small school. According to Superintendent Heuer, the high school has not met the standard for

adequate yearly progress because over 40 percent of students take courses outside their school. This figure is even higher for special education students. With this change he anticipates an excellent rating after two years.

- Create a common experience for ninth graders to ensure they have the academic, social, and emotional support they need in making the transition from middle school to high school. This should help academic success and tenth grade promotion.
- Develop a more flexible and alternative schedule to enable students to take eight, instead of seven, classes plus lunch. Also, with the opportunity to take more credits, some students may reach graduation requirements early. This also presents opportunities to offer college credit on campus for such students.
- To increase academic rigor, algebra II and an advanced science unit would be needed to graduate.

The ensuing board discussion focused on measuring the plan's success and the length of time necessary to achieve an excellent rating. Superintendent Heuer maintained that a score of excellent could be achieved within two years if the school met its yearly goal of a five percent improvement in math and reading scores.

LWV observer: Cassandra Talerico.

Look for earlier and often expanded postings of meeting summaries online at [www.heightsobserver.org](http://www.heightsobserver.org).

See disclaimer on page 4.

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# Heights High artists earn regional awards

Joy Henderson

Two Heights High student artists received awards for pieces they entered in the Cuyahoga County Regional Scholastic Art Competition. Their work is part of the exhibit that is currently on display at the Cleveland Institute of Art Reinberger Galleries.

Senior Lucia Tatar won a Silver Key Award for her print "Ellie" and Honorable Mention for the print "Metropolis." Freshman Meredith Matia received Honorable Mention for a mixed media piece, "Evl. Skier."

Tatar comes from a family of artists. "Art has always been relevant to me," she said, but after her sophomore year, when she attended a summer art program at the California College of the Arts, her interest and drive became

more focused. "I learned more about printmaking and I loved seeing another department's energy for art," she said. She plans to attend an art institute next year.

Matia is a freshman and her favorite media are charcoal and watercolors, but she looks forward to learning more about sculpture and photography. "Art is great because there are so many areas to explore," she said. She currently takes classes at the Cleveland Institute of Art. Her other interests include lacrosse and science.

Art teacher Susan Hood-Cogan is very proud of the students. "Lucia is an intuitive young woman with an artistic talent that will take her a long way in art school," she said. "Meredith is only a freshman but shows great talent; I look forward to watching her grow."



JOY HENDERSON

Senior Lucia Tatar and freshman Meredith Matia (L-R) received awards in the Cuyahoga County Regional Scholastic Art Competition. The watercolor still life is by Tatar.

The Reinberger Galleries are located at 11141 East Boulevard in University Circle. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and

Fridays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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

## CH-UH students place well in Power of the Pen tourney

Rick Bondy and Angee Shaker

When it comes to creative writing, Cleveland Heights-University Heights middle school students showed their mettle and skill recently, posting high marks at the annual Power of the Pen (POP) competition.

POP is a statewide tournament that tests students' creativity and writing skills through team and individual writing exercises. The recent district POP competition took place on Dec. 11 at Monticello Middle School.

"This was a great competition that really showed the strong writing skills of some of our students," said Brian Sharosky, Monticello principal. "It was a perfect example of what great things are going on in our district."

The host school performed well at this tournament, with three of its eighth graders among the top 15 finishers. Sezny Watkins finished third, Taylor Tamang came in sixth, and Kyra Germany placed tenth.

The eighth grade team earned first place honors in its division. The Monticello team is coached by Deborah Frost, MSSP teacher and tournament organizer, and by Marian Kopp, sixth grade teacher.

Top Roxboro Middle School sev-



Monticello Power of the Pen 8th grade team members (from left) Sarah Lentz, Kristin Gustafson, Kyra Germany, Taylor Tamang, and Evan Adeen flash their "winning" smiles.

enth graders included Naomi Marsh in first place, Taylor Jones in second, and Emma Schubert in 14th place. Overall, the seventh grade team finished second.

In eighth grade, Celia van den Bort came in fourth and Olivia Webster took 11th place. The Roxboro coach is Caitlyn McGrath, sixth grade teacher.

Wiley Middle School had three seventh grade students place in the top 15. Ryan Wilson took eighth place, Aviva Klein placed 12th, and Kelly Moore took 15th place. The school's seventh grade team placed first overall. Wiley student Ann Zicari won first place for the eighth grade team, which finished fourth overall. Wiley's seventh grade team is coached by Melanie Lesar, and the eighth grade

team by Ashley Newman.

About half of the participants from the district competition will advance to the regional tournament, held at St. Joseph Academy in April. From there, the top finishers will move on to the state finals at the College of Wooster, May 26-27.

*Rick Bondy is a University Heights resident. Angee Shaker is director of communications for Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District*

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# Heights High swim team: more and better

Simone Quartell

During the 2005-06 season, the Cleveland Heights High School Tigersharks swim team had 18 female and 10 male swimmers, and finished the season with a record of 1-7 for girls and 2-6 for boys.

When Hilary Hurst took over the girls team in 2006, she started a youth swim team. Four years later, many of the youth are now Heights freshmen—and more than 50 students are on the team. The boys' record is 4-1 at mid-season, the girls' is 2-3.

The Tigersharks are coached by Jim Miller, Ted Arnold, Katie Blazetic and Cassie Ritzmann. Now in his ninth season, Miller thinks interest has increased due to the community youth programs, and because students "see how much fun the team members have together and how much fun it is to be on a team. There is a lot of camaraderie and we are known for good sportsmanship," Miller said. Kristin Hughes, athletic director, has stepped up commitment to the swim team. After years without a scoreboard, for example, the team received a new one in 2010.

Coaches and swimmers recruit prospective team members by going to eighth-grade parent nights at the middle schools, and to the district's fourth-grade athletics day at the Cleveland Heights Recreation Center. Middle school students serve as timers at meets to "start becoming part of the team," said Miller.

Girls captain Andrea Chan reflects



Emma Lissemore (foreground) and Andrea Chan (center) prepare to compete in the 200-meter individual medley on Jan. 7.

that "we have had our ups and downs, but the end result is having a much stronger team, both in terms of speed and connection with one another," which she finds "really rewarding." Boys captain Sean Delvalle said the team has improved steadily throughout his four years. "We have lots of strong, experienced swimmers coming in, but the

inexperienced swimmers are improving as well."

Miller expects especially strong performances from senior boys Nick Negenborn and Delvalle, and juniors Jeremy Apple and Joe Eyreman, while on the girls team, he points to seniors Chan and Lydia Resnik and freshmen Monica Chan, Lillie Hall, Ellen Posch and Casandra Espenchied. The team hopes to send swimmers to the district meet in February. The boys 400-meter freestyle relay team of Negenborn, Delvalle, Apple and Eyreman is strongest, said Miller. Last season, Negenborn swam the 500-meter freestyle at the district meet.

The team has participated in several invitational meets. At the Bedford Lions relays in early December, the boys finished third, the girls fourth. When Heights hosted its annual Holiday Relays on Dec. 21, the boys were "very excited" to finish second, while the girls finished sixth in a "very competitive field," said Miller.

One of the most exciting recent meets was against Mentor where, according to Miller, the team did much better than usual against the Cardinals. Miller says swimmers and coaches are looking forward to the Lake Erie League Championships at Bedford and the

sectional meet at Mayfield, where most swimmers post their best times of the season.

The team hopes to hold a fundraiser soon for the Rea Robinson Foundation in memory of Andrea "Rea" Robinson, a 2009 Heights graduate and a four-year swimmer who died of meningitis last year while at college. Chan says "anything with Rea" is her favorite memory of her four years on the team.

The Tigersharks have put much energy into giving back to the community this season. So far, they have raked leaves at the homes of shut-ins in Cleveland Heights, and volunteered at the library's book sale. Their final dual meet, Feb. 4 against West Geauga, doubles as a charity fundraiser, with bake sale proceeds going to cancer research. The two teams will also have "penny wars," where each team will have a jar into which spectators can drop coins. The team with the most points at the end of the night will win a prize. Miller hopes to make this an annual event. The Feb. 4 meet, which will be held at the high school pool at 6 p.m., will also be Senior Recognition Night.

*Simone Quartell is a 2009 graduate of Cleveland Heights High School and is studying journalism at Kent State University.*

## Students chosen for middle school honor choir



Roxboro Middle School students (l-r) Miranda Coble, Alice Janigro, Jessica Klein, Graham Ball, Orion Brock, Flannery Jewell and Chawakorn Chaichanawirote were selected to participate in the District 7 OMEA Middle School Honor Choir and performed at Solon High School on Jan. 15.

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# Small Schools will go from five to four at CHHS

Angee Shaker

Driven by the desire to enhance educational results at Cleveland Heights High School, the district’s administrative team made three recommendations at the Jan. 4 board of education meeting: reduce the number of small schools from five to four; create a Freshman Experience program; and implement a flexible/alternative schedule to create more opportunities for students.

**Reduce the number of small schools from five to four**

“Too many students have core classes outside of their small school,” Superintendent Douglas Heuer stated. “When

done right, the small school experience ensures that teachers know the needs and ability level of each student, and can make sure they are engaged and challenged each day. We currently don’t have enough staff at the high school to allow for all of our students to reap the benefits of a small school, personalized experience.

“To remedy this, we would need to hire about 20 more teachers, which budgetary considerations won’t allow. By reducing the number of small schools from five to four, we will be able reallocate staff to provide distinct, meaningful program choices for students.”

Student surveys, student performance, and clearly delineated pro-

grams were the primary factors used to determine which school to eliminate. P.R.I.D.E. school will be closing; Renaissance, LEGACY, M.O.S.A.I.C. and R.E.A.L. will be retained.

**Freshman Experience**

Jeffery Talbert, assistant superintendent, explained to the board how eliminating a small school and reassigning staff will facilitate the creation of a “freshman experience” within each small school without adding staff.

“While the freshman achievement rate has improved under the small schools initiative, about 20 percent of the freshman students still continue to struggle. Building a strong foundation in

the 9th-grade year allows for more rigorous course work in the 10-12th grade years,” he said. Instead of taking core classes outside of their small school, 9th graders will work with their core teachers for one half of the day and then take electives during the other half.

**Flexible schedule**

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of teachers and administrators, the Heights High school day has been lengthened to give students more learning time.

The next step is to work with teachers to reorganize the time gained so that students will have more options and opportunities for deeper learning. The current schedule gives students seven class periods and a 50-minute lunch. The district wants to move to a true eight-period day with the state standard 30-minute lunch.

For those courses that are more rigorous, or include a lab, teachers need the ability to offer a double-block on alternating days. The double-block would enable teachers to use a variety of instructional approaches and decrease the number of class changes.

“This change will put us more in line with peer districts and state standards for classroom time. Additionally, it will enhance student achievement by increasing time for classroom instruction. This is all the more important because state and federal graduation standards will rise in 2014 and again in 2016,” Superintendent Heuer said.

**Next steps**

Dialogue sessions will be held for staff to share questions, concerns, and ideas about the Freshman Experience. Current P.R.I.D.E. students will reselect their small school following a refresher presentation on the four small schools.

Teacher reassignments will be determined by student enrollments, teacher certification, and a process designed by school and building leadership teams.

The middle school and high school scheduling process begins in January and should be completed by the end of February.

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

# Kuk Sool Won master leads martial arts classes at Cleveland Heights Community Center

Caroline Koepke

Robert Carson, martial arts instructor at the Cleveland Heights Community Center and director of NEON Health Services, was promoted to master level, fifth degree black belt at the 2010 World Kuk Sool Association Tournament and Master Demonstration in Houston, Texas.

Seven of Carson’s students also attended and earned first degree black belts: Tony Calabro and daughter Sydney; David Pritts, and daughter Ava and son Will; Caroline Koepke; and Nate Wilson. Carson and his students all live in Cleveland Heights.

“Earning a first degree black belt from the World Kuk Sool Association takes four to five years of practice; becoming a master requires at least 25 years of training in the art,” said David Pritts. “There are fewer than 100 masters in the world right now,” he added, estimating that there are 1 million students practicing the art.

Kuk Sool Won is “a systematic study of all of the traditional fighting arts, which together make up the martial arts history of Korea. Kuk Sool Won seeks to integrate and explore the entire spectrum of established Asian fighting arts, body conditioning techniques, mental development and traditional weapons training,” as described at [www.kuksoolwon.com](http://www.kuksoolwon.com).

Carson’s newly promoted students will assist his other Kuk Sool Won instructors at the Cleveland Heights Community Center: second degree black belt candidates Dennis Kless of Cleveland Heights, Gerald Kramer of Cleveland and Dee Marsky of Shaker Heights.

“Learning Kuk Sool Won has enhanced the confidence of both my daughter and son. It has changed my family’s whole outlook,” said Pritts. “Without Kuk Sool Won, I definitely would not be where I am either, having lost over 30 pounds since joining the World Kuk Sool Association. I want other people to recognize the benefits of practicing Kuk Sool Won. We concentrate on improving inside and out, in every single way. That’s what



Robert Carson (top left) is shown in Houston at the World Kuk Sool Headquarters with Grand Master In-Hyuk Suh, founder and Grand Master of the World Kuk Sool Won Association; Eighth Degree Master Sung Jin Suh; Caroline Koepke (lower left); Ava, Will, and David Pritts.

martial arts did for my family.”

The next Kuk Sool Won classes at the Cleveland Heights Community Center begin Feb. 15. Classes are scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning at 6 p.m. for the five- to six-year-old Little Tigers class, 6:30 p.m. for the Youth class, and 7:30 p.m. for the

Adult and Advanced Youth class. Register at the Community Center located at Monticello and Mayfield roads or by phone at 216-691-7373.

*Caroline Koepke is a Cleveland Heights resident and a volunteer at the Cleveland Heights Community Center.*

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# Heights Guitars' new owners expand offerings

Kelli Fontenot

Heights Guitars, the instrument shop at 2128 Lee Road, is now operating under new ownership, but it still exudes a welcoming atmosphere to accommodate regulars and newcomers. Customers amble in to chat and try out the new merchandise at the store, which offers a wide range of instruments and accessories, and specializes in hard-to-find vintage items and instrument repair.

Former Heights Guitars owner Gregory Stiles died last February. John Carden and Jim Ross, who operate the Vintage City shop in Toledo, took ownership of the Heights store in October, which employs salespeople and repair techs.

Varying musical tastes help the store's sales staff cater to local buyers, according to Samantha Wandtke, district manager for Heights Guitars and Vintage City. Wandtke, who is also a vocalist and drummer for the local rock band Fangs Out, notes her style differs from that of the new store manager, local resident Darrell Branch. His genre of choice, she says, is bluegrass, a perfect fit for the shop's roots.

"When we took over, it was more



A variety of instruments at Heights Guitars.

of a bluegrass boutique-style shop," Wandtke said, explaining that the store now carries drums, keyboards, wind and brass instruments, and an expanded assortment of accessories. "We're now a full-on instrument store."

With guitars ranging in price from \$40 to \$5,000, recognizable Fender and Gibson electrics line the showroom walls. But the store also aims to maintain its local, little-guy style, seeking vintage and locally handcrafted items,

as well as products from suppliers in Akron and other nearby cities.

Unique products at the shop include a Burgundy Mist Gibson ES 335 12-string, an 1890 Harp parlor guitar, a 1920s Ditson banjo-mando and a Gibson GA-5 Les Paul Jr. amplifier from 1956. The shop also offers vintage pedals from manufacturers Boss, Electro-Harmonix and Morley.

The shop provides lessons, which not all larger stores offer, Wandtke says. Five teachers at the store share their expertise in guitar, bass, banjo and vocals. Wandtke adds that Heights Guitars aims to host more events, inviting customers to hear bands play and get to know the shop's staff.

Knowledge is a key asset to the small business, according to Wandtke, who says she has about 10 years of experience in the industry, having previously worked at Peeler Music. Erik Erdman, whom Wandtke and Branch refer to as the shop's "tech guy," expertly mends instruments that customers bring in for repairs. Though Branch's background is in IT management, he assured that he could name every guitar in the shop before he took on his sales role and later became store manager.

A longtime friend of Stiles, Branch says he used to come to the store often to visit with the store owner, a retired teacher who repaired guitars and greeted customers at the front desk. "He was a good friend," Branch says. "We knew each other for more than eight years."

Today, Branch aims to continue his friend's respectful treatment of both clients and coworkers, and maintains Stiles had a major impact on neighborhood youth. "Kids would come in all the time who knew him. They'd come in after school to play instruments or just hang out," he said. "Greg always considered this place a sort of safe house. Instead of hanging out on the street, kids could come here. And they still do."

Wandtke says that stores like this are becoming increasingly rare. "There aren't many music shops left in the world, let alone in Cleveland," she says. "And 10 years ago, there were so many cool independents, and now none of them are left. We need to be competitive with those big-box stores, and it's about finding the right people to work with."

*Kelli Fontenot is a journalist living in Cleveland Heights.*

# Rockefeller's opens in historic banking hall

Deanna Bremer Fisher

Longtime Heights resident Michael Adams is opening Rockefeller's, an upscale lounge and fine dining establishment, in the former banking hall of the historic Heights Rockefeller Building on Feb. 1. The space had most recently been operated as a party center by building owner Jim Barle.

Adams, an attorney, is new to the restaurant business. "I was downsized from a law firm during the recession," he said. "My wife Mazie and I love to entertain and I was fascinated with how restaurants work growing up in New Jersey."

"The other places I looked at were cookie-cutter storefronts that I would have to build from scratch. When I saw this space, it fit my vision exactly and Jim is flexible and business-friendly."

Landlord Jim Barle takes great care in selecting businesses for the mixed-use building, located at 3099 Mayfield Road. It was built in 1930 by John D.

Rockefeller, Jr. as the gateway to his Forest Hill residential development, located on the site of his family's former summer retreat. The building currently houses shops, offices and apartments. "I'd rather have the space sit empty for a time in order to make sure that the tenants are the right fit," Barle said.

While Barle has always carefully maintained the building, Adams modernized and added new life to the elegant hall. He updated the electrical and HVAC systems; augmented the kitchen by installing a new prep area and walk-in cooler to the bank vault area, which is now connected to the kitchen for better work flow; and freshened up the décor by giving the floor a good scrubbing and adding a fresh coat of paint, new window treatments and furnishings.

The lounge area, which occupies the space closest to the kitchen and bar, features high-top tables, comfortable couches and small ottomans that can be moved around easily. Built-in banquettes

run the length of space in each of the three corners not occupied by the bar, adding flexibility to accommodate larger parties. Adams says he will continue to offer the space for special parties.

The largest change to the space is something most patrons won't even notice. To bring the building up to code, Adams was required to install a sprinkler system. He did so in the most unobtrusive way possible. He attached the pipes to the hand-painted beamed ceiling and then painted them brown so that they would blend in. "They are attached in such a way," he says, "that if someone were to find another way to protect the structure in the future, they could be easily removed with little damage to the historic character of the ceiling."

Executive chef Jill Vedaa, who has 19 years in the business and has worked in such notable restaurants as the Flying Fig, Lola, Saucy Bistro and the Wine Bar in Rocky River, has prepared an elegant and focused menu for both the lounge and fine dining sides of the restaurant. Entrees are priced between \$15 and \$22.

The menu will change seasonally as she takes advantage of fresh foods from local farmers.

Adams says he plans to compost nonmeat food scraps, which will be collected by a local vendor.



Michael Adams is the owner of Rockefeller's.

## Rockefeller's

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The lounge side of Rockefeller's opens Feb. 1, giving the new venture two weeks to refine its processes prior to the opening of the fine dining side of the restaurant on Feb. 14, just in time for Valentine's Day. Rockefeller's will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. Happy hour will be from 4 to 6 p.m. daily.

For more information or to make a reservation, call 216-321-0477.

*Deanna Bremer Fisher is executive director of FutureHeights and publisher of the Heights Observer.*





# Flowers with artistic flair

Meredith Holmes

Heights Floral Shoppe, which has been in the Fairmount-Taylor shopping district for 44 years, is the place to go for artistic, personalized floral arrangements. “I don’t design by formula. Each arrangement is a response to a particular customer and the flowers available that day,” said Tammy L. Currier, who has owned the business since 2007. An appreciative customer once remarked to Currier, “Everything that leaves this store has a little bit of you in it.”

Two years ago, when Currier was looking for ways to cut costs, she decided to stay in the neighborhood. Recently, she moved a few doors down Fairmount Boulevard to a light, airy space inside Paysage, an interior design store on the corner of Fairmount and South Taylor Road. “This shop provides solace—the beautiful colors and wonderful smell when you walk in. I didn’t want to take that away from my customers and from people who like this shopping district,” said Currier.

Heights Floral Shoppe customers can enter through Paysage’s entrance, which faces South Taylor, or through the blue door to the left of the pergola. That entrance has a ramp, making it wheelchair accessible. The new location, which has a parking lot, makes it easier to visit the store and browse for a while. “This block is becoming a popular destination for shoppers from outside Cleveland Heights,” Currier noted.

Currier brings an unusual mix of artistic and literary talent to her floral designs. With aspirations to become a writer, Currier majored in journalism and literature at Central Michigan University, with a minor in art. She was an editor for a pioneering online bookseller in Cleveland. After working for many years as a visual merchandiser, Currier took a hiatus and spent several

months painting her way through Italy and Greece.

She has a gift for eye-catching displays, which customers notice as soon as they enter her shop. The compact space is a visual treasure chest of home and garden decorations, books, paper flowers, soaps, containers, and wall art. “I can look at an empty room and see just how it should be arranged,” she said.

**“This shop provides solace—the beautiful colors and wonderful smell when you walk in. I didn’t want to take that away from my customers and from people who like this shopping district.”**

Currier brings the same three-dimensional ability to flower design. “I go to the wholesale flower market every morning. I look for the best flowers, and when I find them, I can visualize the designs I will do.” She learned the nuts and bolts of the floral business from the former owner, Jay Szabo. “In a small concern like this, you learn by doing,” she noted. “I like the freedom of owning my own business and of making my own vision a reality.”

For Valentine’s Day, Currier suggests “thinking outside the red heart” and beyond red roses. She suggests roses in other colors that open beautifully and can be enjoyed for several days. A fresh garden arrangement of tulips, roses, and hydrangeas—while untraditional—can turn into a lovely surprise.

Heights Floral Shoppe has both delivery and wire services. Located at



COURTESY MEREDITH HOLMES

An attention to detail and an eye for the very best flowers sets Tammy Currier’s floral designs at Heights Floral Shoppe apart.

3477 Fairmount Boulevard, the shop can be reached by phone at 216-321-4114 or on the web at [www.heightsfloral.com](http://www.heightsfloral.com).

Meredith Holmes is a freelance writer and editor, and a longtime resident of Cleveland Heights. She was the city’s first poet laureate.

## Big Dog Theater to open in Coventry Village

Jennifer Raimondi

Big Dog Theater is set to officially open its doors in February in the historic Centrum Theater, at 2781 Euclid Heights Blvd. in Coventry Village. This new theatrical performance and training facility is the creation of Cleveland actor Don Mitri. Each weekend, Big Dog Theater will host different shows and various forms of comedy, including national stand-up acts, sketch groups and improv. In addition, Big Dog Theater will house a training center offering a challenging selection of classes and workshops. Taught by locally and nationally known instructors, these classes will be offered to everyone from novice to the professional performer.

“As you walk through the Coventry Arts District,” Mitri said, “you see a neighborhood filled with diverse restaurants and shops, but you notice something important missing: live theater.” A local actor with extensive performance experience, Mitri was a member of Something Dada Improvisa-



tional Theater Co., and played Tony in Cleveland’s longest-running stage show, “Tony n’ Tina’s Wedding,” at Playhouse Square. He also founded and operated the Cleveland Improv Institute and has taught improvisation for more than 10 years.

On Feb. 19, Big Dog Theater will celebrate its grand opening with an evening of comedy, featuring a brand-new show from two of Cleveland’s hottest stand-up comics, Quinn Patterson and Jeff Blanchard.

The festivities begin with a preshow party at City & East, from 7 to 8 p.m., with a cash bar, and light appetizers

provided by Coventry staple, Tommy’s. Showtime is 8:30. A meet-and-greet with Patterson and Blanchard will be held at Fracas Restaurant, immediately following the performance. Tickets for The grand opening event will be \$12 at the door and \$10 in advance. A special

dinner and show package is available at Fracas restaurant for \$35 per person. For reservations call 216-472-3636 or reserve tickets online at [www.bigdogtheater.com](http://www.bigdogtheater.com).

Jennifer Raimondi is a local actress who hails from Baltimore, MD.

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# A Phiner Bistro opens on Lee

Christine McBurney

If you are looking for a finer fine dining experience, look no further than A Phiner Bistro. Named for its owner, Nigerian-born Phiner Dike-Jelden (pronounced Fena Deekay), this upscale white linen eatery, with a vibrant yellow interior, offers a fresh, organic and eclectic menu of world cuisine, as well as merchandise and classes.

After five years on the other side of the Cuyahoga, Dike-Jelden opened on Lee Road (between Jimmy O'Neill's and Golden Dragon) on Jan. 11. She said part of her decision to move to Cleveland Heights was specifically because of its diversity and, because many of her customers were eastsiders who lured her here. And she's glad she made the move. "I love Cleveland Heights a lot," she said.

"It isn't easy to run a business," Dike-Jelden said, "You've got to have energy."

She added that the decision to open a restaurant enables her to share her gifts. "Everyone has a gift. There is joy in sharing. Life is about providing

service." This outlook is evident in her wide and varied volunteer activities with organizations from Harvest for Hunger to the former Cleveland Ballet.

Smoked salmon pistachio soup, Nigerian okra stew, and baked plantains are just a few of Phiner's unique offerings. Dike-Jelden also teaches juice classes and sells products ranging from juicers to raw honey to books she's authored, including one on the art of juicing. Gardeners take note: she also sells pulp from her juice classes as fertilizer. "It's better than garbage!" Dike-Jelden said she is proud to use lead free utensils and china. "You are what you eat," she said, emphasizing that none of her dishes are fried or breaded and that they are all gluten-free. Guests who prefer an alcoholic beverage with their meals are encouraged to bring their own bottle.

A Phiner Bistro is open Tuesday through Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Hours are subject to change as Dike-Jelden gets a better feel for the foot traffic. Juice classes are offered on Sunday and Monday evenings. For reservations or class information, call 216-320-0688



A Phiner Bistro offers a unique, white linen option for dinner in the Cedar Lee business district.

or visit [www.aphinerbistro.com](http://www.aphinerbistro.com).

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

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# Washington Place Bistro brings menu diversity to Little Italy

## 'Modern American' restaurant fills former Baricelli Inn space

Christina Klenotic

In my ten years in the Heights, I've dined at Little Italy restaurants countless times, but at the Baricelli Inn only once. My lone visit was memorable for both the meal and the bill. In less than two months, however, I've twice visited the more-accessible Washington Place Bistro & Inn, which took over the former Baricelli Inn's digs in November.

Experienced restaurateur Scott Kuhn, who also runs 87 West wine bar at Crocker Park, is adding some diversity to Little Italy's offerings with his "modern American" menu. Executive Chef Jonathan Guest focuses on locally sourced ingredients, including Baricelli cheese.

Two such menu items are the roasted beet and goat cheese salad (\$9), which spotlights beets and greens from The Chef's Garden and Mackenzie Creamery ranch, and the oxtail pierogies (\$13) from Ohio City Pasta.

On the dinner menu, the day-boat scallops with butternut squash



Oxtail pierogies from Ohio City Pasta with oxtail ragout, caramelized onion and horseradish creme fraiche.

## Washington Place Bistro

Sun. brunch 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
dinner 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Mon.-Sat. 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. (bar open later)  
2203 Cornell Road, Cleveland  
216-791-6500  
[www.washingtonplacelittleitaly.com](http://www.washingtonplacelittleitaly.com)

risotto (\$21) was a crowd pleaser. The pan-seared wild Pacific salmon and

the accompanying cauliflower gratin (\$13/\$18.50), which also is available for lunch, was savory and memorable.

For brunch, the monkey bread (\$4) is a can't-miss dish. During our visit, our server brought us a complimentary serving when we were seated, and it was so delightful that we ordered another. The rich biscuits and gravy (\$9) with white cheddar biscuits and homemade

sausage warmed the belly on a cold afternoon, but the WP burger (\$10.50) was underwhelming.

The restaurant offers a number of bargains. For example, the lunch menu features a trio option for \$11.50, which includes soup, salad and half of a sandwich. During the 4 to 7 p.m. happy hour, diners can take advantage of the renovated lounge and new full-service bar by enjoying appetizers and cocktails from the eclectic and extensive wine and bar menu for \$5 each. The best bargain is the 2-for-\$40 special on Wednesday evenings, which includes an appetizer, two entrees and a bottle of wine.

Washington Place Bistro is open for dinner seven days a week, lunch Monday through Saturday and brunch on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The bar is open later after dinner. Seven remodeled rooms at the inn are available for \$139/\$159 per night.

*According to her grandmother, Christina Klenotic is a good eater who never met a carb she didn't like.*

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Chamber Music Camp II	7/11 - 7/15
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Piano Camp II	7/18 - 7/29
Suzuki Camp	7/31 - 8/6

Can we check out their website to learn more? [www.TheMusicSettlement.org](http://www.TheMusicSettlement.org)

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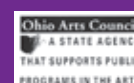
Feb. 10, Student Recital, 7 p.m.  
Feb. 13, Student String Workshops, 2 p.m.  
Feb. 14, Bobby Jackson: The Jazz Mind, 7 p.m.  
Feb. 19, Early Childhood Silent Auction, 7 p.m.  
Feb. 23, World Music Lecture with Leo Coach, 6 p.m.

Feb. 26, Student Recital, 2 p.m.  
March 6, Arts for Us: the Almeda Trio, 3 p.m.  
March 9, Flute Choir Recital, 7:30 p.m.  
March 13, Vocal Performance Class, 2 p.m.  
March 14, Bobby Jackson: The Jazz Mind, 7 p.m.

March 17, Student Recital, 2 p.m.  
March 19 Suzuki Recital, 2 p.m.  
March 26, Student Recital, 2 p.m.  
March 27, Early Childhood Art Show, 1 p.m.

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